



## COUNCILCOURIER



**AUGUST 2023** 

A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



### **SAR Convention Visits the VMC**

The Sons of the American Revolution dedicate a bench in the Plaza and take a field trip to the VMC grounds. – page 11

#### **Female Veteran Outreach**

Together with the Voice of Hope, a special group is being formed to address the needs of female vets.

— раде 13

### Teamwork Making the Dream Work in Support of Deployed Military Members

We love it when our tenant groups come together, especially in support of our troops! – page 6

### Swearing In a New BVC/VMC Board

This year's swearing in of our new board and council included honoring many of our valued volunteers here at the VMC.

– details page 8

Photo by Robert Scruggs

AUGUST 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 27 July 2023:

List of Board Members 2023-2024

As of 27 July 2023:

Committee Department Assignment 2023-2024

As of 27 July 2023:

BVC VMC Org Chart 2023-2024



### **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)

s we go into August, we have new leadership with Ted Suzor replacing Donn Weaver as the Chairman of the Council, some new board members, changes of committee Chairpersons, etc. Everyone should expect some growing pains as we transition, and patience is a virtue. Quite a few responsibilities may change or be reassigned. Let's all work together to make the Veterans Council and the Memorial Center an even better organization.

I look forward to the General Meeting on August 9 when we will award twelve Scholarships totaling \$21,000 to some very deserving people. Please plan on attending to congratulate the recipients and their family members.

Ground-breaking for the upgrade in the park, including power, irrigation, and preparation for the Amphitheater will start in September/October. The repair work to the front of the building will start no earlier than October (fiscal year funding issue).

Our new board was sworn in on July 12 by Representative Tyler Sirois and volunteer awards were presented to our volunteers. The program went well, thanks to Kristi Blanchard who submitted the awards and for coordinating the ceremony. I wish to congratulate all our volunteers for your sacrifices and service to the Veterans Memorial Center.

Elevation Church in Palm Bay provided labor and materials to repair the older bridges in the park and seal them with a weather guard on Friday, July 28. This will make almost \$20,000 that they have donated to our amazing Veterans Center and Park. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for all the work and support they have done for the Center and Park.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) held their annual convention in Orlando. Two bus loads (110) people visited the Plaza, Museum and Library and held a program in the plaza to dedicate a new bench and honor the USS Alliance who was a participant in the Last Naval Battle of the Revolution.

The President of the SAR presented the Museum with a unique flag (only one of four) replicate of the Ensign of the USS Alliance. The flag is unique, in that it has thirteen stripes, but they start with white instead of red and the stars in the blue background have eight points instead of six. After accepting the flag on behalf of the VMC it was put on display in the Museum.

### VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



Mike Erdman









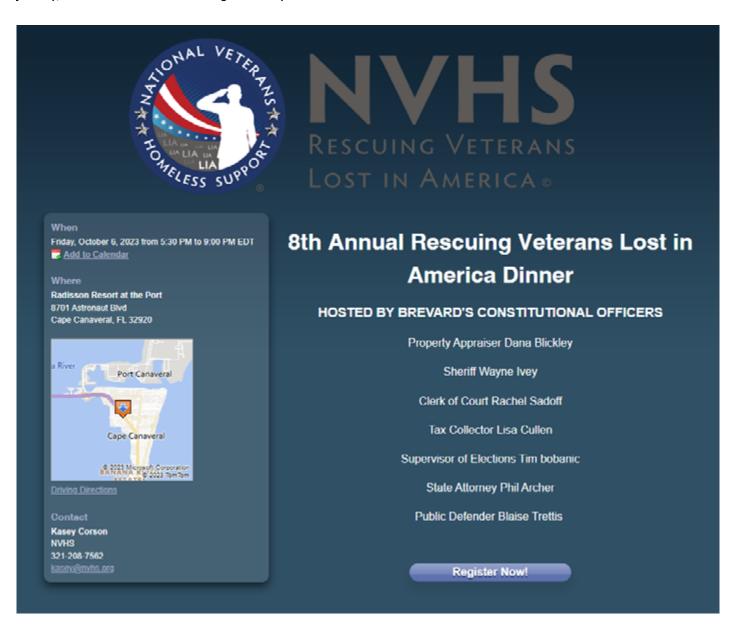
### Council Chairman's Report

Ted Suzor
U.S. Army (Fmr)

I am honored to step into the role of BVC Chairman, taking over from Donn Weaver.

Having been a part of this incredible community since 2016, I have witnessed the positive impact the center has on individuals and our collective mission. As I embark on this new journey, I am well aware of the challenges and responsibilities that lie ahead. I assure you all that I am fully committed to the VMC's vision and will work tirelessly to uphold the mission that makes this center so special.

While this is my first time as Chairman, I have learned a great deal during my time at the VMC, and I have an idea about what it takes to ensure its success. I ask for your understanding and support as I get my feet wet in this role. Your guidance, encouragement, and collaboration will be invaluable in navigating the way forward.



### **AVET Project Fishing Clinic for** Kids

During the fourth of July festivities held at the VMC, the all-volunteer organization AVET Project, Inc. held a well-attended fishing clinic for kids. A generous donation by the conservation group Fish Florida made the event possible.

During the event, AVET Project gave away 200 hotdogs, chips and drinks, and during the Fishing Clinic for the Kids, they gave away FREE Fishing Rods with Tackle boxes to participants. Way to prepare kids for love of the outdoors and our environment!

Thank you to Space Coast Daily .. for the AVET Project interview about our 4th of July event at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. See the full interview here on the Space Coast Daily website.









MENS MILITARY VETERAN SUPPORT GROUP With Army Veteran Dr. Scott Fairchild



am - 12:00no

Baytree Behavioral Health 1370 Bedford Drive, #106 Melbourne, FL 32940





AVET Project has been working with Baytree Behavioral Health and Doc Fairchild for se and this is a safe place for you.

Tell Doc AVET Project sent ya and listen to Doc on "American Warrior Radio Show" via Yout



### AVET Project NEEDS SUPPORT, Can YOU help?

Tuesday July 4 NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE FOOD & TEACH KIDS HOW TO FISH Info@avet-project.org

Friday July 21 Patrick Air Force Base Support for Squadron Group Summer Picnic LOOKING FOR DOOR PRIZES FOR THE FAMILIES Info@avet-project.org

Coast Guard Family Day Picnic Friday August 4 LOCKING FOR DOOR PRIZES FOR THE FAMILIES Info@avet-project.org

Monday Sept 11

Family night shooting competition (Raising funds for AVET Project Recuperation & Reintegration Retreats) Sponsorship Opportunities Available <u>Info@vet-project.org</u>



Email: Info@avet-project.org 2022/EAVET PROJECT INC 503:3 Nonprofit P O BOX 254555, PSFB, FL 32925

# OASIS and Elevation Church Team Up at VMC

Two of the VMC's partners, Oasis and Elevation Church, used Gray Hall on 22 July to pack and prepare the shipment of Halloween Goodie Boxes to troops deployed overseas. Almost 50 people from the two organizations came to donate, help pack, and to include letters written for more than 150 boxes. For the past five years OASIS has used the VMC for one of their five annual missions to bring morale and goodies to troops without family serving abroad.

Elevation Church has donated huge numbers of people for landscaping work in the Plaza area and the Park for almost two years and purchased more than \$15,000 of landscaping supplies for the VMC through Home Depot in the process.

VMC brought the two great service organizations together about one year ago. Now Elevation Church helps OASIS at every event throughout the year. Thanks to both of them for caring about activeduty troops deployed so far from home for the last 23 years when many such deployments began. As Tess Heribaka, co-founder of OASIS and a military Mom, said during the event, "Today some may receive family care packages, but many do not and the OASIS boxes remind them they are in the thoughts of the American people." Erin Kelly organized the Elevation team and nearly came to tears when she spoke of what the boxes mean to lonely troops. She is a veteran herself and has been deployed in harm's way before.



**Pictured:** Recording the event when the work is done. Tess on far left with Erin fully kneeling tooted from right.



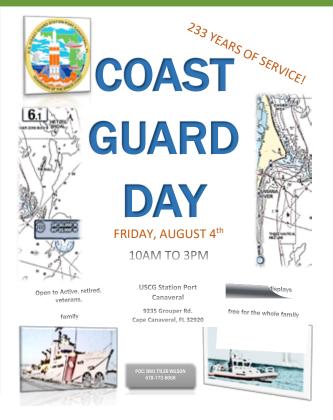
Pictured: The work begins!!

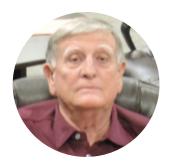


### **ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER**

atlanticmusiccenter.com

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





### Library Notes

SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr) VMC Librarian

The VMC center and park remained open for the 4th of July celebration. Many participated in the parade, vendors, and outdoor activities in the park. The library had local visitors as well as VMC members that attended the celebration.

Our librarians reviewed our book collections in several areas and recommended books that might be removed to improve the collection. Bill Ellis, an Air Force veteran reviewed the Air Force collection. Hank Rhodes, a Navy veteran reviewed the Navy collection. Karen Croft along with Bill reviewed Army and Marine Corps subjects. These books along with a large Civil War collection were donated to a military library in Homerville, Georgia by Ray Norman.

### Library Discussion Series: Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans

The latest library discussion group on July 25th explored Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans--after President Monroe led congress to declare war against Great Britan in 1812. Joe Davie, our own VMC Librarian, presented a detailed slide show of the Creek Indian War that followed the massacre of Fort Mims.

Andrew Jackson's Tennessee militia defeated the hostile Red Stick Creek War Chiefs at their stronghold at the battle of Horseshoe Bend. These Creeks had been supplied with wagonloads of guns by the British to be used against settlers and other Indian nations in the then Lower Mississippi Territory. Andrew Jackson was able to negotiate a peace treaty after the decisive battle which ended the Indian War in the Mississippi territory and is rewarded with a promotion to Major General of the US Army.

Meanwhile, an Armada of 50 British warships is anchored off their colony in Jamacia waiting to invade America from the Gulf of Mexico. Their Battle plan (approved in England) was to sail into the Chesapeake Bay and attack Washington DC, Fort McHenry and the city of Baltimore. After destroying Washington DC, Fort McHenry and Baltimore they were to sail to Jamacia and meet up with the Admiral Cochran's British Expeditionary Force already at work along the Mississippi and Florida coasts. Their plan was to directly attack the port city of New Orleans, occupy the city and all of the Louisiana Purchase West of the Mississippi.

After fortifying the coastal Forts, Jackson marched his army to



### New Veterans History Project Interview: Paul Kosieracki

Paul served in the Navy during the Vietnam War Era. He attended Officer candidate school after his enlistment in the Navy and attained the rank of Lieutenant in Commander Training Pacific, COMTRAPAC. Paul traveled extensively in the Pacific and provided leadership training to officers and sailors in the San Diego Naval base and Pacific theatre from 1962 to 1968. He currently lives in Titusville, FL and is a member of our Local Military Officers Association (MOAACC). Click on the link below to hear his interview.

<u>Click to see Paul's full</u> Veterans History Project interview.

New Orleans to defend the city. Jackson attacked the British camp during the night and halted their advance the same day they landed. The British forces made three attempts to break through Jacksons defensive line and failed every time. Joe shared some of the more interesting details of military strategy and personal details of the Combatants in a very interesting presentation.



### **Next Discussion: the Vietnam War**

The Library discussion group will meet again on August 29th at 6:00 PM and the topic will be the Vietnam War presented by Paul Julian. Everyone is invited to attend.



Pictured: Left to Right: Kristi, Donn, Bill, Mary Ann, Jay, Jalaine, Garet, Harry, Dave, Ted, Paul, Dean, Joe, Ed, Jim, FL House Representative Tyler Sirois

# VMC Honors Volunteers, Swears In New Board in July

### VMC Officers and Board Sworn-In for 2023-24

On 12 July, the annual ceremony to swear in new Veterans Memorial Center Council Officers and Board of Directors (BOD) members took place after a recognition of the many volunteers who support VMC.

Every year, an elected official swears in the new VMC officers and board. This year we were happy to have Florida House Representative Tyler Sirois do the honors. Joining him were Joshua McWilliams, representing FL Sen Debbie Mayfield; Rob Medina, Palm Bay Mayor and US Rep Bill Posey staff member; Tim Thomas, Melbourne City Council and Viera HS JROTC Instructor; Amanda Herrnkind representing the Brevard Property Appraiser's Office; and Larry Lallo of MIRA representing County Commissioner Tom Goodson. VMC President Dean Schaaf introduced the officials and BVC Outgoing Chairman Donn Weaver noted how much these individuals have supported the expansion of VMC and the Park since 2015.

### VMC Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

Originally inspired by President George W Bush, the AmeriCorps President's Volunteer Service Award was awarded to 42 qualifying volunteers in recognition and appreciation for their commitment to strengthen our nation and communities through volunteer service. The awards included a certificate, pin and letter from current President Joe Biden. Those VMC volunteers who had served at least 100 hours between June 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023 were recognized, and, for the first time, 4 individuals received the Lifetime Achievement Award for documenting over 4,000 volunteer hours since 2018. Kristi Blanchard, BVC/VMC Secretary and Awards Coordinator, read an overview of their contributions and presented the Lifetime Achievement awards to Ed Pingston, Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver. The fourth awardee, Dave Boyd, was unable to be there.

Of the 42 awardees, 32 attended the July 12th General Membership meeting.

continued on next page



**Pictured:** Gold volunteers (left to right) Donn, Jalaine, Dorothy, Dave, Dean, Vic, Joe, Garet, Bill and Kristi



**Pictured:** Silver volunteers (left to right) Brian, Mick, Dave (ExComm), Bill, Dean (ExComm), Eleanor, Donna, Mike, Jay, Rob, Donn (ExComm), Ray and Kristi (ExComm)



Pictured: Bronze volunteers (left to right) Allen, Dave (ExComm), Rich, Mary Ann, Bob, Karen, Ross, Paul, Dean (ExComm), Kay, Hank Wayne and Kristi (ExComm)

(continued from previous page)

They received their awards in front of the Brevard elected officials, other Brevard representatives and the VMC members there to be part of the BOD swearing-in ceremony. VMC President Dean Schaaf and Outgoing BVC Chairman Donn Weaver thanked Kristi Blanchard for her countless hours in processing the awards and setting up a great ceremony. Congrats to the winners in their various categories and Roger Scruggs for photos of the event.

Afterwards, some recreated an old VMC tradition and enjoyed a great lunch at the Olive Garden as planning for the direction of the VMC in the coming year began.



Pictured: Donn Weaver receives the Lifetime Achievement Award

Pictured: Outgoing BVC Chairman Donn Weaver (with Jeanne) receives a farewell memento as a

thank you from the membership



Pictured: Ed Pingston receives the Lifetime Achievement Award



Pictured: Dean Schaaf receives the Lifetime Achievement Award



Pictured: Courageous Division Sea Cadets Color Guard



Pictured: Volunteer thank you banner



Pictured: Assembly for the VMC General Membership Meeting - Volunteers are seated in the first 3 rows





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Garden

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### Also read ENIOR SCENE

Seriors of pround fown are talking about their FREE magazine that has it all! We know how to much them with what they want to read most, in places they becuest most. Thei'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.



### Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson USMC (Fmr)

As your Chaplain, I find the division of our Great Nation, abhorrent, that is our 247-year-old society is in a state of unrest to a point of anger, hatred, and even violence.

To all who reads this, please set aside all of our discriminatory feeling beliefs, anger, and hatred

Whether you are a Jew, Christian, Agnostic or nonbeliever, Democrat or Republican, we are one Nation under God. Our Nation was formed for all who are Citizens of the U S A.

As Members of our Great American organization, we need to set an example of patriotism, loyalty, and love of the United States of America.

#### LINCOLN, HOUSE DIVIDED SPEECH (1858)

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half-slave and half-

free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.

It is stated in Matthew 12:25: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."

I would like to take a moment and thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. I have had some roadblocks this year. In the middle of March, I was at Lake Nona VA ER. It was discovered that the main artery known as the widow maker was almost completely blocked. A stent was inserted opening up the artery. In June at the DAV Convention During dinner, I had a heart attack. I spent the next 3 days between 2 Advent hospitals.

I am getting stronger each day. In the last week, I conducted a funeral and a graveside service. I am back at DAV Chapter 123 doing triage and conducting service officer work.

In conclusion, this is how we all should be as Americans:

"Nothing is more noble, nothing more venerable, than loyalty." —Cicero, Roman

#### **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

Chaplain Chip Hanson



## **Operations Report**

CPL Robert W. Doyle, USMC (Fmr)

Things are very busy and there are usually multiple events going on any given day. Again, we are in need of water as many different groups have events and it seems our water takes the hit. If you are a tenant at the facility, please consider 4 or 5 flats of water as a donation to the facility. Especially in these hot days as our workers need to stay hydrated. We are also having issues with people coming into our kitchen to search our refrigerators for food.

Please speak with the people in your groups so they understand the rules of our kitchen:

A. The VMC provides bottled water only in the middle

regenerator if they need it. There may be food in there also but is restricted for our workers and distribution to food centers.

- B. Please understand that food and flavored drinks are for our workers. We have signs posted so that they are aware. Occasionally there are prepackaged snacks on the kitchen counter and are available to anyone that would like some.
- C. The pantry area and mop closet are the storage for our cleaning supplies. This is not a center for someone to pick up things they need for their home. New locks have been installed on the mop closet and other areas as we are going through supplies much too fast for normal cleaning. Please respect the facility as we are trying to maintain it to the highest standards available.

On Friday the 28th, Elevation Church and Home Depot worked on a project in the park. Rock now fills the middle island and a lot of the wood railings were replaced as they were rotting away. Soon construction will start on the amphitheater and we will see many changes after that is done. We are, and will maintain our facility, as the premier place in the state to visit. Be Proud.



Pictured: The National SAR Color Guard and the New SAR Bench in the Plaza with the Alliance US Ship Flag from the Last Naval Battle SAR donated to the museum.

# SAR National Convention Visits VMC and Dedicates New Bench

Orlando was the venue this year for the National Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Convention. On their Field Trip Day, one group of over 120 SAR members spent four hours at the VMC to accomplish a number of goals:

- Dedicate a new National SAR Bench in our Memorial Plaza
- Learn about the Last Naval Battle of the Revolution from NOTU XO, CMDR Sammie Green
- Visit our Museum
- Visit our Library
- Explore our Memorial Plaza in stages given very hot day

Thanks to the great support from 15 or so VMC volunteers and our maintenance supervisor Jerry Johnson. All missions were well accomplished and some great photo opportunities enjoyed.

There were many side stories, but one stood out. The SAR has International Chapters and one couple was here from France. They joined the American SAR because they have relatives who fought against the British as allies of our colonial forces. One relative was a Navy Admiral in command of a small fleet that sank several British Frigates, some off our coast and some near England. The other was a soldier who fought and was killed at the Battle of Yorktown, which prompted the British Surrender and began our nation. They are purchasing bricks to honor those relatives — our first allies — in the new Allied Forces Monument area.

Thanks to Roger Scruggs for photos that really capture that special day.



Pictured: Plaza Ceremony



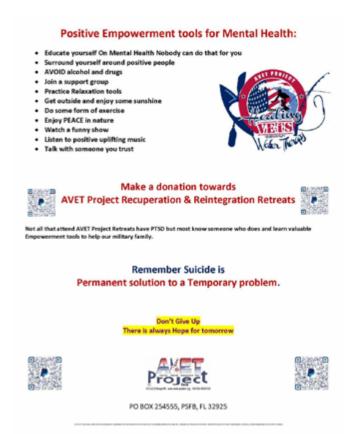
Pictured: Library Tour



Pictured: Museum Tour



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf receives a Replica of the Alliance US Ship Flag from the Last Naval Battle as part of the SAR visit. It is already in our museum.



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



# New Female Veteran Outreach & Support Program at the VMC

On August 18, 2023 Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) and Their Voice of Hope (a new non-profit that helps veterans, with a special focus on female veteran issues) will be holding a luncheon for women veterans as part of the Women Veteran Outreach & Support Program which is a joint program of the BVC and Their Voice of Hope.

This luncheon is an effort to reach out to invite female veterans who may be interested in working with us in furthering our Female Veteran Outreach & Support Program. We have been meeting with a smaller number of members for a while and realized we need to reach a larger audience. The focus of this program is to address the unique needs faced by female veterans as well as bring community awareness to those unique needs.

At this meeting on August 18th (please see flyer) we are looking to add more members to be part of this official Brevard Veterans' Council Program. Going forward we will schedule smaller meetings for group discussions on "hot" topics or "chat" groups where the members can talk about life, life's frustrations, challenges, etc. They will be sisters-to-sisters discussions. We will also identify areas that need to be addressed by "subject matter experts" (SMEs) such as financial advisers, housing, VA benefits, access to appropriate care, etc. We will have SMEs available to speak one on one as well, with lots of available resources. Future group get-togethers will include - trips to the Equine Therapy Program farm in

Mims, nature walks, fishing days, and other ideas and suggestions we come up with. All this is at no cost to the veteran. We work on community donations. (Anyone wishing to contribute, please email me at dwalshusa@gmail.com or call/text 321-426-6736.)

Also, please note, these meetings and get-togethers will include female veterans only. Except of course if we have a SME who does not fall in that category.

Lunch will be served on August 18th, so we do need an approximate number to work with. So please RSVP by August 14, 2023.

If you can't make it in person and would like to participate via Zoom, please let us know when you RSVP to dwalshusa@gmail.com and we will send you the link via email.



We can only succeed if we work together and bring awareness to those who are unaware!! It takes a Village and Brevard County has an awesome village of veteran supporters.

Brevard Veterans Council Chairman, Ted Suzor

Veterans Memorial Center President, Dean Schaaf

Their Voice of Hope President/Advocate, Dorothy Walsh



### **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-IOBS.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?

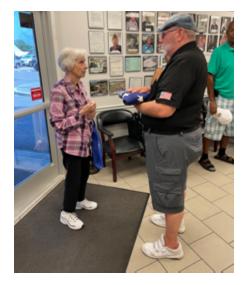
Call 321-480-3669 We want to know you!

### It's Never Too Late to Remember

The impromptu ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Center on the morning of July 11th showcased a heartfelt gesture of respect and honor for a deceased veteran and remembrance for a veteran's widow. Chaplain Chip Hanson, with compassion and solemnity, presented an American Flag to the widow who had not yet had such a ceremony for her husband.

During the ceremony, Bob Doyle, the VMC Operations Manager, played taps for those in attendance, adding a poignant touch to the event. The presence of taps, a bugle call traditionally used at military funerals, added to the solemnity of the occasion, paying tribute to the veteran's service and sacrifice.

The act of presenting the American Flag



to the widow is a symbol of the nation's gratitude for the veteran's service and signifies the enduring appreciation for the sacrifices made by both the veteran and their family. Such gestures foster a sense of community support and respect for veterans and their families, furthering the VMC's mission to educate the public about military service and ensure that the sacrifices made by veterans are not forgotten.



or generations, flags
have held a special place
in military funerals,
symbolizing honor and respect
for the fallen. The origins of this
tradition can be traced back to
the Napoleonic Wars, where
soldiers who lost their lives
in battle were draped in their
nation's flag as a tribute to their
sacrifice. As time passed, this
custom evolved into the intricate
folding ceremony that remains
a timeless part of US military
funerals today.

The presentation of the flag to the next of kin is a profoundly moving moment, signifying the nation's gratitude for the veteran's service and dedication. It serves as a poignant gesture of comfort and support for the grieving family, a solemn reminder of their loved one's commitment to the country.

In the United States, the way the flag is folded carries special symbolism. As it is meticulously folded into a triangular shape, the stars are positioned to point upward, serving as a reminder of the nation's motto, "In God We Trust." This acknowledgment of faith and reliance on a higher power reflects the enduring principles on which the nation was built.

### We Appreciate our Donors!

he generous donation of \$1000 to the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) from Dan Campbell, a dedicated VMC supporter, was presented to Kristi Blanchard, the VMC Secretary. The donation serves as a testament to the continued support and appreciation of the community for the VMC's mission to honor the service and sacrifice of military veterans and their families.

We truly appreciate all those in our community like Dan who consistently give to our center and support our cause!





### 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**

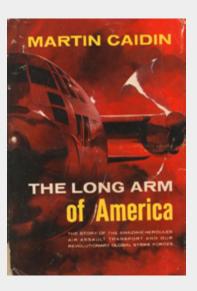
**Business Card:** \$50 per year **Quarter Page Color:** \$150 per year **Half Page Color:** \$250 per year

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.

### **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 was ....and 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 has become

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 Avitruc, 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's nations have used the plane in their military, rescue and commercial air activity.

This 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. The Long Arm of America 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!!



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

There is no deadline to apply for PACK ACT benefits. However, if you file your PACK ACT claim or file an Intent to File by August 9, 2023, you MAY receive an effective date of your claim backdated to August 10, 2022. Don't Wait!

### **Presumptive Disability Benefits**

### What is "Presumptive" Service Connection?

VA automatically presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran within a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation.

### What are "Presumptive Conditions"?

If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease within one year of active-duty release, you should apply for disability compensation.

Examples of chronic disease include: arthritis, diabetes or hypertension. If you served continuously for at least 90 days and are diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) after discharge, you can establish service connection for the disease.

If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumptive.

### Veterans in the following groups may qualify for "presumptive" disability benefits:

#### **POW**

Former prisoners of war. If you are a former prisoner or have a condition that is at least 10% disabling, you may have a presumptive condition. Whether or not a specific condition is presumed depends on the length

of imprisonment. If you were imprisoned for any length of time, specific presumed conditions include Psychosis Updated October 2022, Any anxiety state, Dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis), Organic residuals of frostbite, Post-traumatic osteoarthritis, Heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease, Stroke and its residual effects, Osteoporosis, when the Veteran has post-traumatic stress disorder.

If you were imprisoned for at least 30 days, presumed conditions include: Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease), Chronic dysentery, Helminthiasis, Malnutrition (including optic atrophy), Pellagra, Other nutritional deficiencies, Irritable bowel syndrome, Peptic ulcer disease, Peripheral neuropathy, Cirrhosis of the liver, Avitaminosis, or Osteoporosis.

#### Vietnam Veterans

If you were exposed to Agent Orange or served in the following locations, you may have a presumptive condition. Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, Any U. S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from Jan. 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976, Laos from Dec. 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969, Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969 through April 30, 1969, Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from Jan. 9, 1962 through July 31, 1980 Updated October 2022, Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan. 1, 1972 through Sept. 30, 1977. Specific presumed conditions include AL amyloidosis, B-cell leukemia, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Multiple myeloma, Type 2 diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, ischemic heart disease including but not limited to, coronary artery disease, and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, Parkinsonism, Prostate cancer, Respiratory cancers, Soft-tissue sarcoma (not including osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma), Bladder cancer, Hypothyroidism, Hypertension, Monoclonal gammopathy of underdetermined significance (MGUS)

The following conditions are presumed if they become greater than 10% debilitating within a year of exposure to an herbicide agent: Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, Chloracne or other

similar acneiform disease, Porphyria cutanea tarda Atomic Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation or if you experienced one of the following, you May have a presumptive condition: Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing Updated October 2022, Occupied or were prisoners of war in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, served before Feb. 1, 1992, at a diffusion plant in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio or Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Served before Jan. 1, 1974, at Amchitka Island, Alaska. Served in the cleanup of Eniwetok Atoll from Jan. 1, 1977, through Dec. 31, 1980, Served in the cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain from Jan. 17, 1966, through March 31, 1967, Served in the response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear Weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland from Jan. 21, 1968, through Sept. 25, 1985. Specific presumed conditions include Cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon or ovary, Bronchioloalveolar carcinoma, Multiple myeloma, Lymphomas, other than Hodgkin's disease, Primary liver cancer, except if there are indications of cirrhosis or hepatitis B.

#### Gulf War and Post 9/11 Veterans

Presumptive conditions for Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans depends on where and when you served. If you served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, or Jordan, during the Persian Gulf War and have: A medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses that exist for six months or more, such as: Chronic fatigue syndrome, Fibromyalgia Updated October 2022, Irritable bowel syndrome, Any diagnosed or undiagnosed illness that warrants a presumption of service connection, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Signs or symptoms of an undiagnosed illness, including Fatigue, Skin symptoms, Headaches, Muscle pain, Joint pain, Neurological or neuropsychological symptoms, Symptoms involving the upper or lower respiratory system, Sleep disturbance, Gastrointestinal symptoms, Cardiovascular symptoms, Weight loss, and Menstrual disorders

If you served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001, and: Manifest one of the following infectious diseases to a degree of 10 percent or more within 1 year of separation, specific conditions include: 5.1.6.1., 5.1.6.2., 5.1.6.3., 5.1.6.4., 5.1.6.5., 5.1.6.6., 5.1.6.7., Brucellosis, Campylobacter, jejune, Coxiella burnetiid (Q fever) Nontyphoid, Salmonella Shigella, West Nile virus, Malaria (or when accepted treatises indicate the incubation period began during a qualifying period of service) Manifest to a degree of 10% or more at any time after separation, specific conditions include: 5.1.6.7.1, 5.1.6.7.2, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Visceral leishmaniasis Updated October 2022.

If you served any amount of time in Afghanistan, Djibouti,

Syria, or Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from Sept. 19, 2001, to the present or the \*Southwest Asia theater of operations from Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, specific conditions include: Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx, Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea, Adenocarcinoma of the trachea, Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea, Aden squamous carcinoma of the lung large cell carcinoma of the lung, Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung Sarcomatous carcinoma of the lung, and Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

If you served on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen or if you served in the: Southwest Asia theater of operations, or Somalia, on or after Aug. 2, 1990, specific conditions include: Brain cancer, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Head cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Neck cancer of any type, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Respiratory cancer of any type, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) Updated October 2022, Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, or Sarcoidosis.

\* The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

I realize this is a lot of difficult reading, but the original document was seven pages long and I had to edit it somehow. Sorry.

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





# **Active in the Community in July:** Brevard County Detachment 513

The Brevard County Detachment 513 of the The Marine Corps League was seen many places around the entire state of Florida in the month of July.

- In the photo to the right, Commandant Bedford holds the DoF VAVS Certificate that the detachment earned at the 2023 DoF State Convention.
- Commandant Bedford was also presented the Department of Florida Convention participation streamer we will proudly add to our detachment flag.







Detachment 513 participated in the 4th of July parade on Merritt Island. Special thanks to member Kris Ettman for organizing this event for the detachment!

Also, kudos to QM Kimberly Benton and all her hard work on distributing food to various military, police, fire department and other civil servants after being in the parade!

It was our Color Guard's honor to present the colors at bot the USSSA Sace Coast Complex to kick off the game honoring military veterans (photo right) and at the July 4th celebration with the Brevards Symphony Orchestra (photo left).







## Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar July 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/

#### **AUGUST**

 O4 Aug — Coast Guard Day at Canaveral USCG Station 1000-1500; Open to active duty, retired ,veterans and families.
 Water slide, food, tours and great fun. POC: BM1 Tyler
 Wilson, USCG Station Port Canaveral

**O6** Aug — Purple Heart Remembrance Day by MOPH Brevard at the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1400-1600. Contact Donn Weaver (757-871-6576) for more information. By Invitation Only.

August 18, 2023: Women Veteran Outreach and Support meeting and Luncheon at VMC Gray Hall 1230-1430. Presented by VMC, BVC, and Their Voice of Hope 501(c)(3). Contact Dorothy Walsh for more information and to sign up. dwalshusa@gmail.com

26 Aug — Military Academy/ROTC Seminar Sponsored Military Leadership Preparation Seminar at VMC with two sessions 1300-1500 and 1500-1700. Reps from all academies, 10 ROTC college programs and other routes to military leadership available. Review of the application process for various options. Open to all High School Juniors and Seniors and their parents. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more info.

**29** Aug — Library Discussion Series: The Vietnam War. VMC Military Library from 6:00 to 7:30 PM presented by Paul Julien.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

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

26 Sep - VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD.

#### **OCTOBER**

06 Oct — Eighth Annual NVHS Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner and Fundraiser. 1730-2100 at the Radisson Resort at the Port. 8701 Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral. Sponsorships available. \$100 per plate fundraiser. email event@nvhs.org or Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

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

**31** Oct - VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day 5K** VM PARK and Center – 0600-1000. Merging to:

**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. 0700-1200 in the Eau Gallie Square. Details in August. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

18 Nov — 20-23 Veterans and Military Support MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament at IRCC 0800-1400. Primary GDF Fundraiser of the year with sponsorships, hole sponsorships, golfing slots and auction/raffle prizes. Proceeds Support the GDF: A 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting the aims of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC). It has provided direct support and grants to area military (primarily in enlisted ranks), veterans, and their families; ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, Civil Air Patrol, as well as other Veteran organizations.

**28 Nov - VMC Library Discussion Series**, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD.

For events beyond November, please visit the <u>VMC online</u> event calendar.



### **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 Davie321-626-5462jdavie@cfl.rr.comPaul Julian321-749-7369pjulian54@yahoo.com

#### **VIDEOGRAPHERS**

Joe Davie321-626-5462jdavie@cfl.rr.comPaul Julian321-749-7369pjulian54@yahoo.com

#### VHP SUPPORT

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

### 2023-2024 Organization

as of 8/1/2023

	BVC/VMC	Leadership Team	
BVC Chairman	Ted Suzor	271-4327	suzor9@gmail.com
BVC Vice Chairman	Jim Carleton	543-0646	jimcarleton4@gmail.com
VMC President	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
VMC Vice President	Paul Julian	749-7369	pjulian54@yahoo.com
BVC/VMC Secretary	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
BVC/VMC Treasurer	Dave Clayton	401-255-5461	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
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	Brevard Veterans C	ouncil Board of Di	rectors
3 Year	Bill Pollock	352-258-6414	wrp50@yahoo.com
3 Year	Don Pearsall	313-2444	djp32927@gmail.com
2 Year	Joe Davie	626-5462	jdavie976@gmail.com
2 Year	Vic Rogers	603-707-2304	itcret@yahoo.com
1 Year	Ray Norman	749-7121	normanrayl@yahoo.com
1 Year	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
BVC Chaplain	Chip Hanson	543-7505	chipvietnam68@aol.com
DAV Chapter 123	Rodger Pickett	795-3108	rpickett@davfla.com
Immed. Past BVC Chair	Donn Weaver	757-871-6576	donnweaver2020@gmail.com
	Veterans Memorial	Center Board of D	irectors
3 Year	Harry Beaver	501-9156	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
3 Year	Garet McKimmie	571-239-9991	garetmck@yahoo.com
2 Year	Jay Longway	449-9037	jpl3x@yahoo.com
2 Year	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
1 Year	Mary Ann Tucker	986-9494	wellmare@aol.com
1 Year	To be appointed		
VMC Advisory Chair	Dennis Herring	693-7209	dmherring7602@sbcglobal.net
Immed. Past VMC Pres	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
	Veterans Center - No	n Voting Support A	Positions
Store Manager	Dave Boyd	266-3825	dboyd52@outlook.com
Asst. Store Manager	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
Asst. Secretary	Julie Adamson	446-4663	Juliecladamson@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Librarian	Joe Davie	626-5462	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
Maintenance Supervisor	Jerry Johnson, Jr.	750-2605	jjohnsonmerit@gmail.com
Membership	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
Museum Curator	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
Online Media & Pubs	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
Operations Manager	Bob Doyle	276-7814	vmcoperationsmgr@gmail.com
Photographer	Roger Scruggs	795-6545	scruggs@tvphotog.com

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Eliason, Sandra Oct, 2023

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Florida State University College of Social Work, August, 2024

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