



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

NOVEMBER 2023



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

NVHS Fundraiser Helps the Homeless

Hundreds gather to raise money to keep at risk vets in housing. — page 5

Raider Challenge

JROTC units from around Brevard gather to win their way to state competition. — page 13

Space Coast Honor Flight

Creating memories of a lifetime for veterans. — page 8

Rolling Thunder: Supporting Vets

*At many different events,
Rolling Thunder continues to
keep the memory of POWs
and MIAs at the forefront*

— details page 10

Photo by Roger Scruggs

NOVEMBER 2023

COURIER CONTENTS

President's Report • Page 3

Library Report • Page 4

Chaplain's Report • Page 7

Park and Plaza Report • Page 9

Book Report • Page 12

Patriot Report • Page 16

Event Calendar • Page 19

Boosters • Page 22

The Courier is a monthly publication prepared and distributed in both print and electronic forms by the VMC/BVC. It reports the ongoing projects by the many committees and departments.

Articles for submission must be sent to the address listed below. The deadline is the third Wednesday of each month. Those submissions received after that date will not be published.

Please send submissions to:
brevardvmc@gmail.com

© 2023



Our Organization

As of 27 September 2023:

[List of Board Members 2023-2024](#)

As of 27 September 2023:

[Committee Department Assignment 2023-2024](#)

As of 27 September 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)

I hope everyone is preparing and looking forward to our Veterans Day program on November 11. Our events Coordinator, Dorothy Walsh, has done a great job coordinating with our tenant organizations to have a "pass in review" with their colors/banners to be recognized for supporting the VMC. This Veterans Day program is all about the VMC and our partners and how we support our veterans and the community. Our guest speakers represent partnerships we have with Patrick Space Force Base and the Honor Flight Organization. Don't forget about the St. Francis Reflections 5K run that starts at around 0730, beginning and ending in our park. The run activities should be complete by 0900.

Some upcoming events concerning Veterans and tenant organizations in November include a Salute to Veterans at Viera High School's Friday night football game versus Titusville High School on November 3rd. All veterans will be admitted to the game free of charge and will be honored during half time. Come out and represent your service.

On Saturday, November 4th the Museums of Brevard will have a "Meet the MOB" event at the American Police Hall of Fame from 12 - 4 PM. There are 22 museums and historic homes that belong to the MOB and promote our sites around the county.

On November 15th, the first Brevard's No One Vet Left Behind will inter 26 veteran cremains at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

The Military Officers Association Good Deeds Foundation, one of our tenant organizations, is sponsoring a Golf Tourney at the IRCC golf course on November 18th. It is their major fundraising event of the year. The Good Deeds Foundation dispersed over \$120,000 this year to veteran and community events.

The Navy League will hold their quarterly BBQ at the Port Ministry in Cape Canaveral to feed the crews on break from the Cruise Ships and any Merchant Marines that may be in port. We normally have five cruise ships in port and feed 300-400 individuals from all over the world.

Have an awesome Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Thanks to all volunteers for keeping the Center operating and for all your dedication. God bless you and all services, especially the Navy.

Dean
GO NAVY BEAT ARMY

VMC/BVC CONTACTS

VMC President
Dean Schaaf
dschaaf@brevard.net
321-794-4371

BVC Chairman
Ted Suzor
suzorted9@gmail.com
321-271-4327

VMC Vice President
Paul Julian
pjulian54@gmail.com
321-749-7369

BVC Vice Chairman
Jim Carleton
jimcarleton4@gmail.com
321-543-0646

BVC/VMC Secretary
Kristi Blanchard
brevardvmc@gmail.com
321-453-1776 ext. 5

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



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



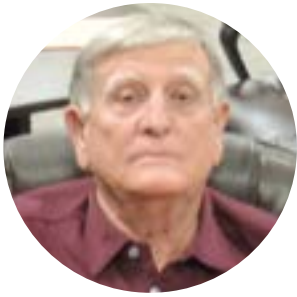
MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA





Library Notes

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

In November, the library has two discussion groups scheduled. On Tuesday, November 14th from 6:00 till 7:30 PM we will discuss the **Indianola Pioneer Cemetery** located on Merritt Island. Indianola has a long history and includes Veterans and Merritt Island original settlers. Ray Norman has teamed up with Mr. MacPherson for this discussion. On November 28th, the library will host another discussion about the Battleship USS Massachusetts led by Wayne Rowe. Wayne is a retired Naval officer who served aboard US Naval ships and is one of our librarians. His expertise includes Naval Warfare, and his presentation will be from 6:00 till 7:30 PM, Everyone is invited to attend.



New Veterans History Project Interview: Casey Clem

Casey Clem enlisted in the Navy in February 1997 and served 4 years active duty aboard the USS Enterprise CVN 65 where attained the rank of E5 as an Information technician IT2. He maintained the software and computers aboard the Enterprise and was deployed overseas during Operation Desert Fox. After his discharge in Feb 2001, he returned to his hometown in Ennis, Texas. Currently, Casey teaches US History for the Brevard County school system. Listen to Casey's interview from the link Below!

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



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

11 BATTLE STARS EARNED: THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE BATTLESHIP U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS DURING WWII

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

6:00-7:30 PM

**The Library, Veterans Memorial Center
Merritt Island, FL**

Presented by

Commander Wayne J. Rowe, USN-ret.

Tossing the first sixteen-inch shell to open the European offensive and firing the last big naval bullet in the Pacific campaign – these are the outstanding mileposts in the 39-month fighting career of the U.S.S. Massachusetts.

When peace came to the Pacific in World War II, the U.S.S. Massachusetts had earned 11 Battle Stars and could look back on a long and action-packed career.

From the time of commissioning on May 12, 1942, until the end of the war in mid-August 1945, she had logged over 225,000 nautical miles, her journeying taking her all the way from Casablanca to Tokyo and the China coast.

Come join us and watch the U.S.S. Massachusetts' history come alive in pictures, and videos, and find yourself being a witness to her adventures and stories of war at sea.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Julian or Joe Davie at vmclibrary5@gmail.com. Light refreshments will be provided!

Veteran Community Supports NVHS to Help Veterans Urgent Need

The Cape Canaveral Radisson was host to more than five hundred advocates on 06 October for a major fundraising event. Their unified mission: support the activities throughout the year of National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS), Inc. NVHS is a Cocoa based 501(c)3 organization founded in 2008 by George Taylor, Sr., who was once himself a homeless veteran. The veteran-focused organization operates exclusively in Brevard County working with many partners and supporters to help their cause.

The October event raised many thousands of dollars through sponsors, dinner ticket prices, a silent auction and a live auction led by Sheriff Wayne Ivey. There were more than 140 veterans in attendance as the event opened with a role call with each stating their name and service. Several veteran groups sponsored tables at the event including MOAACC and the VMC affiliated Rolling Thunder FL-1. In a thankful gesture, every

sponsor contributing to the event was recognized throughout the evening.

NVHS strives to bring veterans and families out of homelessness and in assisting veterans and their families with rent, utilities, and other issues to prevent them from becoming homeless. They also tackle homelessness where it exists--on the streets of the community.

Each year NVHS recognizes the "NVHS Veteran Advocate of the Year." Donn Weaver of MOAACC, Veterans Memorial Center and other veteran organizations received the 2023 Award.

The organization is truly out doing good in the Brevard community. The evening featured the moving story of **what NVHS has accomplished in Brevard County in 2023:**

- Worked with over 100 veterans to find paths out of being homeless in 2023
- Drew down Veteran Homelessness from 1800 in 2008 to 65 before the pandemic and 200 today as the economy takes its toll
- Helped 419 veterans (and many families among this number) to AVOID being homeless in 2023
- Supported the Veterans Memorial Center and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation to provide extensive services, clothes, medical support, etc. to 70 homeless vets in the January 2023 Stand Down to Stand Up

Their work is not complete, as there are an estimated 4,600 veterans living in poverty in Brevard and it is the mission of NVHS to keep these vets in their homes.



Pictured left: Donn Weaver accepts the NVHS 2023 Veteran Advocate Award with NVHS CEP George Taylor, Jr.

Pictured below: Missing man table ceremony at the event.



For more information about NVHS, the results of this event, as well as how to participate in their upcoming NVHS 5K fundraiser in November, check out the website at: [NVHS.ORG](https://www.nvhs.org)



Cape Canaveral Space Force Station Shuts Down South Gate Viewing Area

Space Launch Delta 45 has announced the permanent closure of the South Gate launch viewing area at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station as of Nov 1, 2023, citing concerns over public safety. The decision comes after multiple serious vehicle crashes in the vicinity and a dramatic increase in mission cadence, prompting leadership to take action to prevent any future incidents.

The decision to close the South Gate viewing area was not taken lightly. "The safety of the public is our utmost priority," said Brig. Gen. Kristin Panzenhagen, Space Launch Delta 45 commander. "Recent incidents highlighted an unacceptable level of risk to bystanders at the South Gate viewing area and to the continuity of our mission. While we understand the disappointment this closure may cause, we cannot compromise on safety."

As the closure takes effect, Space Launch Delta 45 encourages space enthusiasts to explore other safe viewing alternatives. Public viewing events at designated areas throughout Brevard County will continue to be available, allowing the community to experience the excitement of space missions while minimizing potential risks. For additional suggestions on where to watch launches go to Frequently Asked Questions about Launches.

While the South Gate viewing area's closure is disappointing, it underscores the importance of prioritizing safety in all aspects of space exploration. As technology advances and more ambitious missions are planned, ensuring the safety of the general public will remain a paramount concern for space agencies worldwide.

Space Launch Delta 45 is geographically located at both Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. Space Launch Delta is

the World's Premier Gateway to Space and operates the Eastern Range and provides public safety and mission assurance for rocket launches from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and NASA's Kennedy Space Center. For more information visit: Space Launch Delta 45 website; SLD 45 on Facebook; SLD 45 on Twitter; and SLD 45 on LinkedIn.

**Questions can be emailed to: SLD45.
PA.PublicAffairs@Spaceforce.mil**



Pictured: The South Gate launch viewing area was a popular location for spectators to watch launches. *Photo courtesy of Space Launch Delta 45.*



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)

Now that October and Halloween are over, the holiday season has begun. On Sunday 11-11-18 we have Veterans Day, on Thursday, November 23, 2023, is Thanksgiving Day.

This is supposed to be a happy time of the year, but there are many those who are serving overseas, many away from their families for the first time, and our seniors who are alone or forgotten living in nursing homes or worse. Our Military Veterans with TBI or PTSD suffer every day with their memories. The United States has 22 Veterans per day who commit suicide, or 8,030 annually.

According to the Pew Research Center, 96% of Veterans who have served post-9/11, are proud of their service; however, nearly half say that readjusting to civilian life was difficult, most often citing family issues. About one in six Veterans were

wounded in combat and slightly more than half experienced emotional trauma or distress while serving. Tragically, even with the positive, supportive culture we have, 84% of post-9/11 veterans feel like the public just doesn't understand the sacrifices made by them or their families. This touches on one truly hidden wound of war.

What can we do to possibly bring a little joy to these wonderful folks, whose only crime is to have or is serving our country, or growing old, or for those of us who are combat Veterans living with memories from a war?

All of us have our own way of trying to bring some light into life. I think sometimes just a word of encouragement is all it takes

In the words of SAM Clemmons (Mark Twain) "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform—or pause and reflect."

Psalm 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson

**As an American, a Chaplain, and a Christian,
I stand with Israel.**



Super Solar Eclipse at the VMC



The Brevard Astronomical Society (BAS) helped amateur astronomers safely view the the "PacMan" solar eclipse on the grounds of the VMC on October 14th. For more than 50 years, the local stargazers in the non-profit BAS have been doing outreach events under the stars.

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Honors Veterans Day 2023 Pass In Review



Come Join Us as we honor our military on Veterans Day and enjoy Brevard's "Hidden Jewel" The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, behind the Merritt Square Mall

**Sat. Nov. 11, 2023
11.00 A.M.**

Key Note Speaker:
Colonel S Shannon DaSilva, Deputy Director of Operations
Space Systems Command at Patrick Space Force Base

Guest Speaker:
Rear Admiral USN (Ret) Jim Hart, President, Space Coast Honor Flight

All Organizations Invited to participate
Many Veteran Resources Available
Tour the awesome 3 Floor Military Museum

VENDORS WELCOME: If you wish to share your information with your neighbors and community, you are welcome to set up a table at the event, or want to volunteer to help out? Please contact Dorothy Walsh, Event Coordinator at dwalshusa@gmail.com or call/text (321) 426-4736

Supporting the Space Coast Honor Flight

by Donn Weaver

An annual tradition that brings together local veteran support organizations in Brevard took place very early in the morning (0215 am) on October 14th. That was when the 75th Mission of the Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) held its pre-flight ceremony at Wickham Park.

As always, the focus was on 30 veterans as they prepared to travel to Washington, DC, to see their memorials and to be honored in many ways through a very long, but lifetime memory type day. Since 2010, 1948 veterans have taken this same trip over the course of 75 flights with SCHF. The SCHF organizations views their mission as is a unique opportunity to show our gratitude to these Heroes who made it possible for us to enjoy the freedoms we have today. The one-day all expenses paid trip they provide gives veterans an opportunity to visit their memorials and reflect on their service in company of fellow veterans.

The oldest veteran leaving for DC served in WWII and had his 100th birthday two months before. He joined two Korean War, 24 Vietnam War and three Cold/GWOT veterans. They visited the Navy, USAF, WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War Memorials and monuments along with Arlington National Cemetery, where one was chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

To enhance the experience each Veteran is paired with a Guardian escort and has a wheelchair available. For the third straight year the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) provided RADM James Hart, President of the SCHF, a check for \$4000 to help with the airfare and expenses for another ten Guardians during 2024. Those Guardians come from two special organizations: ROTC College students at Florida Tech and military veterans who are undertaking PhD level training through a VA program at FIT. After graduation, they aspire to hold positions where they will support veterans. Thus, four organizations combined on one mission before 3 am that morning.

The 14 October flight included four Guardians from FIT and one previous Guardian, now defending her PhD dissertation, Delaney Bennett Granko. Granko attended the early morning meeting to help with the festivities, as the event holds a special place in her heart. Several years ago, fellow ROTC Cadet from the University of Florida, John Granko, proposed in Wash DC



Pictured: Preparing to depart 30 Veterans; 30 Guardians, SCHF volunteers and many more well wishers.



Pictured: (L-R) Donn Weaver (GDFMOAACC) Jim Hart (SCHF President) Delaney Granko (FIT PhD Program) and Brian Whalen (MOAACC Pres)

during an Honor Flight and the two are now happily married.

The VMC was represented by former VMC Chairman (and MOAACC's GDF current president) Donn Weaver. Brian Whalen, President of MOAACC, also shared the special moment.

For more information about qualifications to be honored with a SCHF or to be a Guardian in the future visit:

<https://spacecoasthonorflight.org/>



Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Bricks, Benches and Trees

A total of eight bricks were ordered in the month of October, with five bricks installed from previously open orders and those received in October. Three bricks (recent orders) remain in CSPRAY's work queue. Lastly, CSPRAY will be pressure-washing our memorial plaza in preparations for Veteran's Day. CSPRAY is doing an amazing job for our Center and our veteran families!

There is one open order for a tree and the associated memorial plate. Our vendor will be delivering the plate in November.

There is one open order for a memorial bench. The bench is slated for delivery by the end of November. It will be assembled no later than the first week of December, and placed on display in front of the museum until it is permanently placed in the park. Thank you in advance to the VMC's Maintenance Supervisor, Jerry Johnson.

Wayne Fried has completed the first review of all the brick orders the center has ever received. He has catalogued hundreds of bricks into a database and is researching a few questions regarding about sixty bricks. This data will eventually be placed in a kiosk where visitors will be able to electronically research and locate their specific memorial brick. This is an extremely tedious task requiring months of dedicated effort. Wayne Fried is to be commended for his dedication to this effort.

The Amphitheater

The cost of the project has been received for the park improvements and the Amphitheater and we are in some final negotiations between the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Lead Contractor, Ivey's Construction. All parties will have a series of meetings through the next month and hopefully have the groundbreaking and the start of construction soon.



Register at:
Reflectionslsc.org/DASHinLife

Stay after the race to honor the Veterans in attendance with a special pinning ceremony, and a day of celebration for the entire family hosted by the Veterans Memorial Center.

11 Nov 2023
0730

REGISTRATION
Individual/Virtual
\$28
Veteran
\$23

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
MERRITT ISLAND, FL

Special thanks to our partners:

Don't forget to sign up for the 2 race challenge DASH - Home when you register



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



Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind

by Jim Carleton, BVC Vice Chair
and BNOVLB ExComm

What is BNOVLB? This organization is a MOAACC Cape Canaveral Support Committee and a BVC/VMC initiative to locate and identify unclaimed cremated American veterans and inter them at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. The goal is to provide these forgotten heroes a proper service with honor and respect. Brevard County has many, many veterans who have been languishing on funeral home shelves and other locations, sometimes up to several years and for some, decades.

On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 1400 to 1530 hours, we will hold our inaugural service at the Flag Assembly Area of the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. At this time, we will inter between 15 and 20 American veterans with full military honors. We will be looking for volunteers to carry urns and flags during this first service as well as other activities. About sixty volunteers will be needed.

Some of the organizations who are currently providing support include the Cape Canaveral Ladies, the Support Committee at CCNC, the BVC/VMC, the Veterans



Pictured: Above is a flag draped caisson used for services and special ceremonies at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. It is owned by Tom and Debbie Fitzgerald who live in the area and give back to the community in this way. Tom is an active member of the Marine Corps League based at VMC.

Administration and the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery and several more. Please save the date and consider volunteering.

Contact Jim Carleton or Donn Weaver for any questions or to sign up for this incredibly special event. In January, we will plan the 2024 BNOVLB services in 2024 and beyond until there are no more need.



Rolling Thunder FL-1 Spreads the Word

by Donn Weaver

The VMC based Rolling Thunder FL-1 (RTFL-1) Chapter led by Lance Armstrong is the biggest RT Chapter in the state, boasting around 100 members. While you know them for great support to Memorial Day events and Wreaths Across America, RTFL-1 does many more events each year. In October, for example, they escorted several military funerals and held flag raising ceremonies at Merritt Island Library and a medical facility.

The group meets at VMC the fourth Sunday of every month at 1400. No need to ride a Harley, be a veteran or VMC member, they welcome all who just want to share in their mission — to remind our government and the American People of all those POWs and Missing in Action who need to be accounted for for the sake of their families and our country.





October JROTC Raider Challenges

by **Donn Weaver**

Raider Challenge, Round 2, 14 October 2023

The second JROTC Raider Challenge Meet took place in VMC Park on 14 October and yet again broke all records.

This time there were 14 high schools, including three from the Orlando area, over 240 JROTC cadets and likely 400 patients and friends watching. Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf and Brian Whalen showed the VMC colors in support on a beautiful, cooler day. Amazingly, Cocoa Beach High School took home ALL the Overall Trophies for Male, Female and Mixed 10 member teams.

One more Raider Challenge meet remains this year at the Park on 28 October just before Courier press time, but it will be hard to top the second round. The final meet will determine the top two finishers in all categories to learn the right to go to the State Raider Challenge Championship in November. Courier readers will recall last year Cocoa Beach HS JROTC teams were state Male and Female champions.

Raider Challenge, Round 3, 28 October 2023

As dawn broke on 28 October, 21 teams from 10 High School JROTC Teams in Brevard set up to compete for the 2023 Raider Challenge District Championship. The Top two teams in each category are headed for the State Championship in Tampa in two weeks. It was a great day of competition after the two months of practice and warm up meets at VMC Park, Cocoa Beach, Merritt Island, Cocoa and Viera were big winners but all gave their best. The meet included one Marine, Air Force and Space Force team joining all the Army teams.

(continued on next page)



Pictured: Formation to prepare for Awards Ceremony October 14.



Pictured: Pre-Brief to JROTC Instructors and graders during Round 2.



Pictured: Awards on October 14.

(continued from previous page)

Scenes from the October Raider Challenges



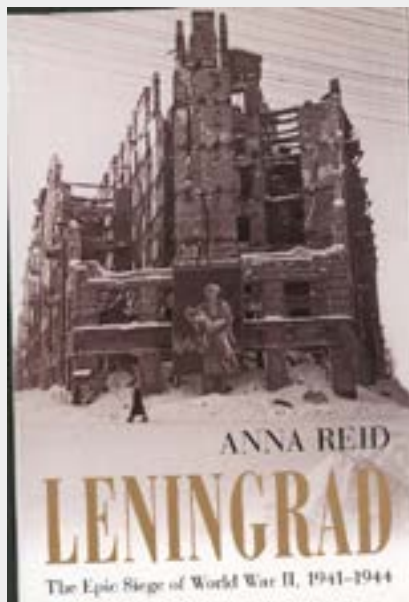
Pictured: Awards on October 14.



Pictured: A tired but jubilant Cocoa Beach jr/sr HS JROTC celebrates their victories during Raider Challenge Round 3.



Pictured: Plenty of trophies, courtesy of the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation awaited the winners on 28 October.



Book Report

Leningrad by Anna Reid

Book Report by Karen Croft, Catalog # WWIIEJ-19

This is an historical account of the two-and-a-half-year siege of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), during WWII while the German Nazi forces surrounded the Soviet city. It was the beginning of Hitler's Operation Barbarossa, the largest military operation in history. Actual lives lost in Leningrad are estimated at 750,000 – most of which were the result of starvation.

The non-aggression agreement (Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) signed by Stalin and Hitler in 1939 was obviously a useless document. Less than two years later, on June 22, 1941, an announcement made by Vyacheslav Molotov, the Commissar for Foreign Affairs, to the citizens of the Soviet Union that German troops had attacked their country. By September, the city was surrounded. The siege was as much the fault of Stalin as it was for Hitler. Read the book and find out all the fascinating details of this event!

Museum Store Report

It will soon be time for Thanksgiving and you know what follows close after that. Time to think about holiday shopping. We have many toy options for the youngsters. We have new Lego like building block WW2 planes, tanks, water craft and Space Shuttle toys that would be fun for the kids to put together. There are also some 3D puzzles that are interesting. We have the classic metal Jeep Willys and wind-up submarines that are also fun. For the grownups we have reduced prices on selected tee shirts. We also have great patriotic hats. There are also available jackets and hooded sweatshirts for the cooler temperatures. Come in and do some early shopping to beat the crowded stores.



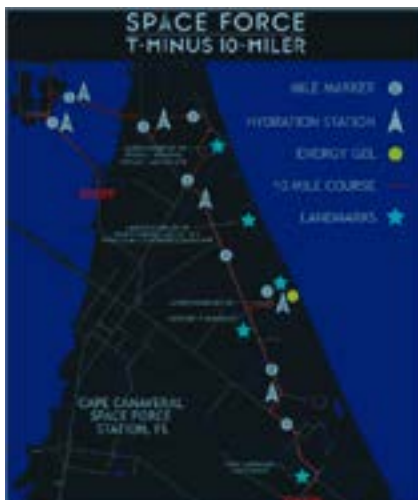
Highlights:

- The Space Force T-10 Miler is a crucial space heritage event
- The inaugural race had approximately 2,500 participants, and we are dedicated to growing the event
- Race registration is open to all, allowing civilians from the local area and around the world to come view our space history
- The 10-mile course weaves it's way through 4 historic launch sites, and finishes at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

If you have any questions, wish to volunteer, or provide a sponsorship please contact:

Capt Jonathan Huffman
jonathan.huffman.4@us.af.mil

MSgt Ricardo Porto
ricardo.porto@us.af.mil




HELPING VETERANS HEAL THROUGH THE WAVES OF LIFE

SURF THERAPY FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

8-12 WEEK SURF CLINICS

LEARN TO SURF, FLOW, CONNECT WITH FELLOW VETERANS AND DIVE DEEPER INTO HEALING

COMPLIMENTARY SESSIONS FOR VA VETERANS FIRST RESPONDERS AND NON VA VETERANS REQUEST A REFERRAL FROM YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER FOR EXPERIENTIAL THERAPEUTIC/OCCUPATIONAL REHABILITATION

www.costasurf.org | info@costasurf.org

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**.

Women Veteran Outreach & Support



Our Women Veterans Transitional Facility is in need of supplies

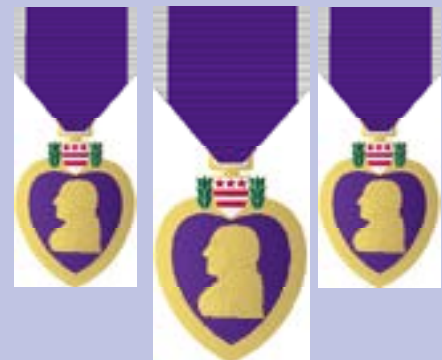
Mesh Clothes Hamper	Shaving cream/gel
Detergent/Fabric Softener	Deodorant
Dryer sheets	Razors
Mesh shower caddy	Hairbrushes/Combs
Toothbrush	Hair ties
Toothpaste	Cotton Swabs
Toilet paper	Bath sponge/loofah
Body wash	Nail Grooming Kits
Dental Floss	Band-Aids
Shampoo/Conditioner	Tissues
Mouthwash	Feminine Hygiene Products
Colored pencils/Crayons	Reusable tumblers
Activity/coloring books	Women's panties (sizes 5-10)
Pens/Pencils	Sports Bras (s-xl)
Journals	Small blankets-pillows

Drop Off Locations:

Veterans Memorial Center	VFW Post 10131	American Legion Post 163
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy	105 Long Point Rd	1795 N Harbor City Blvd
Merritt Island, FL 32952	Cape Canaveral, FL 32920	Melbourne, FL 32935

Please be sure packages are clearly marked "Women Veteran Donations--Dorothy Walsh"

Thank You!!



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!

Advertise in the Courier

We appreciate having our corporate sponsors and veteran friendly businesses support us and hope they will consider advertising in the 2023 Courier.

Please contact Dave Clayton bvmtreasurer@gmail.com 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 2023 and beyond.





UNIQUE ART
by
Dan Haddad

310 Le Jeune Dr.
Meritt Island, FL 32953

321-536-5585
rrrgent@gmail.com





Click to see Dan's art in action in this video!



Old Fish House Restaurant

249 W Cocoa Beach CSWY

Cocoa Beach FL 32931

oldfishhouse-restaurant.com

321.799.9190

OPEN: Tues.-Thurs. 11:30 am - 9:00 pm

Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 9:30 pm

Sunday & Monday: CLOSED

In the White Rose Shopping Plaza
One block north of Ron Jon's across the street from the
Dinosaur Store



The Patriot Report

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

VA Disability Benefits Will Increase 3.2% in 2024

Veterans receiving VA disability compensation will see a 3.2% increase in their monthly checks in 2024.

This increase, which will go into effect in January, will apply to over 5.4 million veterans who receive VA disability benefits, as well as nearly half a million surviving spouses and dependents receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

The increase is significantly lower than last year's historical jump of 8.7%, yet higher than in 2020 and 2021, when disability benefits increased less than 2%. Because of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023, signed by President Biden on June 14, the VA COLA is equal to the one applied to Social Security benefits. This means with the announcement of a 3.2% raise in Social Security benefits, we now know there will be an equivalent 3.2% increase in VA disability benefits.

2024 VA Disability Compensation Payments

In the table on the right, the 2024 disability compensation rates for a veteran with no dependents is listed. Monthly compensation is higher for veterans with one or more dependents.

CALCULATED AMOUNTS BASED ON 2023 VA COMPENSATION RATES: For spouses and children receiving DIC benefits, the new standard monthly payment is expected to increase from \$1,562.74 in 2023 to \$1,612.75 in 2024.

Monthly military pension payments are expected to increase by \$32 for every \$1,000 of retirement pension.

Veterans and surviving family members should see an increase in their monthly payments in their January 2024 payment. If you do not see a difference in the amount, contact the Veterans Benefits Administration.

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

VA Rating	2024 Monthly Compensation (Veteran with no dependents)	Monthly amount increase
10%	\$171.23	\$5.31
20%	\$338.49	\$10.50
30%	\$524.31	\$16.26
40%	\$755.28	\$23.42
50%	\$1,075.16	\$33.34
60%	\$1,361.88	\$42.23
70%	\$1,716.28	\$53.22
80%	\$1,995.01	\$61.86
90%	\$2,241.91	\$69.52
100% (or TDIU)	\$3,737.85	\$115.90

Pictured: Disability compensation rates for Veterans with no dependents.



ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

www.atlanticmusiccenter.com

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



Serving the BMC and Community Brevard County Detachment 513

As a tenant member of the Veterans Memorial Center, the Marine Corps League has a responsibility to serve our veteran community, our League, and the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center as a whole. Detachment 513 takes this responsibility to heart by providing Color Guard Services for BVMC ceremonies, funeral services at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, attending meetings with VMC and BVC officials, and a wide variety of other veteran related programs. Many of our League members also hold office positions in other organizations related to the BVMC.



SVC Rivera accompanied me to a Eagle Scout Award Presentation for Luke Hamel, at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Viera on 21 October

Our members are active in the community with participation in youth development with Eagle Scout recognition, honoring veterans and recognizing Purple Heart recipients, care and

maintenance of memorials for our fallen veterans, and raising funds and gifts in the Toys for Tots Program. All of these programs supporting the future, and yet, we

still recognize the glorious past of our beloved Corps with attention to history. We actively support the founding of our Corps by celebrating the birthday 10 November 1775 with a celebration and honor to all who have worn the title MARINE. I would ask all who hold that title to join us at the Marine Corps Ball this year as we celebrate 248 years of service to our Country and Corps.

Commandant Bedford presenting Carl Miller an Individual Meritorious Commendation Certificate & Ribbon for his OUTSTANDING work in coordinating the Military Order of the Purple Heart events every August



248th MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Hosted by Brevard County Detachment 513
Marine Corps League
Saturday 11 November 2023, 5:00-10:00 PM
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL

\$40.00 Per Person
Advance reservations only. Cut-off date: 6 Nov 2023
(Cash, check or PayPal*)
For more information contact
MCLBrevard513@gmail.com

And for all you who miss the comradery of our Corps and would like to continue your association with Marines, join us at our meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 1800 (6PM) in the Gray Hall at the BVMC

Dennis Herring
Adjutant, Det. 513
Marine Corps League &
Tenant Committee Chairman
Veterans Memorial Center



Brevard County Detachment 513 248th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Saturday, 11 November 2023, 6:00-10:00 pm
Radisson Conference Center, 8701 Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral FL

Attire: MCL Members-Formal or Casual Uniform / Guests-Business Casual / Active Duty
Personnel-Uniform of the Day

Dinner: Choice of Sliced Top Sirloin or Roasted Chicken Breast, with salad, sides, and beverages.
A cash bar will be available & dancing after the event

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Send in your reservations and payment
by Thursday 2 November 2023
(Advance paid reservations only, no pay-at-the-door allowed)

Names _____/_____/_____

Entrée Choice
(Beef or Chicken) _____/_____/_____

Email or Mailing Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Please send this form with checks made payable to **Marine Corps League** to:

Tom Fitzgerald/Detachment 513 Paymaster
4542 Whiskey Lane
Mimms, FL 32754



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar November 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/>

NOVEMBER

03 Nov — Salute to Military Veterans at Viera High School Home Football Game against Titusville HS 1900. Free Vet admission with ID card. All will be recognized on the field at halftime.

04 Nov— Space Coast Honor Flight Mission to DC. Ceremony starts at 0215 AM at the Wickham Park Senior Center in Melbourne. Visit <https://spacecoasthonorflight.org/> or contact Ted/Paula Suzor on 321-877-1828 for more details.

04 Nov - Spanish-American Veterans Association Annual Veterans Day Dance. Greater Palm Bay Senior Center, 1275 Culver Dr NE, Palm Bay, FL 32907 B.Y.O.B and snacks. \$20.00 donation at the door. Event: 7 PM – Midnight.

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

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Pass in Review at the VMC. Special guests will be PSFB Deputy Commander, Colonel S. Shannon DaSilva, and the President of Space Coast Honor Flight, Rear Admiral, Navy (ret) Jim Hart. If you would like to participate in the Pass in Review and/or as an available resource, please contact Veterans Memorial Events Coordinator Dorothy Walsh at dwalshusa@gmail.com.

11 Nov — Rock'n Vet Music evening at H&D Roadhouse 1811 E. Merritt Island Causeway rte 520 , from 1500- 2300. Live music of all kinds, raffle, food, and fun. Sponsored by American Legion Post 344 based at the VMC, Contact Legion 344 for more information.

11 Nov — First Annual City of Cape Canaveral and VFW Post 10131 Veterans Day Parade and festival afterwards at VFW Post in Cape Canaveral; Details and entry information in September. Free food and drinks; sponsors sought. Contact VFW Post 10131 for more information.

11 Nov — 248th USMC Birthday Ball 1800-2200 at the Radisson Conference Center in Cape Canaveral on A1A. Sponsored by Marine Corps League Detachment 513 of

Brevard. Cost \$40 per person. Reservations and payment required. Contact MCL at the VMC for more information to join in this special event.

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.

14 Nov — VMC Library Discussion Series 6-7:30 PM at the VMC Library. Topic is Historical Indianola Cemetery of Merritt Island Ray Norman and his author friend will go over the history and the inhabitants of the locally famous Indianola Cemetery. He will also provide information on getting involved in the Wreaths Across America at the MI cemeteries in December.

15 Nov — Inaugural Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB) Committal Service for the unclaimed cremains of 20 veterans and spouses. Held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims 1400-1600 as Brevard honors the final promise to all veterans – an honorable resting place and remembrance. Contact BNOVLB coordinator Donn Weaver on 757-871-6576 or donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

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 and groups since 2014.

28 Nov – VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. This month's topic: The Military History of the Battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts during WWII presented by Ret. US Navy officer Wayne Rowe.

(continued on next page)

DECEMBER

2 Dec - Heroes on the Water kayaking at Ballard Park, 974 Thomas Barbour Dr, Melbourne. 9:00 – 11:30. Women veterans are invited to join this event. Will supply the kayak, paddles, and personal flotation device. Please bring your own water/sports drink, (no alcohol), lunch, plastic bag for cell phone, beach sandals/water shoes, towel, sunscreen, hat. Any questions or to RSVP: dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

08 Dec – World Changers Concert to support Veterans at the Saint Augustine Amphitheater 1700-2100. Presented by Danny Garcia, the Walking Marine and featuring The Long Run Rock Band and dinner. Tickets on sale at www.theamp.com

09 Dec – Merritt Island Community and VMC Inaugural Christmas Tree lighting and Gold Star Tree Ceremony in Veterans Memorial Park 1600-1900. Includes music, singing, food trucks and community spirit. More Details in October/November.

13 Dec – Annual Veterans Memorial Center Christmas Party during our monthly general membership meeting. 0930- 1200 Gray Hall at VMC.

14 Dec – Women veteran outreach and support group Holiday potluck. Register at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com. I will keep

a list of items. Bring a wrapped gift, under \$20.00 value for a gift exchange, if you'd like to participate. Veterans Memorial Center, Gray Hall. 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

16 Dec – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 annual children's Christmas party, complete with a visit from Santa Claus. 1200 -1600. To participate or donate please contact ALA Unit 344 President, Rose Marie Hill at rmhill@cfl.rr.com.

16 Dec – Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000 -1200 in Mims and other veteran cemeteries in the area. Each year CCNC expands by almost 1200 veterans and spouses and we hope to raise the funds to have a wreath at every grave site. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576, for more information.

17 Dec – Wreaths Across America Special Ceremony at Pinecrest Cemetery on Clearlake Road in Cocoa. 1500-1630. Honors Brevard Native Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Emory Bennett and other veterans laid to rest in that cemetery. RTFL:-1 Motorcycle wreath escort from VMC at 1400 . Contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

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



Island Direct Primary Care

I served our country now I serve my community

Incredible access

Same-day or next-day appointments with zero wait times. After hours access to your provider by phone email or text.

Affordable Care

At \$99 per month members of Island Direct Primary Care receive no hidden fees, unlimited primary care, no copay, and labs as low as \$3

[Become a member today!](#)

321-335-4290 www.islanddpc.com
380 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 32953





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
----------------	--------------	-------------	--------------

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



Boosters

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

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2025

Carleton, Jim Feb, 2024

Clark, Garrett Sept, 2024

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2024

Eliason, Sandra Oct, 2023

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2023

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2024

Florida State University College of Social
Work, August, 2024

Fugaro, Ricardo and Joan April, 2024

Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 2024

Kanis, Jussara and Michael May, 2024

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023

McKinney, Shaun and Adora Sept, 2024

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2024

Sherman, John S. (Tank) Oct, 2024

Sherman, Rheta Campbell Oct, 2024

Taylor, Skip USA (Ret.) June, 2024

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2024

Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2024

.....

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) _____