



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

OCTOBER 2023



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet the New BVC-VMC Board

A re-introduction to those elected to serve our organization this year – *page 11*

Solar Eclipse Viewing held by Brevard Astronomical Society

See the “PacMan” solar eclipse on the VMC grounds. – *page 7*

Operation Chowhound

A lesser-known part of the Marine Corps League with a goal of helping all creatures. – *page 24*

Remembering 9/11

Local organizations convene at the VMC to honor those lost in those heroic days.

– *details page 13*

Photo by Roger Scruggs

OCTOBER 2023

COURIER CONTENTS

- President's Report • Page 3
- Chairman's Report • Page 4
- Library Report • Page 6
- Chaplain's Report • Page 9
- Operations Report • Page 9
- Park and Plaza Report • Page 15
- Book Report • Page 21
- Patriot Report • Page 22
- Event Calendar • Page 26
- Boosters • Page 29

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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 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 want to apologize for not writing an article last month, but we were in Indiana cleaning out our house to put it on the market. Our hard work paid off, as it sold in two days after listing at \$10,000 over asking price.

Most recent event here at the VMC was a Car Show in the Park, sponsored by nonprofit "Strength in Numbers." There were 70 cars registered for the event, with food trucks, raffles, and family fun. I just happened to win the grand prize; a table made from a crankshaft. The top is etched with the nonprofit's logo. I placed it in our living room - and the fight started.

Upcoming Events

Events you should consider attending in October are the NVHS fundraising dinner on October 6 and a Navy Birthday celebration at VFW Post 10131, sponsored by the Navy League. The birthday event is from 3-6 PM and consists of a cookout and door prizes. The US Navy is 248 years old on Oct 13. The Navy today is made up of 340,000 active duty and 71,000 reservists. I will be attending the Navy League Orlando ball on October 7.

Our new events coordinator, Dorothy Walsh, is planning a unique celebration of Veterans Day at the VMC, highlighting our Tenant Commands with a pass in review. See the flyer in this publication. The event begins with a 5K run sponsored by St. Francis which will begin and end in our park. Although Kristi will be on vacation, she challenges the rest of us to participate.

The Amphitheater

The upgrades in the park are close to beginning, with just a few challenges to work out. One of them is parking, which will always be a problem with large crowds. Ivey's Construction has been selected as the lead contractor, which is good news, as they built the Museum addition and replaced the damaged boardwalk. They are a great supporter of the VMC. The advertised groundbreaking was Oct 2, but will be pushed back to late October or early November. Ted and I are attending the MIRA meetings and we are members of the Task Force that will determine how the Amphitheater is managed. There will be a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will go out for management companies to bid on the contract to manage the facility.

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

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ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA





Council Chairman's Report

Ted Suzor
U.S. Army (Fmr)

Hello there.

I'm finally ready to get started with being Chairman. I've been going through some ruff times here but that's almost behind

me now. Jim Carleton my Vice Chairman has done a fine job covering for me. I've got one more thing to do then I will be done with all of that.

Now I'm working with Dorothy on getting Veterans Day going. Hopefully it will be a good one this year. Plus, I want to tell everyone about SPACE COAST HONOR FLIGHT and how to sign up for it. Just call 321-877-1828 and we will send you an appointment.

Well, that's all for now.

Chairman for the BVC Ted Suzor




321-507-0873
1365 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Unit C,
Merritt Island FL 32953

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
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www.costasurf.org | info@costasurf.org

Groups Needed for Veterans Day at the Veterans Memorial Center

by Dorothy Walsh, VMC Event Coordinator

November 11th is a day we all know and recognize as a special day to honor our veterans. At the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, we know all too well the sacrifices our veterans have made for us to live in the Land of the Free because of the Brave.

On November 11, 2023 we will be honoring our veterans in a very special way with a ceremony to be held at Brevard County's hidden jewel, the Veterans Memorial Center at 400 S Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, behind the Merritt Square Mall. Members of the Brevard Veterans Council and Veterans Memorial Center will showcase our veterans and our veteran programs that support those who have given so much for us.

We will begin with a Pass in Review of colors. To make this as spectacular as possible, we invite all of you to participate. **Whether your organization/group has 2 or 200 members we invite you to be a part of it.** Let's wave those flags in gratitude to our veterans present and past. This will be followed by a ceremony that will include special guests PSFB Deputy Commander, Colonel S. Shannon DaSilva, and the President of Space Coast Honor Flight, Rear Admiral, Navy (ret) Jim Hart, and an introduction of our new BVC/VMC Leadership team.

We will have many resources available for veterans and families. Following the ceremony feel free to have a guided tour by one of our amazing docents of the 3-floor Military Museum.

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.

God Bless America and our Veterans
Dorothy Walsh



**Brevard
Veterans Memorial Center
Honors Veterans Day 2023
Pass In Review**



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

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

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) 426-6736



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**

Ben Bydalek has agreed to lead the library discussion group on Tuesday October 31 from 6:00 PM till 7:30 PM. Yes, this is the traditional Halloween night, but hearing what Ben has to say about the Vietnam War may be a better use of one's time.

Ben is a USMC veteran that served in-country from Oct 1966 to Nov 1967. He was assigned to a 105 Artillery Battery that covered the Que Son Valley. His fire base was called on many times to cover operations in the valley. Currently, Ben spends his time at his Vietnam War Exhibit & Education center located off US 1 in Melbourne. The Museum is in an industrial building across US1 from Grills Restaurant which is north of the Pineda Causeway (2475 Jen Dr. Ste. 5 Melbourne). Please call 321-212-9726 for Times and Directions to see the Museum.

The Museum is dedicated to preserving the Vietnam



Pictured: Library Discussion Meeting on 26 September. Hope to see you on October 24 for a continuation of the Vietnam topic

Experience. Many artifacts are on display to help explain what it was like to be a war fighting soldier in Vietnam. Ben has become an authority on Vietnam veterans and is dedicated to education, awareness and reflection about the experience. Our library volunteers, including myself, went to the Museum and listened to Ben's insights into the war and its aftermath for America.

Everyone is welcome to come out for this event. Ben will give us his presentation followed by a discussion afterward.

UNIQUE ART
by
Dan Haddad

310 Le Jeune Dr
Merritt Island, FL 32953

321-536-5585
rrragent@gmail.com

[Click to see Dan's art in action in this video!](#)



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

THE VIETNAM WAR PART II

Tuesday, October 31, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM

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

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



Pictured: Attendees can expect to safely see a unique solar eclipse on October 14th.

Watch “Pac Man” Solar Eclipse at the VMC on October 14th

Watch the partial “Pac Man” eclipse of the Sun Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11:30-3 pm EDT at the Merritt Island Veterans Memorial Center in a safe and free solar watch party conducted by Brevard Astronomical Society (BAS) amateur astronomers.

The Moon takes a “bite” out of the Sun just before noon that Saturday. And while some Western U.S. states will see a total “ring of fire” solar eclipse, Central Floridians will see just half of the Sun covered up by the Moon at 1:28 pm EDT, the eclipse looking like the video game icon, Pac Man!

In central Florida, the “first contact” of the Moon into the Sun will be at 11:54 am, and the maximum eclipse will be at 1:28 pm. Then the Moon will uncover the Sun and “last contact” will be at 3:04 pm. Sunspots will also be visible as the 11-year solar cycle is peaking.

Do not look at the Sun with binoculars, a telescope or camera, as permanent eye damage will result.

Wherever you are, astronomy clubs, science or space centers will have safe and proper instruments to view the eclipse. And there are safe solar sunglasses to wear that may be purchased before the event.

Amateur astronomers will be on hand at the Veterans Center to not only show the partial solar eclipse, but to answer questions about stargazing. If you have a telescope, bring it! They will give you pointers on how to use it.

For more than 50 years, the local stargazers in the non-profit BAS have been doing outreach events under the stars. Stargazing events are announced, or may be booked, at the

club’s website: <https://www.brevardastro.org/>

The event will also have the support of the American Space Museum as well as the Veterans Center.

For more information, contact Mark Marquette, BAS President: marq@americanspacemuseum.org or phone (423) 946-4132

**Come join us in the
Veterans Memorial Park
for a Solar Eclipse viewing**

October 14, 2023
Viewing 1100-3:30
(eclipse from 11:30 to 3:30)

Telescopes provided by Brevard
Astronomical Society.

Contact Dean Schaaf for more
information.

Join the Young Professionals for a morning at the Zoo!

The Cocoa Beach Regional Young Professionals Group (YPG) was formed as a direct response from Chamber partners requesting an outlet for the young professionals in our local community. The group will focus on reaching young professionals between the ages of 18-40 and its mission is to provide opportunities for Young Professionals in the Cocoa Beach Regional Area to engage and get involved in our community through Professional Development and Social/Business Networking activities.

This is not a leads group. This is a space for young professionals to connect, grow, and create opportunities to engage in the community. We are building up our future leaders and working together to expand our reach.

Event: Young Professionals Group of CBRCC

Date: 10/6/2023 at 08:30 AM

Location: Brevard Zoo
8225 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne

Featured Vendors:

- Prime-One Insurance
- Delivery Refillery
- Junior Achievement of the Space Coast

For more information or to register: <https://business.cocoabeachchamber.com/ap/Events/Register/VDHB2MdSkteC9?sourceTypeId=EmailInvitation>



Speaker: Emma Reynolds, Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships Officer

Topic: Aquarium Updates and "How to Adapt to Change"

Featuring an animal ambassador appearance and optional zoo tour after the meeting.

Complimentary Breakfast.

Seniors Who...

An advertisement for "SENIOR SCENE" magazine. On the left, a vertical list of activities: Play, Work, Learn, Travel, Laugh, Savor, Shop, Create, Share, Garden, Cook, Enjoy life... The main image shows the magazine cover with the headline "We Have Arrived! Senior Scene Celebrates It's Newest Issue On The Space Coast... Read On!" and "INSIDE: Linda Willey, Dr. Don Norman, Walter Guila, Robert Buchanan, Catherine Cunningham, Peter Allen, Health Articles, Recipes, Dr. Ernest Dr. Ernest, Space Coast History". To the right, there are photos of seniors. Below the magazine image, text reads: "Also read SENIOR SCENE. Seniors all around town are talking about their FREE magazine that has it all! You know how to reach them with what they want to read most, in places they frequent most. That's why advertising in Senior Scene works, and why our distribution has rapidly grown to now include the Space Coast. Also read it at www.seniorscenemag.com"

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.

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



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain
Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

A few years ago, I wrote an article on National Cemeteries, I thought it was worth reading again.

The VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. The VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state, or tribal veteran's cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate - all at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents' name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

Cremated remains represent about 75% of interments in National Cemeteries, receiving the same honors as casketed remains. However, with cremated remains, there are 4 separate ways of interment. They can be buried in the same manner as a casket, with the same headstone as a standard casket grave, The cremated remains can also be placed in the columbarium,(a freestanding wall with areas for the urns), or the ashes can be buried in the Ossuary a common gravesite open to all Veteran's (a Memorial Garden) and the name placed on the Memorial Wall. Finally, If the family chooses to spread the ashes in a manner that cannot be visited (such as spreading them around in the Ocean or a meadow or other ways the Veteran wanted to interned), the name of the Veteran can be placed on the Memorial Wall. The Ossuary and the Memorial Wall are available in National Cemeteries completed after 2007.

- There is never a charge for any interment at a National Cemetery or the Memorial Wall.
- Burial in a Civilian cemetery only includes a government headstone, marker, or medallion.
- Included in all Veteran interments are a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate

Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved. The only exception to this rule is if both spouses are Veterans, the surviving spouse may reserve a space next to the deceased Veteran.

The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.
--Thornton Wilder

Ecclesiastes 3:8 - A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson



Operations Report

Robert W. Doyle,
Operations Director

Many thanks to the Marine Corp League for stepping up with a large water donation for the facility. We could still use more water as many events are coming up that we would like to have

water on hand for.

The Navy Chiefs are doing a park cleanup day on the 23rd with the Car Show and Fire Watch training the same day. The weekend is also scheduled for some very severe weather and every one should watch the weather on a daily basis as it changes quickly.

The park was finally mowed and areas sprayed for ants which are becoming a regular problem. When using the park area, pay attention to everything around you. Nature has a way of introducing itself so stay alert - stay safe.

World Changers Concert Featuring The Long Run and Guest Speaker Karen Vaughn

Daniel Garcia, "The Walking Man" and Global Walk Inc. is producing a concert to honor and thank God, veterans, first responders and their families. This patriotic World Changers concert will be an event to offer respect and healing to our heroes who sacrifice for us every day. Guests of honor include Gold Star families who have lost military family members in the line of duty, to acknowledge their loss, grief, and continued healing.

The concert will feature a favorite central Florida band, The Long Run (TLR), an Eagles Tribute Band. TLR captures the energy, guitar techniques & vocal harmonies of the Eagles to an art. TLR consists of the finest and most respected musicians who have shared the stage with the likes of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Eddie Money, Trace Adkins, Steppenwolf, Beach Boys, and .38 Special ...just to name a few.

Event guest speaker is national bestseller Karen Vaughn, author of World Changer, the story of her son, Navy Seal Aaron Vaughn. Aaron was killed in action in the Tangi River Valley of Afghanistan on Aug 6, 2011, when a Chinook helicopter with 29 other service members, was shot from the sky while rushing into battle. All perished. Karen will speak and inspire guests with her speech, the Cost of Freedom. See officialkarenvaughn.com.

Organizations (such as the St. Johns County Veterans Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, and others) that support veterans, first responders and their families will have to opportunity to have tables at the event to share information and resources with guests.

Global Walk Inc. welcomes corporate sponsorships and donations to Global Walk, and donations are tax deductible. Another way to contribute is to sponsor seats for veterans, first responders, and their families so they can attend. A portion of proceeds from the concert will be donated to charities to include those in St. Johns County that serve this worthy group of servants, some of whom are homeless veterans.

To give, please contact Global Walk Inc., a Florida Not for Profit Organization (Tax ID/EIN 87-1233183):

Director Chuck Burke

Email: flaburke@hotmail.com

Phone: 321-693-3451

CEO Jacqueline C. Garcia

Email: globalwalk7@gmail.com

Phone: 703-615-9006

Tickets are available online at www.theamp.com or at the Box Office of the Amphitheater.



Who are the Garcias? Sgt Danny Garcia is a Vietnam War Combat Veteran, US Marine, and former law enforcement and federal corrections officer. He is a minister and follower of Jesus Christ. Since December 7, 1996, Danny has prayed and walked around the world, walking more than 52,000,000 steps on six continents for children and world peace. His wife and CEO of Global Walk Inc., is Lt Col Jackie Charsagua Garcia, USAF (retired). She served 21 years in the US Air Force and is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, Class of 1985. Together they have written the story of Danny's life, Marines Don't Cry.

Danny and Jackie live in St. Augustine. They were honored at the August 2023 Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) National Convention and received The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award for their lifetime commitment to selfless service irrespective of race, ethnicity, or faith. They are both veterans serving veterans, first responders, and their families.

Meet the New Executive Board

With so many new (and a few old) faces on the new Executive Board of the BVC/VMC, we're re-introducing all those responsible for leading our organization this year. Read on to get to know your Board and maybe learn a few things you didn't know about them before!



BVC Chairman Ted Suzor



What motivated you to pursue a career in the military?

Good questions. To keep my brother out of Viet Nam, which I did.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

Just retired and needed something to do.

What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

Learned how to work as a team in the U.S ARMY. Plus in my live I saw how teams work and I don't see it there yet.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

I want to make sure that we work as a team and to get that I out of everything. Nobody runs that place by themselves. It takes everyone working together to make it work.



Pictured: The newly elected Board and Committee heads at the swearing-in in July.

VMC President Dean Schaaf



Drafted in Sept 1965, I had 12 days to report to the Army but joined Navy because of their educational opportunities. After 4 years, I was selected for the Naval Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP), attended Naval Academy Prep school, Purdue for

four years as E-5, was Commissioned in 1973, attended Naval Flight School, earned Naval Flight Officer (NFO) wings, then flew P-3C Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft for 18 more years. I never thought I would make a career of the Navy but by the time I had 10 years in, I had been in schools 7 of the 10 years. No brainer to stay in 10 more to retire but stayed for 26 years.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

I was a member of TROA, now MOAACC, and when I got into this area in 1987, I was enticed to join the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). I learned that the FRA was one of the founding organizations of the BVC/VMC and had a permanent seat on the board of directors along with DAV 123. I started attending the VMC and BVC board meetings and was soon hooked into several volunteer positions.

What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

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I have always been in leadership positions even before I joined the Navy: Eagle Scout, Class President, more leadership positions in the Navy and worked for NASA for 21 years after retiring from the Navy. I finished my NASA career as the Landing Recovery Manager for the Space Shuttle where I worked 112 Space Shuttle missions. I was the museum curator in the museum when it was in the library and during the transition to the new museum, helped with the design and setup/layout of the museum.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

During my 20 years associated with the VMC, I have been successful in spreading the word of our facility and support of veterans by joining other veteran and non-veteran organizations to be involved in the community. I am an active member in the Military Officers Association Cape Canaveral (MOAACC) and have been successful in recruiting several members to volunteer and support the VMC and our programs.

The VMC is a member of the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce - I am on their BoD and MAC and push our programs at every opportunity. Other organizations that I am a member of and support the VMC are Fleet Reserve Association Branch 263, American Legion 317 and 344, I am the President of the Navy League who supports the Sea Cadets Courageous Division; member of the Cocoa Beach Chamber Military Affairs Council (MAC), on their BoD, whose main objective is to support active duty military in the Space Coast; and Propeller Club who also supports the Sea Cadets and all sea services, including Merchant Marine,

Recently, I helped found the Museums of Brevard (MOB) a non-profit made up of 22 museums and historic homes in Brevard County, have been a consultant for the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) which has contributed in excess of \$10,000,000 over the years to beautify the Veterans Park and now the build the upcoming Amphitheater in our park, and finally, was recently inducted into the Civilian Military Community Relations Council (CivMil) of the Space Coast. I have also been on Representative Posey's advisory council for several years.

By being an active member of all these organizations, I feel that I am the spokes person for the BVC/VMC to keep us known and active throughout the community.

VMC Vice President Paul Julian



What motivated you to pursue a career in the military?

I was not ready for college, but I needed to get out on my own. I found that a "part-time" Navy career suited my lifestyle.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

I wanted to volunteer/contribute to a group that I identified with, which made the BVC-VMC a natural fit. The Chairman needed immediate help in the library and that was where I stayed.

What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

I have accounting/auditing experience, can work with the MS Office Suite and I have strong people skills - all of which are useful working with organizations.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

I am a strong advocate for "life-long learning" so I will continue my involvement in both the established internal and external Library programs. I believe that being the VMC VP, I will learn of and become involved in other programs/projects which benefit the Brevard County veteran community.

BVC Vice President James A. Carleton



What motivated you to pursue a career in the military?

During WWII, my father and was in the Navy and my stepfather was in the Army. Being from a military type of family, I decided I would follow my parent's example and join the service and support our country during the Vietnam War.

I'm retired from the United States Marine Corps, and as a Vietnam Veteran, received several decorations including the Purple Heart.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

About a year ago I was the Chairman of the Support Committee at the CCNC and decided it would be a good idea to join the BVC-VMC. I liked what the BVC-VMC was doing in our community. After serving as Chairman for over three years, I saw a larger opportunity to serve and support Brevard County veterans through the BVC-VMC.

What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

I have served in numerous positions of executive leadership over the course of my professional career. I retired from the aerospace industry at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) after 40 years of service where I supported several missile, rocket and all 135 Space Shuttle launches. During that time I worked at United Space Alliance (USA), most recently as the Solid Rocket Booster Program Manager, Director of Program Management. Prior to that position, I served as Director of Space Shuttle Upgrades and Director of Manufacturing Operations. To hone my management skills, I completed the the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) Certified Manager curriculum and am a Certified Manager with the Institute of Certified Professional Managers.

After retiring from KSC, I started several successful businesses, exercising my management, business and people skills.

In addition, I've also spent time serving my community in various veteran-focused organizations. I am a member of the

DAV chapter in Titusville, American Legion Post 1, the Vietnam Veterans and All Veterans of Brevard and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Merritt Island.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

Right now, as the new kid on the block at the BVC, I'm serving on the Executive Committee, supporting the Governance

BVC-VMC Secretary Kristi Blanchard



What motivated you to pursue a career in the military?

Growing up as an Air Force brat, I lived in multiple states and even lived in Ethiopia for almost 3 years. When my dad retired, I realized that I missed the military community. I was a sophomore in High School when I first heard that women would be allowed in the Military Academies. I entered West Point in 1978 with the third class

of women, which was a win-win for me to get both a college education and be in the military. I'll never forget when my dad (a qualified paraglider who served in the Korean War) pinned on my Airborne wings and my 2LT bars. To this day, most of my closest friends are connected to the military.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

I retired early from IBM and was doing the usual house cleaning – wondering why I still had West Point uniforms in the same footlocker 30 years later! I brought a few of the uniforms to the VMC, and spoke to Dean and Donn. They invited me back to volunteer as a docent and from there I quickly progressed through many roles to finally land as the BVC-VMC Secretary. There are many opportunities here to share my talents and learn new things. I keep coming back because of the veterans that I work with, and the veterans and their families that I meet every day.

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What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

I have a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering and a Master of Science in Computer Science. As a Military Officer and Project/Program Manager I have organizational skills that I bring to the Executive Committee, and my favorite part is working together to solve the complex problems of the growing VMC in its county-wide role. I also bring technical skills such as completely revamping our systems to help us better perform our mission, creating a QuickBooks accounting that allows us to see our Spend against Budget at a glance, bringing on a magazine editor to enhance our Courier newsletter, assisting the Curator with new exhibits, updating our Flag retirement policy, managing the camera/projector systems, and working with others to create our YouTube Channel.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

I prefer to be out of the media spotlight and work with our Board of Directors and volunteers so I can hear their compliments and concerns about the VMC first-hand and address them. I'm also at the VMC in person 3-4 days a week to speak with visitors and the DAV or other partners. I'm working with the Library and Museum to populate a database that can be accessed on-line in the future and make us a military history research destination for books and artifacts. I'm continuing to transform the administrative part of my role by working with the Board of Directors to create policies and guidelines to allow us to work with the County, Partners, and each other to further the education or assistance given to our veterans and families.

We're building on the achievements of our predecessors but taking advantage of 21st Century technology to do more than ever before!



Pictured: Kristi Blanchard, Secretary, and Dave Clayton, Treasurer, work together closely to make sure all the behind the scenes aspects of the BVC-VMC are handled and help keep the organization running!

BVC-VMC Treasurer Dave Clayton



What motivated you to pursue a career in the military?

I had just returned to the United States (1968) and enrolled at the University of Maryland. Unfortunately, Uncle Sam moved the goal posts (again) and there was no longer a

student exemption. Ran down to the Navy Recruiter in order to avoid being drafted into the Army, fully intending to avoid going to Vietnam. Wound up in combat in Vietnam.

How and why did you first become involved with the BVC-VMC?

I was approached in 2017 to become a Docent in the museum. After being drafted to do the scheduling of Docents I continued to work with the BVC-VMC until I eventually became the BVC-VMC Treasurer.

What other professional experiences and skills do you bring to the BVC-VMC Executive Committee?

After retirement from the Navy, I went into state and municipal government, first as State Director of Elections, followed by an appointment as Town Clerk. From there, I rose to the position of Town Manager. Between my 20-year military career and my state and municipal government positions, I have developed good organizational and management skills.

How are you contributing to the future growth and success of the BVC-VMC and its mission to support veterans and their families?

I actively participate in the organization and apply my diverse skill set to help modernize the BVC-VMC and advance its mission while moving it into the twenty-first century.



Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Mr. Wayne Fried continues to make strides on the tedious work of documenting the location of previous installed memorial bricks. This will culminate in a digital panel where families and friends can more easily find the location of each memorial bricks. We look forward to the day this is all automated and locating bricks is a matter of a touch of a few buttons.

We received an an order from a family in early September for one brick, one tree, and one bench. What a wonderful way to honor a loved one!

There were no other for individual bricks, benches or trees in the month of September of 2023, but the holiday season is coming soon and we look forward to an uptick in memorials.

Additionally, the museum docents are informing their visitors of the VMC brick, bench and tree memorials so we hope this bit of extra marketing will help increase sales and increase awareness of the VMC offerings.



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*




Pictured: The American flag hangs proudly during the 9/11 remembrance ceremonies.

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



Veterans Connections

by Don Pearsall

Veterans Connections is a full service agency for veterans, and families. We specialize in many areas: transitioning from military to civilian life; financial services, such as assistance with expenses; PTSD counseling; substance abuse counseling, and many other issues that face our homeless and at-risk veterans and families.

Troop support is even more important today, than it has been years ago due to the state of the economy. In years past, it cost much less for us to help an at-risk veterans or their family as prices were much lower than they are today. In the past, if we needed to assist a veteran with an electric re-connect, it would be about \$95. That price has more than doubled to \$225 today. We are facing the same struggles with other utilities, gasoline to travel for work and groceries.

As of now, according to the VA Point in time count conducted October 2022, we have about 300 homeless and at-risk veterans in Brevard County plus many more that may have fallen through the cracks. I personally know of 11 trailheads in

Brevard where homeless veterans camp. I work with other organizations in an attempt to identify where OUR agency, Veterans' Connections, will be most effective.

Transitional Housing is a last step for those seeking a more permanent housing solution and fortunately, this step is well funded from the VA and corporate grants. Many living in the bush do not qualify for transitional housing, but still need resources and we try to help fill that gap in our efforts.

Brevard County is fortunate to have an awesome support network of many agencies that have contacts in all areas of assistance.

We are always looking for ideas for fundraising and volunteers to help out. Please contact us at (321) 313-2444 if are interested in supporting Veterans Connections in some way.



The Fire Watch – Stand Against Veteran Suicide

by Dorothy Walsh

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, Henry Angulo, South Florida Regional Programs Director at The Fire Watch, gave a one-hour presentation on helping prevent veteran suicide. The program shared myths about veterans' suicide, statistics and most importantly, signs to watch for and appropriate questions to ask.

The Fire Watch is responsible for a 46% reduction in Veteran Suicides in Northeast Florida alone from 2019 to 2021. There are 4890 "Watch Standers" with 1.5m+ Veterans Served. This is an excellent program to participate in to learn how to help those who have done so much for us. There will be another training later this year.

For more information or to schedule a class visit <https://www.thefirewatch.org/>. Anyone who works with veterans should attend this training.

Never Forget: Brevard Ceremonies to Remember 9/11/2001 Draw Hundreds

by Donn Weaver

From Saturday September 9 through Monday evening the 11th, seven major ceremonies were held in Brevard County to remember the terrible events 22 years ago in New York City, Washington, DC and on a farm in Pennsylvania.

The commemoration at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center was arranged by Brevard Club 10-13 and had 350 witnesses and participants in a solemn remembrance. A number of speakers talked about their eye witness accounts of that day and some events that have happened since because of that day.

Club 10-13, led by President Marco Calderon with Al Boettjer as event chairman in Brevard, is an organization around the country comprised of retired New York City Police Officers. The name 10-13 was chosen since it is the radio call sign for "Officer Needs Assistance" heard so often that day.

Brevard Club 10-13, Brevard Police Chiefs Association, the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAACC) and others contributed to funding the event, which included honoring those who have died from toxic exposure in NYC during clean up, and afterward carrying the fight to the 9/11 terrorists bases around the world. The US military has lost more than 7200 in direct combat and thousands more as a result of military service or exposure to toxics elements. Nearly 3000 died on 9/11/2001, more than the number killed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

There were very few younger citizens at the events around the county - no high school and most college students were yet to be born, and many of their parents were still students. Recently, Florida began to return civics and related courses to the schools and 9/11 will be a part of such programs in the historical framework. To that end, MOAACC is already working with Brevard school officials, through the Vets Back to Class Program, and hopes to get Brevard Club 10-13 to join an effort to hold short remembrance ceremonies at all Brevard High Schools next year on the 23rd Anniversary of events that changed America.

The challenges of counterterrorism are still with us, but most often we learn from the news about such actions taking place abroad. Most would say that is because we took the fight to the enemies after that terrible morning of a beautiful day in 2001.

(continued on next page)





Scenes from the VMC 9/11 Tribute

Many organizations participated in the solemn remembrance of that fateful day 23 years ago. Thanks to Robert Scruggs for capturing a few of the poignant moments on our grounds.



Prizes 

Games 

Costume Contests 

Join us for
Safe and fun Halloween
festivities for adults and kids

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 3:00 PM—6:00 PM
Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Parkway
Merritt Island

For more information
To participate or donate
Contact Dorothy Walsh
dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com
Or call/text 321-426-6736

It's almost that ghostly time of year again...

...so mark your calendars and plan to attend with or without your younger ones – a fun and safe Halloween Party for kids of all ages.

Interested in setting up a cool trunk or treat entry? There will be prizes for that too!! We want to make this extra special for our military and veterans' children – and we need your help to do just that!! Donations are appreciated to help make this spooktacular!!!

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!



Twice a Week for Decades

A local Brevard Table Tennis club has been playing Monday and Wednesday evenings in the VMC Gray Hall for at least two decades. They pay a monthly fee. Here they are after a late start due

to our 9/11 Ceremony. Since our great photographer was there for the earlier event, we finally have the record of their passion.



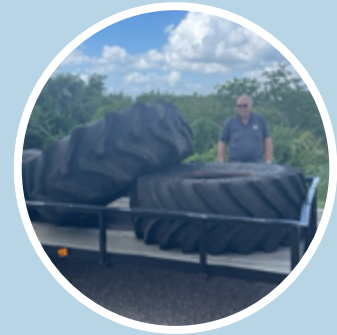
Pictured: Naval Ordnance Test Unit team members

Chiefs Traditions

Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Chiefs held a work party at the VMC on September 23rd. This has turned out to be an annual occurrence with NOTU and is greatly appreciated. The four in yellow shirts are newly selected Chief Petty Officers (E-7) who will be initiated and "pinned" in the near future, following a time-honored Navy tradition.



Pictured: Newly selected Chief Petty Officers (E-7) who will be initiated and pinned in the near future, following a time honored Navy Tradition



The Community Comes Through

On 21 September, a week before the first JROTC Raider Challenge Meet of the year, VMC President Dean Schaaf delivers three huge tires for the "Tire Flip Event". Thanks to Gatto's Tires of Cocoa, they were donated at no cost. Now, for the first time in six years supporting JROTC meets, the VMC will have on hand their own tires to support the cadets and avoid transport every event.

Thanks to 1SG Torres of Merritt Island Army JROTC for the tire loan all those years and for covering transport as needed. Raider Challenge Meets are being held 30 September, 14 and 28 October in Veterans Memorial Park. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation provides all the trophies to all those and other rifle and drill meets throughout this school year.

Community is on display here!



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

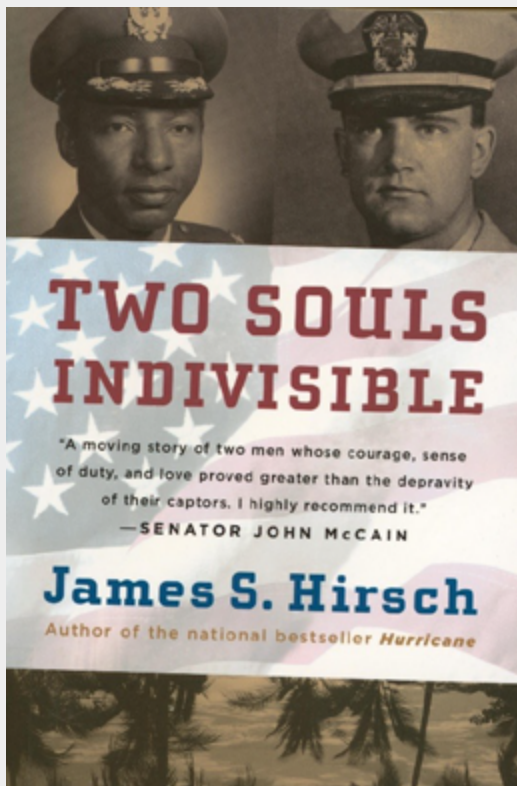
Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including vet organizations, government officials, 500 VMC members and more.

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.

Book Report

Two Souls Indivisible by Brian Kilmeade

Book Report by Bill Ellis, Library Book POW-15



This is a true story from two Prisoners of War (POW) in Vietnam. It is a story that recounts the forging of a legendary, heroic bond between two airmen.

Fred Cherry and Port Halyburton first met in their shared cell in a brutal POW camp in Vietnam. Cherry, an Air Force pilot, was badly injured after his plane crashed; he was the first black officer pilot to be captured by the North Vietnamese. Halyburton, a young Navy flyer, was a native white southerner thrown in as Cherry's cellmate.

The captors of the two pilots hoped close quarters would inflame Americans bred racial tensions and break both men. Instead, as Cherry was nursed back to health by Halyburton, a friendship grew strong. This intense connection, powerfully reported by the author, would sustain both men through the war and throughout their lives.

This book is inspiring, heartbreaking, remarkable, and never timelier. This story shows how good people can achieve greatness in the most hellish of circumstances.



The Patriot Report

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

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

Protecting Your PACT Act benefits

February 7, 2023

By Veterans Benefits Administration

Office of Strategic Engagement Outreach, Transition and Economic

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

How to safely file for and claim your PACT Act Benefits.

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

- Apply directly to VA*. If you plan to file a claim, you may submit your claim in person at any regional office or online. VA will help you gather the evidence you need to support your claim. There are no costs or hidden fees to file a claim for benefits.

*This is NOT RECOMMENDED (unless there are NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES.) I, of course recommend you go to your most convenient Disabled American Service Office to submit ALL your claim(s).

- Be cautious of media advertisements from companies who provide information about the recent changes in law for toxic-exposure benefit claims and suggest Veterans can only obtain VA benefits with their help. These companies may not be recognized by the VA and may be trying to charge Veterans illegal fees. Use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) Accreditation Search to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.

- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are accredited Veterans Service Organizations (this could be The American Legion, The DAV, The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, The VFW, or other Veterans Service Organizations) agents and attorneys who may assist you.
- Only VA-accredited agents and attorneys may charge Veterans for assistance on their VA claim, and only when they help in connection with a proceeding after VA has made an initial decision on a Veteran’s claim. No individual or organization may charge a claimant a fee for filing an initial VA claim.
- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you’ve received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. You should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for your records.

Helpful Resources and Tools

Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

If you are ever uncertain about a contact or believe you or someone you know is a victim of VA benefits scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General at (OIG) Hotline (va.gov).

If you suspect a company is using predatory

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

Camp Lejeune Water Victims Offered New Payout Option by Navy, Justice Department

Some veterans and family members sickened during the decades of contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will be able to choose to take a standard payout from the government if they want their claims resolved faster, according to the Navy and Justice Department. Under the "elective option," claimants can get between \$100,000 and \$550,000, depending on their diagnosis and the length of time they were exposed to the toxic water.

Officials said the new option will speed up processing for the tens of thousands of claims that have been filed since last year and quickly give closure to veterans and others.

"The elective option is a critical step in bringing relief to qualifying claimants impacted by the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, who will now have an avenue for receiving quick and early resolution of claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act," Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta said in a news release.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act, passed last year, is part of the sweeping PACT Act, and created a way for former Marines, sailors and families poisoned by contaminated drinking water at the military base to sue and recover damages. Those harmed by the water can file an administrative claim with the Navy, and if the service denies the claim or takes longer than six months to respond, they can then sue in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

To qualify for the new elective option, claimants must have specific illnesses that have been previously linked to the chemicals at Camp Lejeune and have been exposed to the water for a specific amount of time.

Those diagnosed with kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia and bladder cancer could receive settlements of \$450,000 if they were exposed for more than five years; \$300,000 if they were exposed between one year and five years; or \$150,000 if they were exposed between 30 and 364 days.

Those suffering from multiple myeloma, Parkinson's disease, kidney disease (end stage renal disease) or systemic sclerosis/systemic scleroderma would get settlement offers of \$400,000 for exposures of more than five years; \$250,000 for between one year and five years of exposure; or \$100,000 for exposures between 30 and 364 days. Claims involving death would get another \$100,000, according to the news release.

Officials will reach out to anyone who has already filed a claim who is eligible, the release adds. Once a settlement is offered, claimants have 60 days to accept or deny it, and if they accept

it, they can expect to get paid within 60 days, according to Navy guidance. Claimants who deny the offer can still pursue their administrative claim or file a lawsuit, according to the guidance.

Those who don't qualify for the elective option can still file an administrative claim or sue, it adds.

More information on filing a Camp Lejeune water claim and the elective option is available at www.navy.mil/clja/.

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

YOU ARE INVITED
 to be Part of
The Women Veteran Outreach & Support Group
 Sponsored By The Brevard Veterans Council
 The Veterans Memorial Center &
 Their Voice of Hope

Tuesday, October 24 2023
 11:30—2:30
 Veterans Memorial Center
 400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy
 Merritt Island, FL

Created to address the unique needs of our women veterans

This event and the program are for women veterans only please

Lunch will be served

Please RSVP to Dorothy Walsh at dwalshusa@gmail.com



Active in the Community in July: Brevard County Detachment 513

I am sure many individuals not associated with the Marine Corps League have never heard of the "Military Order of the Devil Dogs" (MODD). The MODD is the Fun and Honor society of the League. This somewhat secretive group of Marines exist for the sole purpose of having fun and financially assisting the community.

Each year, MODD Units, called "pounds and packs" raise money for this purpose. This last year, over \$100,000 dollars was donated to a national children's hospital. Additionally, we support local charities and causes as you can see from the attached article submitted to our national publication.

The local "pound" is the Barefoot Bay Pound 273, associated with Marine Corps League Detachment 513 located at our Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. For more info on the Marine Corps League or the Military Order of the Devil Dogs visit the website <https://mcl dof.org>.

OPERATION CHOW HOUND Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Barefoot Bay, FL

Pound 273 takes on OPERATION CHOW HOUND by supporting the local Animal Shelter.

The Mission: bring dog & cat supplies to help protect the animals in our community. The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is a non-profit organization and also the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League.

Barefoot Bay Pound 273 is composed of active members from Marine Corps League Detachments 513 and 918. Together we donated over 750lbs of Dog/Cat Food, 20 Blankets and Towels, 175 Pee Pads, 16 Collars and Leashes, and a large amount of Toys & Treats to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Animal Services. The BCSO Animal Services is a No-Kill animal shelter that offers multiple programs and obedience classes. Any veteran or active duty military member can adopt a pet for free at BCSO and all pets are spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated at no cost.

Greeting us for the delivery of all our pet supply donations was Brevard County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Director Col. Joe Hellebrand and Special Events Coordinator Kayli Wilson. They were grateful for the donations, and we were grateful to



assist. The Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey, is very active in protecting its citizens and animals.

We look forward to supporting the Animal Shelter in the future. It takes a community to protect our animals; Pound 273 is doing exactly that. WOOF WOOF..! Semper Fidelis.

Submitted by Devil Dogs Carlos T. Rivera/Dennis Herring



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 October 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/>

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. [Click here to register.](#)

14 Oct – Space Coast Honor Flight Mission to DC. Ceremony starts at 0215 AM at the Wickham Park Senior Center in Melbourne. Help support the WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other veterans with health issues be honored and provided a special flight and full day to see all their monuments in Wash DC . check schf.org or contact Ted/Paula Suzor on 321-877-1828 for more details.

14 Oct – JROTC Raider Challenge Meet in VMC Park 0800-1230. Features many High School Teams with support from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation for all trophies. (County Meet).

14 Oct – US Navy's 247th Birthday Fundraiser with a picnic at the Cape Canaveral VFW Post 10131 on 106 Longpoint Rd, Cape Canaveral. 1500- ??? hours with a menu of BBQ Chicken, Pulled Pork, Hamburgers and Sides for \$15. Sponsored by the Navy League's Cape Canaveral Council. RSVP at NLCCC@LIVE.COM .

21 Oct – Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum Open Car Show 1700-2000 at 6600 Tico Rd on the Airport in Titusville. All cars, trucks, cycles welcome with Registration fee of \$20. Public \$10 admission. Music, Food, Drawings, Free Museum Admission if registered. For questions call Bob on 321-948-7553.

21 Oct – Support Committee at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Annual Fundraiser at American Legion Post 1 on Route 1, Titusville 1800- 2100. Raffle, Door Prizes, Silent Auction. BBQ full dinner included for \$20 per person. Mail Checks to SC/CCNC, PO Box 554, Mims, FL 32754

24 Oct – Quarterly Women Veteran Outreach and Support

Luncheon. All women veterans are invited to participate in sharing stories making new friends reconnecting with old friends and hearing about various available resources. 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Lunch will be served so please RSVP Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

26 Oct– BCSO Shredder Event – VMC Park – 0900-1030.

28 Oct – Annual Space Coast Honor Flight Fundraiser and Dinner 1700-2030 at the Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne. Contact Teri on 321-759-1063 for tickets and information. Check out what SCHF does by visiting their web site.

28 Oct – JROTC Raider Challenge Meet in VMC Park 0800-1230. Features many High School Teams with support from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation for all trophies. (District Meet).

31 Oct – Women Veteran Outreach Trunk or Treat at the VMC, 1500-1800. Held especially for our military and veterans' children, looking for trunk or treat entries as well. For more information or to participate, contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

31 Oct – VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930 on Vietnam from the Ben Bydalek, the owner of the Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center in Melbourne. Refreshments served.

NOVEMBER

04 Nov– Space Coast Honor Flight Mission to DC. Ceremony starts at 0215 AM at the Wickham Park Senior Center in Melbourne. Help support the WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other veterans with health issues be honored and provided a special flight and full day to see all their monuments in Wash DC . check schf.org or contact Ted/Paula Suzor on 321-877-1828 for more details.

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

(continued on next page)

11 Nov – VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall We are looking for all organizations to participate in the Pass in Review to honor our veterans. 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. We will have many resources available for veterans. Following the ceremony feel free to have a guided tour by one of our amazing docents of the 3-floor Military Museum. 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 – 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.

12 Nov – Sixth Annual NVHS Homestretch 5K for Homeless Veterans. 0700-1200 in the Eau Gallie Square. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

14 Nov – VMC Library Discussion Series 6-7:30 PM at the VMC Library. Ray Norman, BVC Board member, will do a presentation about the Indianola Cemetery and stories of the many Veterans interred there. Refreshments served.

15 Nov – Inaugural Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB) Committal Service for the unclaimed remains 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.

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

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



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MISSION

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



TO PARTICIPATE

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

CONTACT US

To arrange an appointment please contact either:

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

VIDEOGRAPHERS

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

VHP SUPPORT

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

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