



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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In inaugural tree lighting event, Gold Star families are honored. — page 8

Raider Challenge

The Cocoa Beach JROTC male and female teams sweep the state competition. – page 13

Transforming the VMC

Renovations are underway to make our community even better!

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Wreaths Across America

Held at several locations across Brevard, the annual events saw their largest turnouts ever.

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JANUARY 2024

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

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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.

Please send submissions to:
 brevardvmc@gmail.com

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Our Organization

As of 27 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.

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 Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547
 Office 321-453-1776
 DAV Service Office 321-452-1774



VMC President's Report

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret)

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had a special Christmas and New Years celebration. This past year, 2023, has been a successful year for the Veterans Memorial Center and I am confident that we will continue to do remarkable things in the years to come. This success is only possible because of you dedicated and caring Volunteers. Cheers to everyone for all you have done and continue to do for the Center.

Do not miss reading the uplifting note from the Brevard Veterans Council Vice Chairman, Jim Carlton, in this edition of the Courier.

The VMC Building and Grounds

Jim mentions the Amphitheater in his comments, and I can report that the Amphitheater Task Force that me, Donn Weaver, and Ted Suzor have been a part of over the last few months has completed our project. The Task Force was chartered to produce the "Scope of Responsibilities for Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater Operations." This document is complete and will now be presented to the County Manager for review and approval. The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for managing the completed Amphitheater. Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) is still trying to come up with solutions for parking issues and cost overruns. These should be solved in the near future.

The work on the front of our building has been completed on the outside, now we can concentrate on finishing the inside decorating of our entry way to our amazing Veterans Center.

Activities and Events

Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery was a success this year as always. Several groups participated in the laying of wreaths at local cemeteries, including a ceremony at the grave site for Medal of Honor recipient Emory Bennett in Cocoa. Thanks go to the American Legion Post 344 and to Dorothy Walsh.

The inaugural illuminations celebration and tree lighting and Gold Star Tree ceremony was

attended by around 200-250 and a fun time was had by all. There should be several photos of the activities in this edition. The miracle was that the solar powered, 20 ft Christmas tree, constructed by yours truly actually worked. The recent windstorm has required repairs, but it has been lit every night since installation.

Upcoming events that may interest our Veterans are the Key Lime Pie Festival, sponsored by Space Coast Daily, to be held this year in Viera on January 19 and will feature Lee Greenwood as the entertainment.

On January 27, there will be a Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Seminar held in the Gray Hall, sponsored by the Museums of Brevard (MOB). Please check out the long-range plan published in our Courier.

And, finally, with much disappointment, I must congratulate Army on their win over Navy.

Thanks to all volunteers for keeping the Center operating and for all your dedication. God bless you and all armed services as we go into a new year.

Dean
GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY (next year)

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Council Chairman's Report

Ted Suzor
U.S. Army (Fmr)

I want to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. I hope you all have a good one.

Even though I've had a tough year I've come through it all with the Help of my wife.

Now I am ready to work. So with that said I want to thank my Vice Jim Carleton for taking my place while I've been out. Plus, I want to Thank all of the Volunteers for all they do. With out them we wouldn't be there. There are big plans for the Center for the new Year. Let's all work together to make it happen.

I'm looking forward to the next few Months to see what happens next.

THANK YOU
TED SUZOR
B.V.C CHAIRMAN..



Council Vice Chairman's Report

by Jim "JC" Carlson
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)

As you read this note, reflect on the momentous year 2023 was for the Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) and Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). We had some genuinely nice events and occasions to celebrate with each other. Congratulations for having such a productive year.

Jumping into 2024, we will have even greater activities to look forward to. Cheers to more challenges and milestones. The amphitheater groundbreaking will soon happen and there will be a large effort to finish that job. Our work continues as we reach out to support veterans and their families. There are still many veterans that will need help from our team. This new year can be a time of growth for the BVC/VMC.

Each of you has made contributions that we are thankful for

and your role in our mission has launched us to new heights. But sit not back. We will achieve even greater milestones in 2024. Planning is happening, so join a committee, come to a meeting and enjoy the company of outstanding people. Tell someone about the museum. This hidden jewel of Merritt Island has barely been visited by many Brevardians. Spread the word and bring a friend. There is a vet out there that needs a friend.

I am very proud to be part of this extraordinary group of people. What more could anyone ask for but to share a great dream with an even greater team.
Best in flight and life!

Jim "JC" Carleton



ERDMAN
AUTOMOTIVE



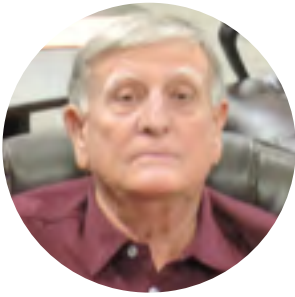
MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN





Library Notes

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

The library is beginning 2023 with library discussion groups on our calendar. Norm Desmarais will be presenting "The Lost Colony of Roanoke" on January 30 at 6:00 PM. The only clue found by the search party was one word carved on a tree "Croatoan." The original settlement was founded on Roanoke Island on July 22, 1587 near the Chesapeake Bay.

Norm will share in the ongoing research on the lost colony as well as his personal opinion of what happened to the 150 original settlers.



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

THE LOST COLONY OF ROANOKE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 6:00-7:30 PM
The Library, Veterans Memorial Center
Merritt Island, FL

**Presented by
Norm Desmarais**

It's July 22, 1587; between 110 and 150 settlers led by John White (Governor) arrive on Roanoke Island, NC. They originally intended to settle in the Chesapeake Bay area but are forced to land on Roanoke Island in NC because the captain wanted to get back to hunting Spanish merchant ships. Leader of the Colony, John White had to return to England for supplies. Problems occurred and White did not return until August 1590. The colony was gone upon his return and researchers to this day are still trying to find out what happened to them.

This presentation and discussion are based on the book named "The Lost Colony of Roanoke." Presentation will focus on what happened at the colony and will include the latest research information. Norm will also share his personal research and opinion on what took place.

Highly recommended for anyone interested in a good mystery and the early settlement of British North America.



New Veterans History Project Interview: *Richard Johnson*

Richard W. Johnson earned the Combat Infantry Badge during his tour of duty in Vietnam from January 1968 to January 1969. He experienced combat in the Mekong Delta, Bien Hoa, and Tan Son Nhut with the ninth Infantry Division. Click on the link below to hear Rick's Veterans History project interview.

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



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf and his wife Susan visit Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



Pictured: CAMI and VMC Booths.

Inaugural Merritt Island Holiday Illumination Celebration

by Kristi Blanchard

The inaugural Merritt Island Holiday Illumination Celebration, held on December 2nd at the picturesque Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Park, was well-attended and captured the spirit of the season. The sponsors of the Celebration, Community Advocacy for Merritt Island (CAMI) and the BVMC, transformed the park into a wonderland, adorned with an array of twinkling lights, memorial luminaries, King Neptune and a beautiful Mermaid for pictures, and festive decorations. Families gathered as the ceremonial switch was flipped, igniting the solar powered Christmas tree in a display of vibrant colors and holiday cheer.

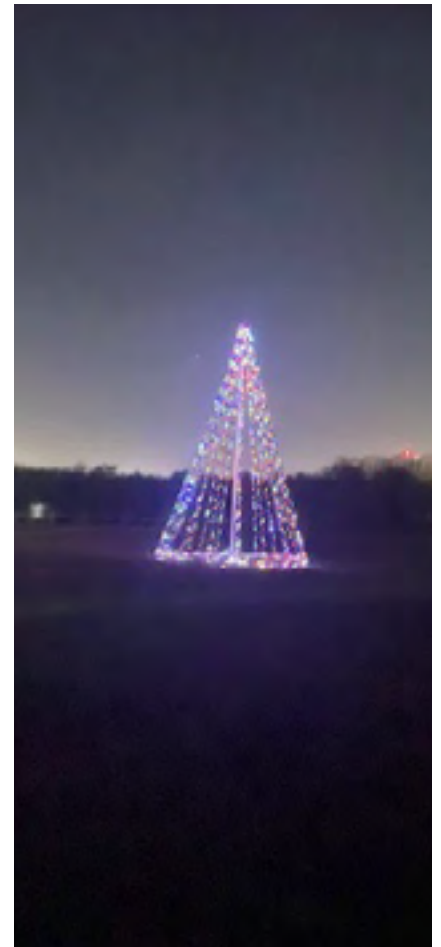
A solemn tribute to active Military, Veterans and Gold Star families completed the ceremony. Live music, food trucks and the shared warmth of the community marked the start of a cherished tradition that brought joy to all who attended.

VMC at the MI Holiday Parade

The Merritt Island Christmas Parade was held on December 2nd, sponsored by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department. The theme this year was "Gnome for the Holidays" with Delinda Griffith as the overall coordinator -- she did a great job! There were 43 groups/floats in the parade and the attendance was outstanding along the route. The VMC float was decorated by members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 and was towed by Dean and Susan Schaaf with a Gnome dressed as Santa in place of the Eagle, "Freedom" in the back of the truck. We heard several comments by the children along the parade route asking, "What's wrong with Santa"? because they didn't recognize him as a Gnome so we'll have to work on that.



Thank you to the volunteers who came out in support of this fun event!



FPL Provides Holiday Surprise for Veteran Family in Palm Bay

by Donn Weaver

For the eighth year in a row (even during Covid!) Florida Power and Light (FPL) has worked with several Brevard Veteran Organizations to identify a veteran and family to give a very special series of gifts for the holidays. On December 1st, Army combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Marc Gray, returned to his home in Palm Bay at 5 p.m. after a routine outing. He and daughter Athena were totally surprised to see extensive Christmas lighting, numerous decorations, some great gifts and even a well-trimmed palm tree. This was the annual FPL secret Santa holiday gift.

Only Lyndsay, Marc's wife and also an Army veteran, was aware of the plot which had been cooking since August. The surprise involved several veteran organizations in support, including the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC), the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) and the Chapter 453 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Last year's recipient of the gift, Keith Van Buren, MOPH member and veteran liaison officer for Rep Bill Posey's Office; Donn Weaver of VMC and MOAACC GDF; and Rob Medina, Palm Bay Mayor and Rep Bill Posey's Chief of staff all attended this time to lend a hand and welcome the family.

FPL also sponsors other veteran and military events on the Space Coast with so many benefiting from their outreach.



Pictured: The FPL team and the decorated house of Marc Gray.



Pictured: From left to right - The Gray Family, Rob Medina and Keith Van Buren.

IRCC Army Women Never Stop Giving

In early December, one of the VMC's best donors visited the Memorial Plaza to check out their Logo of Appreciation on our wall. The Army Women of Indian River Colony Club in Viera also handed the VMC another check for \$500 reporting they had decided to continue giving to the VMC in 2024.

From 2022-23 they had donated more than \$5000 with monthly checks. VMC is pleased they have again decided we are good stewards of their funds and will make sure the money is used wisely. Thanks again to the Army Women of IRCC.



Pictured: Army Women of IRCC join Immediate Past Chairman Donn Weaver at their honor marker on the Memorial Plaza Wall. Their leader (3rd from left) Luanne Faulkender presented the latest check.

Gold Star Family Christmas Tree Honors and Remembers Local Fallen

In 2014 Gold Star Mom Jeanne Weaver organized local families who had lost their immediate loved ones to create a very special Christmas Tree. For many years it was displayed at the Merritt Square Mall during the holidays. Then, the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) offered a better and very special place - the 6000 sq foot VMC Military Museum.

On 09 December the tree was again adorned with love by seven Gold Star Family members who had crafted a large star with pictures and names of their loved ones who lost their lives as a result of military service in many eras. This year, three stars were added and for a new total of 22. Each tells a story of service and sacrifice as all Gold Star Families hope their loved one's death will not be forgotten.

The tree will be on display through January 6th at the VMC Museum. The Museum is open Mon- Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 1 based at VMC sponsors the tree and supports Gold Star Families since their mission is to remember and account for all the POW and MIA personnel who have not come home. This year, VFW Post 10131 in Cape Canaveral funded uniform and beautiful adornments for the tree. Many thanks to both.

Next year, there will be an expansion of the Gold Star Tree to a second, outdoor location. While a large fir tree is not yet planted in the Veterans Memorial Park, it should be by December 2024.

This year, during the evening of 09 December, the Community Advocacy Group of Merritt Island (CAMI) and the VMC hosted the inaugural illumination of a fabricated tree made by VMC President Dean Schaaf and some helpers. Gold Star families participated in



Pictured: After adorning the tree, GS family members l-r: Donn Weaver, Jen Johnson, Kathy Hokula, Jeanne Weaver, David Perry, Carol LiCalzi and Jerry Hokula. Not pictured, since they were getting the outdoor "tree" ready, are

the Ceremony with one Dad, Don Pearsall, conducting the final countdown to successful lighting. From now on the tree will serve two roles: The Merritt Island Community Christmas Trees and the VMC Gold Star Family Tree.

For more information about both projects contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576.

ALA Unit 344 Christmas Party

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 held its annual Children's Christmas Party on December 16th at the VMC Gray Hall. The party was attended by over 30 children of veteran families. They decorated cookies,

made Christmas ornaments, and had pizza and other goodies to eat. The best part of the party was the appearance of Santa Claus who gave each child a Christmas gift.

The Auxiliary would like to thank MOAAC Good Deeds Foundation for their generous donation to assist with the cost of the party.



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain
Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

2023 was a very tough year. Never since WWII has the extermination of the Jews been so real. Our streets, our businesses our very homes are been destroyed. Some want to take us into Socialism, or worse. Many of us are condemned for our personal beliefs and are not allowed to voice our opinions. I have personally seen Soviet Union-style interrogation used against believers. We must stand up to the oppressors, remove them, and take back the life of our Country.

Let us all sing together at midnight on New Year's eve:

Should old acquaintances be forgot, and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?

CHORUS: For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll

take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.
And surely, you'll buy your pint cup! and surely, I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

We two have run about the slopes, and picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot, since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

We two have paddled in the stream, from morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

And there's a hand my trusty friend! And give me a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught, for auld lang syne.

We can help to save our country, our very way of life.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



Operations Report

Robert W. Doyle,
Operations Director

We have finally reached the end of the wall in front being repaired and should be able to get the facility up to speed at the start of the new year. Floors have been done and I am grateful to Kristi for finding a company that could complete the job so fast.. Many changes to our park will be happening very soon and the expansion will bring many new things to your park.

Look forward to new changes and new happenings.
Happy holidays.



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.



321-507-0873

1365 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Unit C,
Merritt Island FL 32953

Biggest Wreaths Across America Event ever at CCNC

by Donn Weaver

On Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, 16 December, more volunteers, families and members of the public attended Ceremonies and Wreath Laying events in Brevard County than ever before.

The Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) led the way and reported:

- Several Florida VA Cemeteries did not hold ceremonies: WAA/CCNC did 14 of them!!! At 1000 hours, simultaneous ceremonies were held at all 14 sections in CCNC where more than 12,000 veterans and spouses have been laid to rest since the weather suggested an overall ceremony would not be safe or solemn.
- The FHP and CCNC confirmed more than 650 vehicles and at least 1,800 people attended the event.

Nationwide, 4,104 WAA Locations were scheduled to hold ceremonies and wreath laying events. WAA set a record this year as generous citizens purchased over 4 million remembrance wreaths by the 28 November deadline.

CCNC Director Ed Lyons and several of his staff volunteered their time to support the WAA/CCNC project led by Bette Nelson and a great team of Section leaders and volunteers (almost 150 total) including parking, logistics and security which resulted in a smooth and safe event. Almost everyone reported it was meaningful and well organized.

Perhaps one family said it best:

"There was so much love and respect for veterans here today that we did our friends wreaths but helped with many others. In fact, our family members are buried at another VA cemetery. They cancelled, you did not. Thank you."

The same day, other Brevard WAA locations, covering over 40 private cemeteries including the first official Brevard Veterans Cemetery in Titusville, held ceremonies and placed wreaths honoring veterans by name.



Pictured: One Ceremony of 14 held at every section at the same time R-L. Hans Hunt, RADM Wayne Justice (USCG Ret) Donn Weaver, BM2 Neika Burke, and Joe Tichich



Pictured: Making it happen and a beautiful sight.

It may not have been a coincidence that heavy rains held off until 1 p.m., just after the ceremonies in most Brevard locations were completed. A final WAA ceremony was held on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Pinecrest Cemetery in Cocoa. That is the final resting place of Korean War veteran and Medal of Honor Recipient, Edward Bennett, Brevard native and namesake for the Bennett Causeway.

To donate or get involved in WAA in Brevard next year, check out the website WAA.org.



Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Bricks, Benches and Trees

This was a busy month for Brick, Bench and Tree Memorials. Nine bricks were installed. We received one tree order, and that memorial plate is already on hand. One bench was ordered the memorial plate for the bench is already on hand. The bench is in our supplier's work queue. Our suppliers worked very hard getting all memorials in place before the Holiday Season. They provide exquisite support for the families in all aspects of the VMC's memorial programs.

Wayne Fried has completed the processing and organization of 99.9 percent of all forms received in the history of our Memorial Plaza. These have been placed into a management spreadsheet and into binders in alphabetical order. This management spreadsheet will be incorporated into a kiosk to aid visitors in locating each Memorial Brick.

Wayne and the Brick, Bench, and Tree Team are finishing a

concept paper to audit the location of every brick in our plaza for inclusion in the kiosk.

The VMC's maintenance supervisor, Jerry Johnson, continues to quickly complete assembly of Memorial Benches as they are received.

The Amphitheater

The Task Force chartered to produce the "Scope of Responsibilities for Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater Operations" is now complete. This document will now be presented to the County Manager for review and approval. The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for managing the completed Amphitheater. Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) is still trying to come up with solutions for parking issues and cost overruns. These should be solved in the near future.



HELPING VETERANS HEAL THROUGH THE WAVES OF LIFE

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The Space Coast Jazz Society presents:

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LIVE JAZZ Concerts

by a variety of professional bands

at Veterans Memorial Center, Gray Hall
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**\$5 discount for members of
the Veterans Memorial Center**

Open to the Public

Schedule & details at:
SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org





Cocoa Beach Army JROTC Raider Teams Conquer State

Brevard has a very special and engaged JROTC program in 14 High Schools. Like the sports teams at those schools, JROTC teams compete against each other in military related events during the school year. In the fall, the biggest is Raider Challenge, modeled after the US Army and Army College ROTC Ranger Challenge. It is a grueling five segment event including a 3-mile run, weight carrying fitness test, rope bridge, barrier obstacle course and carrying equipment fitness challenge.

The Veterans Memorial Center hosted, and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officer Association of America Good Deeds Foundation supported, three Raider events this fall at Veterans Memorial Park.

Eventually five schools earned the right, at the 28 October District Meet, to send teams to the Florida State Championship Raider Challenge Meet in Tampa. That event was held on 02 December.

For the first time in memory, one JROTC program won the Overall Male AND the Overall Female State Championship. The Florida Raider Championship divided the 54 schools that earned a spot into tiers. Those 54 had outpaced 164 total Florida JROTC programs to get there. Cocoa Beach beat ALL teams, regardless of tier, with one of the smallest school populations in the competition.



Pictured: Raider fit test event for the female teams.

Congratulations to the Cocoa Beach Army JROTC teams: Males led by Billy Day and Noel Danker and Females led by Reagan Fish and Ali Jo Tuggle. Next Semester the veteran community will join the Cocoa Beach family in a ceremony to recognize this amazing achievement. The CBHS Raider Teams were led and coached by LTC Jim DesJardins, USA, Ret and 1SG Keven Staddie, USA, Ret, their JROTC Instructors.

Volunteer Family Expresses Appreciation

by Donn Weaver

At our annual Christmas Party on 13 December the VMC received a nice present from a very special volunteer family. Tom and Denise Fitzgerald presented VMC President Dean Schaaf and the Center with a beautiful plaque of appreciation for support to them and their unique Caisson program over the years.

The Fitzgeralds have created several very beautiful and historically accurate caissons which they use to support funeral services and special events at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, the VMC and other events throughout the southeast. They are one of the very few outside Arlington National Cemetery that provides that honorable service on a volunteer basis.

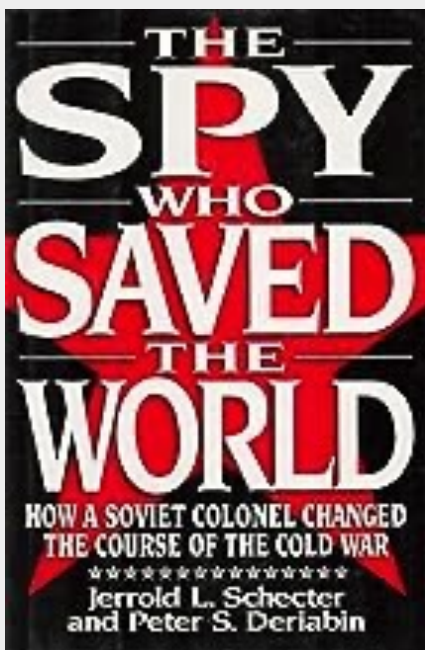


Pictured: Tom and Denise Fitzgerald present a plaque of appreciation to VMC President Dean Schaaf.

Details about their program (worked out of their farm in Mims with their two mules) are available on their website at solemnpride.com.

Book Report

The Spy Who Saved the World by Jerrold L. Schecter and Peter S. Deriabin | Book Report by Ray Norman, Catalog #BlackOps-186



This is an interesting book written by two very experienced men in international affairs. Schecter was a *Time Life* Moscow bureau chief and a spokesperson for the National Security Council. Deriabin was a native of Siberia who served in the Red Army and later became a KGB officer. Deriabin was the agent in charge in Vienna in charge of Russian counterintelligence. He defected to the US in 1954. Subsequently, he worked for the US Army and the CIA until he retired. Both men are authors of Russia-related books and newspapers. They have recorded, translated and made available the Oleg Penkovsky story of spy craft.

Penkovsky was a Russian officer who became a "citizen of the world" mentally and looked to even the USA/USSR/Cuba playing field during J.F. Kennedy's terms. A British housewife became a link in this story which tells of real spy craft procedures, debriefs, drops, missile technology, etc. We leave it to the reader to guess at the outcome of the cold war if Penkovsky had not revealed the Russian development and strength of their rocket programs. Yes, Penkovsky, a son of a White Russian officer, was caught and per chance "sent up the smokestack." The "rest of the story" is up to the reader to figure out his fate.

Brevard County Honors Veterans – WAA

by Dorothy Walsh, Location Coordinator

This year we were the location coordinator for 26 locations throughout Brevard County. 1,188 wreaths were delivered to Tico Airport by tractor trailer which were then distributed to the various organizations working with us and who performed the ceremonies held at 26 locations throughout the County.

These organizations include VFWs, American Legions, the Pilot Club, Brevard Federated Republican Women group and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The big ceremony was held on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Pinecrest Cemetery in Cocoa, the final resting place of Medal of Honor recipient Emory Bennett.

In early December the Hometown News had a special story on the event, seeing this article prompted several family members to attend the ceremony. Connections were made to have them as special guests at our future events honoring their Uncle Emory.

There were approximately 70 people

in attendance at the Pinecrest ceremony, including the Marine Corps League who did their standard perfect presentation of colors during the ceremony.

Our special presenters placed the wreaths during the ceremony and our attendees placed the 200 wreaths on the veterans' graves.

The motto of Wreaths Across America is "Remember Honor Teach" and we attempt to do that each year by including our youth groups in the ceremony. This year the youth group Antlers from the Viera Elks Lodge 2817 did a spectacular job by filling in as Chaplain and placing the wreaths on PFC Bennett's and his families' graves.

It was a wonderful ceremony and wonderful to see so many from the community come out to hail a local hero.



Certificate of Appreciation for Supporting Veteran Children at Holiday Party at VMC

by Donn Weaver

At the Veterans Memorial Christmas Party on 13 December, the American Legion Post 344 AUX presented MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation a thank you certificate for \$700 provided to help support their 2023 Christmas Party.

They expect 38 children of veterans who have been stressed by the economy and could not otherwise afford the great party, food and presents that will be provided. The party was held in the VMC Gray Hall on 16 December. Here is another great example of several veteran related organizations coming together to make one great event to support veterans and their families in need.



Pictured: Rose Marie Hill, American Legion Auxiliary, presents a certificate of appreciation to Donn Weaver for the upcoming children's Christmas Party

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	VEW 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!



Women Veteran Outreach & Support Group

Women Veteran Outreach & Support Potluck

On Thursday, December 14th, the Women Veteran Outreach and Support group held their first annual Holiday Potluck Celebration. The women had a wonderful time giving and receiving gifts, sharing yummy dishes, bonding, and sharing stories. There was a surprise visitor too--no, not Santa Claus, but local performers Jack Smink and Lonnie of the Lonnie and Delinda band to play some tunes and serenade our warriors. The women received swag bags full of a variety of items from Mary Kay products to handmade stuffed animals, crocheted hats, and beautiful jewelry pouches. All were handmade by donors who wanted to say, "thank you." We also had a special guest join us, Colonel S. Shannon DaSilva from Patrick Space Force Base, who enjoyed socializing with other female veterans, and she thanked them for "paving the way."

Viera VA Giving Tree for Our Women Veterans in Need

In late November, the Viera VA sent out a request for organizations to participate in the Viera VA Giving Tree program. Through this program, we received requests for 7 low-income women veterans to make sure they had a happy holiday. Some of the requests consisted of a pair of shoes to wear to work, a black tank top, cleaning supplies, a warm hat. After passing the information along to the Women Veteran Support Group, these simple wish list items were filled within a matter of days. But it didn't stop there. A shout-out to the community brought enough donations that each veteran received brand new blankets, slippers, Mary Kay products, a box of hygiene products, jewelry bags, and their personal "wish list" items were granted as well. Microwave ovens, air fryers, a teapot, and sneakers. The picture on the right shows what was delivered to the Viera VA. At the time of delivery, it was so emotional that we forgot to take additional pictures. But here are some of the comments we received when the veterans received their gifts:

Dorothy I wanted to share with you and the other ladies. I personally THANK YOU for everything that you do and Their Voice of Hope. You made these Women Veterans feel appreciated, cared about, and not forgotten. May you have a wonderful Christmas and an even better New Year! You are amazing and thank you for sharing you light with our women Veterans.

Per the Social Worker "When the Veterans opened their presents they were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of the donors. One Veteran loved everything and was extremely grateful for her new microwave – it looks great in her kitchen!"

Had to share another message. The social worker stayed to see their faces because this was the very first time that our single Veterans were included and she was just as excited. "My women veterans are going crazy for their gifts. Lots of happy faces this Christmas.. and all the shoes fit!" To everyone who participated we want to share these with you and say thank you for your generous support.



Pictured above: Scenes from the holiday celebration of the Women Veteran Outreach and Support Group held in Gray Hall at the VMC.



Pictured: The generous donations to women veterans in need at the VA



Pictured: Sheriff's deputies, kids and volunteers ready to shop with a cop!



Pictured: The tireless volunteers that make this program happen for kids in need.

Shop with a Cop Program

On December 9, 10, and 19th, Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BSCO) held their annual Shop with a Cop program. Wanting to ensure that our veterans' children are taken care of, we worked together with them to make that happen. On these three days, more than 70 children of veterans shopped with a Sheriff's deputy and received a shopping cart full of goodies. Lindsey Deaton, Executive Director of BCSO Charity, made sure each child left smiling and their gifts were nicely wrapped to be placed under their tree for Christmas morning. Children who may have been in a more serious hardship situation also received a wagon full of clothes and warm winter wear. What a great experience.

It takes a Village!!!! And Brevard County is an awesome Village that takes care of our veterans.

Our next Women Veteran Outreach and Support event will be held in February. This year we are looking forward to bringing even more veterans together in a variety of ways, including events for families!! Stay tuned!!! If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@thevoiceofhope.com.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy and Healthy 2024.

Crystal Turman, LCSW
Chairman, Women Veteran
Outreach & Support Group

Dorothy Walsh, MS, CPC
President, Their Voice of Hope, Inc.



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The Transformation of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center

by Kristi Blanchard and Dean Schaaf

The transformation of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center's northeast exterior and interior was completed in December with dedication and persistence from Brevard County Parks and Recreation (notably Fred Ameigh and Travis Freeman), County contractors, Career Source Brevard, and the VMC Executive Committee. The revamped space not only boasts an updated façade, complete with new Hardy Board, lettering, and a United States Flag courtesy of our VMC President Dean Schaaf, but also welcomes visitors with an inviting interior. The lobby serves as a symbolic gateway and will see additional updates in 2024 with the goal of fostering a deeper connection to our nation's history and the individuals who served it. This remodel not only enhances the physical space but also enriches the historical significance of the center for generations to come.



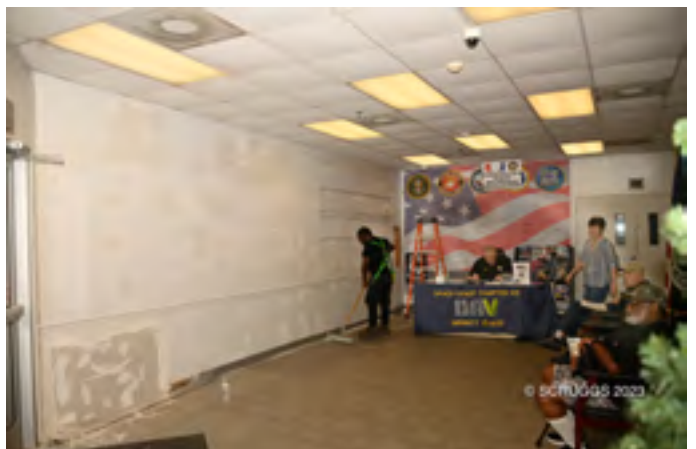
Pictured: Starting the exterior work on Gray Hall



Pictured: Remodel in progress



Pictured: Before and after of the Gray Hall flooring.



Pictured: The start of the interior renovations.

Recognizing Outstanding Service

The Brevard County Veteran's Center's (VMC) 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.

To accomplish the mission of supporting over 70,000 veterans in our county, the VMC has formal relationships with eighteen different veteran organizations. And we in turn support countless more veteran programs and initiatives.

When one comes to the VMC either seeking support, visiting our wonderful library and museum, or enjoying our 82-acre park, you notice the Memorial Plaza and the military equipment there. Unless you have walked in the Memorial Plaza or close to the VMC building, you did not see the results of the Brick, Tree, and Bench Memorial Program.

The VMC has worked with three very dedicated contractors that have faithfully served our VMC and veterans for many years. Those companies create the Memorials that are testimony to the veterans and their families' sacrifices. The VMC considers these companies as members of our family support.

CSPRAY

CSPRAY is a local company, owned by Chad and Kitty Stout. Find them at www.cspraglass.com or 321-795-6630. Chad and Kitty are the artisans who personally plan, design, and etch each brick and cement bench in the Memorial Plaza. They also power wash the Plaza four times a year, keeping it looking its best for parades and veteran events. Beyond the VMC, CSPRAY was hired by NASA to craft engraved markers on the Space Shuttle runway at Kennedy Space Center to preserve the stop points of the last three shuttles that landed in 2011. Off to the side of the runway are large plaques with all the statistics of each shuttle, total miles flown, etc, for Atlantis, Discovery, and Endeavour. The VMC Museum has copies of these plaques on display. CSPRAY offers a range of etching and engraving services for commercial businesses and residential homes.

Lickity Split Signs and Banners

Lickity Split Signs and Banners is a local company owned by Logan Langston. Reach them at lickitysplit.com or 321-459-0024. The VMC



Caption: One of the benches created by family-owned business American Recycled Plastics.



Caption: A copy of one of the amazing engraved markers created by CSPRAY for NASA that are on display at the VMC

uses their custom designed durable plastic plates for our memorial trees which will be placed next summer as part of our 82-acre park development project. Lickety-Split also manufactures the large identification plates we place on our Memorial Benches. Visit Lickity-Split's Website to see their extensive range of products.

American Recycled Plastics

American Recycled Plastics is a family business owned by Mike and Amy Hazlett in Friendsville, TN. Find them at www.itsrecycled.com or 865-738-3439. They manufacture and ship our Memorial Benches. The VMC buys their four- and six-foot benches, with and without armrests, which will be placed in our park.

CSPRAY, Lickity Split Signs, and American Recycled Plastics are all American Owned and are critical to our mission to serve veterans and their families in Brevard County.

We appreciate your efforts!



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
rragent@gmail.com

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



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Dinosaur Store



The Patriot Report

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

2024 Pay Rates

Military.com | By Amanda Miller

Published October 12, 2023

Military retirees and disabled Veterans will see their monthly checks increase by 3.2% for 2024, thanks to the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). While 3.2% may look low compared to the 2022 (5.9%) and 2023 (8.7%) adjustments, it's still above the average of 2.6% for the prior 20 years. The Social Security Administration announced the COLA increase Oct. 12, 2023.

Retirement Pay Increase

For 2024, retired military members will see a \$32 increase for each \$1,000 of military retirement pay they receive each month. Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, and opted for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan) will have any COLA increases reduced by a percentage point, so they will see a smaller increase of \$22 per \$1,000 in 2024.

Survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan payments will see their payments increase by the same amount as retirees.

VA Disability Increase

Disabled Veterans will also see their benefit payments increase in the upcoming year. VA disability checks will go up about \$5.31

*2024 Veteran benefits are
increasing!*

per month for those with a 10% rating and \$115.90 for those rated at 100% who don't have dependents. Survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan payments will see their payments increase by the same amount as retirees.

Increased Disability Payments for Veterans with Dependents

Veterans entitled to compensation who have a disability rated at 30% or more are entitled to additional compensation for dependents. Dependent children between the ages of 18 and 23 must be attending school and be a dependent for tax purposes. Parents may be considered dependents if the Veteran provides more than 50% of their support. Veterans with a disabled spouse may also be eligible for increased benefits. Check with the VA for details. There is also an increase in Dependency & Indemnity Compensation benefit for survivors of some disabled Veterans.

<u>*10%-20% Disability</u>				
Percentage	Rate			
10%	\$171.23			
20%	\$338.49			
<u>*30%-60% Disability</u>				
Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$524.31	\$755.28	\$1,075.16	\$1,361.88
Veteran with Spouse	\$586.23	\$837.84	\$1,178.36	\$1,486.75
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$631.64	\$898.73	\$1,254.72	\$1,577.565
Veteran with Child	\$565.59	\$811.01	\$1,144.30	\$1,445.47
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$30.96	\$41.28	\$51.60	\$61.92
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18	\$100.10	\$133.13	\$167.18	\$200.21
Additional for Disabled spouse	\$57.79	\$76.37	\$95.98	\$114.55

***70%-100% Disability**

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,716.28	\$1,995.01	\$2,241.91	\$3,737.85
Veteran with Spouse	\$1,861.79	\$2,161.16	\$2,428.70	\$3,946.25
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$1,968.09	\$2,282.94	\$2,565.95	\$4,098.88
Veteran with Child	\$1,813.29	\$2,106.47	\$2,442.51	\$3,877.22
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$72.24	\$82.56	\$92.88	\$103.55
Each Additional Schoolchild Over 18	\$233.23	\$267.29	\$300.31	\$334.49
Additional for A/A spouse	\$134.16	\$152.74	\$172.34	\$191.14

***30%-60% Disability (With Dependent Parents)**

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with One Parent	\$573.84	\$903.89	\$1,261.95	\$1,586.85
Veteran with Two Parents	\$623.38	\$887.38	\$1,242.34	\$1,562.09
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$615.12	\$877.06	\$1,227.89	\$1,545.57
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$664.66	\$943.10	\$1,311.49	\$1,645.68
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$681.17	\$964.78	\$1,338.32	\$1,677.67
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$730.71	\$1,030.82	\$1,421.91	\$1,777.77

***70%-100% Disability (With Dependent Parents)**

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,832.89	\$2,128.14	\$2,391.55	\$3,905.11
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,949.51	\$2,261.27	\$2,541.19	\$4,072.36
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,929.90	\$2,239.59	\$2,516.42	\$4,044.48
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$2,046.52	\$2,372.72	\$2,666.06	\$4,211.74
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$2,084.70	\$2,416.07	\$2,715.59	\$4,266.13
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$2,201.32	\$2,549.19	\$2,865.23	\$4,433.39

2024 Veteran Pension Rates

Military.com | By Jim Absher

Do you qualify for a Veterans Pension? Many Veterans of wartime service are completely unaware of the fact that if they are 65 or older and on a limited income, they may qualify for a Department of Veterans Affairs pension without being disabled. If you are a wartime Veteran with a limited income and you are no longer able to work, you may also qualify for a Veterans Pension.

Veterans Pensions Eligibility

You may qualify for a Veteran's pension if you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND:

- You served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a period of wartime, or:

- You are permanently and totally disabled or are age 65 or older.

You also must have limited income and a limited net worth or assets to qualify for a VA pension. Net worth includes your and your spouse's assets and annual income. When you apply for Veterans Pension benefits, you'll need to report all assets and income. The 2024 asset limit for VA pension is \$155,356.

2024 VA Pension Income Limits (Effective Dec. 1, 2023) and Payment Rates

VA pays you the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart on next page). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.

2024 Veterans Pension Rates

If you are a:	Your yearly income must be less than: ...
Veteran with no dependents	\$16,551
Veteran with a spouse or a child	\$21,674
Housebound Veteran with no dependents	\$20,226
Housebound Veteran with one dependent	\$25,348
Veteran who needs aid and attendance (A/A) and has no dependents	\$27,609
Veteran who needs A/A and has one dependent	\$32,729
Two Veterans Married to Each Other	\$21,674
<div> <div>⊕</div> <div>Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income). It's also important to note that your medical-related expenses are considered when determining your yearly family income.</div> <div>⊖</div> </div>	
Add for Each Additional Child to any category above	\$2,831

VA Pension Payment Example

A single Veteran has an annual income of \$5,000 and no assets. His annual income limit is \$16,551. To determine his pension, subtract his annual income of \$5,000 from the \$16,551 income limit which gives him an annual pension rate of \$11,551. This translates into a monthly pension check of approximately \$962.58.

Aid and Attendance or Housebound Veterans

Aid and attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to a pension. This benefit can't be paid without pension eligibility. A Veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- They require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting themselves from the hazards of their daily environment.
- They are bedridden, meaning their disability requires that they remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
- They are patients in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
- They are blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected vision of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound benefits

Housebound benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, housebound benefits can't be paid without pension

eligibility. A Veteran may be eligible for housebound benefits when:

- They have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100% disabling and, due to such disability, they are permanently and substantially confined to their immediate premises.
- They have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100% disabling and another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60% or more disabling.

You cannot get both aid and attendance and housebound benefits at the same time.

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



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Serving the BMC and Community Brevard County Detachment 513

"PHEW" !! Thank heavens January 2024 is finally upon us. The last quarter of 2023 is always a busy time of the year at the Brevard Veterans Center and particularly for Detachment 513 of the Marine Corps League. In October, almost immediately after our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month, we supported the Department of Florida Fall Conference in Melbourne. Our



participating members taught classes and our Color Guard raised the National Colors for a morning ceremony. Many of our Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) members attended a "Growl" celebrating the fun and honor society of our Corps. Later in October, our Marine representatives awarded a certificate to a new Eagle Scout, Luke Hamel, at a presentation in Viera.

The month of November provided the Detachment with an opportunity to host the 248th birthday of our illustrious Corps with a Marine Corps Ball at the Radisson Hotel in Cape Canaveral. The evening of festivities included a guest speaker, an excellent dinner, cake cutting ceremony, silent auction, and dancing. It was a grand night of comradery with U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Coast Guard personnel representing our sister services.



And, of course, early November means celebrating all service members on 11 November, Veterans Day. Our Detachment 513 Color Guard lead the "Massing of Colors" at the BVMC as all our service members were represented when the Tenant Organizations from the VMC marched in pageantry. It was truly a day of pride and observance. Remaining active in the community, Detachment members attended a Military Ball presented by the Titusville High School Junior Naval ROTC. Supporting these young men and women cadets is awe-inspiring as they represent the future of our great nation. Many have aspirations for military careers in all



branches of service. Their leadership rolls were evident at the Change of



Command ceremony held at Titusville High School later that month when Cadet Lori Wright replaced Cadet James Captain as the Commanding Officer for the unit.

On a solemn note, the Detachment Commandant and many of the senior officers of the unit, supported by the Solemn Pride caisson attended the initial internment of veteran remains at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) made possible largely thru the efforts of the Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind organization. Approximately twenty of our fellow veterans were laid to rest with Honors. This honored ritual is planned to recur quarterly at CCNC until all veterans receive the Honors they deserve.



The festive month of December kicked off at our monthly meeting with several of the Detachment members receiving awards for community service and support. Following an abbreviated meeting at the BVMC, members and family adjourned to Outback Restaurant for a cheerful

gathering with food and beverages. The restaurant supported us again with an excellent menu just as they have in the past for our Marine Corps Ball...a true example of community support.



Once again, our focus turned to our fallen veterans as we supported Wreaths Across America at CCNC and at several local cemeteries. The Color Guard provided honors and many of our members supported by a huge community attendance placed wreaths on the graves in a final remembrance of 2023. It was a picturesque moment at CCNC as we overlooked several thousand wreaths placed to honor those who have gone before us.



And what would Christmas be without TOYS for the children! So, to support the Marine Corps Reserve and the Toys For Tots program, our Detachment members banded together to collect, store, and distribute a few *THOUSAND* toys for those in need. Each year, the collection boxes get fuller and fuller as the communities in Brevard County provide a loving gift to children in need. At the Merritt Island Airport alone the toys collected were enough to cover an airplane...and you got a pancake breakfast for supporting the drive.



From all of the members of Brevard County Detachment 513, Department of Florida, Marine Corps League, we hope you have had a Joyous, Merry Christmas and we wish you a Happy, Prosperous New Year. Help us in 2024 to support the BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, the VETERANS of Brevard County, and THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE by joining our organization. You will receive more than you give and you will make a difference. Contact us at detachment513marinecorpsleague@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook or join us at our meetings on the first Thursday of every month in the Gray Room at the BVMC.

Dennis Herring
Adjutant
Detachment 513
Marine Corps League



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar January 2024 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/>

JANUARY

27 Jan — Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Seminar
VMC Gray Hall 0800-1600. Sponsored by Museums of Brevard (MOB) Contact Dean Schaaf VMC President and MOB officer on 321-453-1776 ext 5.

27 Jan — JROTC County Wide Run and Shoot Competition in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1230. Details in December.

29 Jan — Guest Lecture Series at VMC Gray Hall — 1300-1430: Gary Powers Jr, son of the late, famed U-2 Pilot shot down over the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War. Newly unclassified materials, his new book, and an update of analysis about why and what happened after his father's capture, took his son decades to unravel as the truth.

30 Jan — VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930, presenter Norm Desmarais will discuss what happened to the first British Settlement in America. Highly recommended for anyone interested in a good mystery and the early settlement of British North America. Refreshments provided.

FEBRUARY

03 Feb — JROTC County Wide Run and Shoot Competition in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1230. Details in December.

04 Feb — Hearts to the Troops 5K Fundraiser sponsored by OASIS 0700-1000 at VMC Park. Packing Valentine boxes of goodies for deployed troops afterwards for mailing overseas. Sponsorships and information available at 321-243-7753 or via cofounder@oasisofcfl.org. OASIS supports troops deployed in harm's way all year round with a number of packing events with the goodies and postage purchased through grants and via such Fundraisers.

04 Feb — Anniversary to Remember the Immortal Four Chaplains of WWII 1400-1530 in the VMC Plaza. They went down with their transport ship helping troops in 1943 after a German Torpedo attack in then icy Atlantic. Sponsored by VMC with support from the Marine Corps League of Brevard

County.

10 Feb — JROTC Squad Drill Meet 0700-1230 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

17 Feb — Second Annual Back Brevard Heroes Fundraiser Car Show in Veterans Memorial Center Park 1000 - 1500. Registration details in early January. BBH supports First Responders and Veterans.

24 Feb — JROTC Squad and Platoon Drill Meet 0700-1230 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

MARCH

09 Mar— JROTC District Drill Meet with all disciplines 0700-1300 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

16 Mar — Ceremony to Remember the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War fought off the Coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. 1000-1200 at the VMC Plaza Area with food and drinks and a parade pf colors and wreaths with many in colonial attire. Put on by the Sons of the American Revolution Brevard Chapter along with the DAR and VMC. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information.

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



IN COORDINATION WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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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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

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2024

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, 2024

McKinney, Shaun and Adora Sept, 2024

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norman, Ray April, 2027

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) _____