



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

FEBRUARY 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Student Activism in the VMC Park

An Edgewood Jr./Sr. high student hosts a 5k event to bring awareness to human trafficking.  
— page 6

### Classic Car Show Success

The Merritt Island High School Project Graduation hosts a well-attended event on the VMC grounds. — page 5

### Gary Powers Speaks on the WWII U2 Incident

A captivated audience hears about his father's part in the famous event.  
— page 9

## Forgotten Graves Honored Through Restoration

*This year's MLK ceremony was especially meaningful as 21 veteran grave sites are cared for, repaired and restored.*

— details page 13

Photo by R. Scruggs

FEBRUARY 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 24 January 2024:

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

As of 24 January 2024:

[Committee Department Assignment 2023-2024](#)

As of 24 January 2024:

[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)**

If Dean were here at the time of the writing of this month's Courier, I'm sure he'd say something about what a peaceful, but good month it was at the VMC. It's the calm before the start of the busy spring season when our grounds and facilities start booking up and activities abound.

I'm also sure he'd say something about the incredible community of volunteers at the center. Truly--you ALL are exceptional people and every veteran that is remembered, every dollar that is raised, every family that is helped and even every hot dog that gets served is meaningful because you put your time and heart into giving of yourself with the intent of putting a little good back out into the universe. Our volunteers are what makes the VMC a place worthy of pride and worthy of celebrating; they make all our good work possible! Well, he probably would not have said it quite like that, but I assure you he'd completely agree with all it.

He would have probably reminded everyone about the upcoming Immortal Four Chaplain's of WWII event as well. This solemn remembrance is special here at the VMC, and one you'll want to attend on February 4th.

Dean's editor is only a little jealous of him this month as he floats off on a big ship with five thousand of his closest friends on what is no doubt a well-deserved break. Even if it means I have to put a few words in his mouth this month in his absence.

The only other thing that I can think that Dean may want to impart here in this space is GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY! Hopefully, this gives us all a good Dean feeling so we don't miss him TOO much and the glow will hold us over until next month when he returns to this column.

**Dean's Stand-In Reporter**  
**P. Biggs**  
 Courier Newsletter Editor



# ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN  
TOYOTA



**SUPPORTING VETERANS  
AND JROTC IN BREVARD COUNTY**

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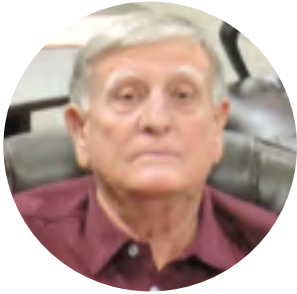
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[FACEBOOK](#)  
[WEBSITE](#)  
[YOUTUBE](#)







## Library Notes

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

Bill Wilkening, one of our librarians, will be leading the our Discussion Group Tuesday Feb 28 6:00 till 7:30 P.M. entitled "The French and Indian War". Refreshments will be provided and everyone is invited to learn about the Indian War that led up to our Revolutionary War.

Bill Ellis is back working in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bill has been out for several weeks dealing with personal health issues and we are glad to have him back. Joe Davie is also back after his 2nd visit from Covid. January was cold, wet and windy weather and I am hoping for the warm up that we sometimes get in the second week of February.



### Sons of the American Revolution Book Donation

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) donated ten new books shown below to our library. The picture above shows Joe Davie librarian on the left and Donn Weaver who presented a donation from the Good Deeds foundation to the SAR on the right. Two of the SAR members stand center: Doug Bisset, SAR historian on the left and President on the right.



### VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

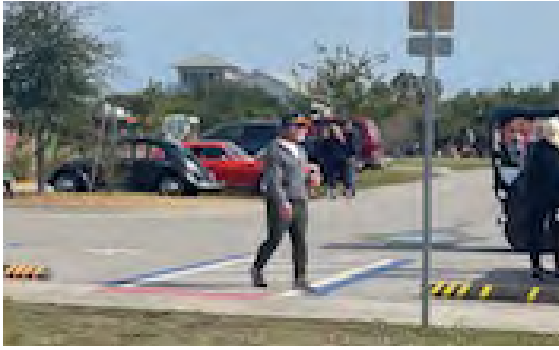
## THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

Tuesday, February 28, 2024, 6:00-7:30 PM  
**The Library, Veterans Memorial Center**  
Merritt Island, FL

**Presented by  
Bill Wilkening**



**Pictured:** The audience thoroughly enjoyed Norm Desmarais' presentation on the Lost Colony of Roanoke on Jan 30



# VMC Park Hosts Successful Car Show to Support MIHS

by Donn Weaver

On 13 Jan, despite heavy morning rain and lightning, the parents of Merritt Island High School Seniors hosted a car show to raise funds for Project Graduation. Project Graduation is a fun, safe, alcohol-free celebration event for high school seniors on their graduation night.

About 50 special cars were checked out by at least 250 people who also enjoyed seven food trucks and eight vendors. Johnny Danger Live provided great music and the event left many people smiling since they will help make sure MIHS seniors enjoy a safe and very special graduation with no driving!!!

This is another great example of VMC support to our youth and the community. Once the next level of Park upgrades with an Amphitheater is completed, bookings like this one will really take off.



**Come Honor  
The Four Chaplains**

In the early morning hours, on February 3, 1943, the American troopship U.S.A.T. DORCHESTER was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Atlantic. After saving many lives, the Four Chaplains – two ministers, a priest, and a rabbi gave their own life jackets to four GIs and went down with the ship.

Special Presentation Coordinated by the  
Marine Corps League Detachment 513

**Sunday, Feb 4, at 2:00 P.M.**  
**Veterans Memorial Center**  
**400 S. Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island**



## Thanks, MIHS!

MIHS Parent Carla Hattaway presents BVC Board Member Donn Weaver with the VMC 5% net proceeds from the MIHS Project Graduation Car event.



# Student Activism at Its Best



**Pictured:** Nika Gividen after the race and proud it all worked. Note the shirt created for the event. On the back it reads Nika's Passion Project!!

by **Donn Weaver**

On 20 January the Veterans Memorial Center Park hosted a very different 5K race. Starting last Fall, the VMC worked with Edgewood Junior Senior High School Senior Nike Gividen and her student team to provide the venue and logistical support to make her vision a reality. More than 100 runners and sponsors, including State Farm, contributed to the "Stop The Traffic(king) 5K." The event was intended by the students to focus the community on the sad reality of increased human trafficking, even in Brevard County.

Endorsed and supported by a number of parents, the event went smoothly. Ms. Gividen offered pre-race remarks on why the effort was being made and how the funds would be used. Hometown News ran a short pre-race story and Press Releases after the event were planned. There was talk about making this an annual event for Edgewood as the briefing noted there is more slavery through human trafficking in the US now than even before the Civil War.

VMC's Mission Statement includes education and supporting our youth. This event was right on target.



**Pictured:** Checking in from 0700



**Pictured:** A few of the race winners



**Pictured:** On your marks!



**Pictured:** The shirt created for the event reads Nika's Passion Project!!



## Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain  
Chip Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)

Not all wounds of War are visible.

Post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms may start within one month of a traumatic event, but sometimes symptoms may not appear until years after the event. These symptoms cause significant problems in social or work situations and relationships. They can also interfere with your ability to go about your normal daily tasks.

PTSD symptoms are generally grouped into four types: intrusive memories, avoidance, negative changes in thinking and mood, and changes in physical and emotional reactions. Symptoms can vary over time or vary from person to person.

### Symptoms of intrusive memories may include:

- Recurrent, unwanted distressing memories of the traumatic event
- Reliving the traumatic event as if it were happening again (flashbacks)
- Upsetting dreams or nightmares about the traumatic event
- Severe emotional distress or physical reactions to something that reminds you of the traumatic event

### Symptoms of avoidance may include:

- Trying to avoid thinking or talking about the traumatic event
- Avoiding places, activities, or people that remind you of the traumatic event

### Symptoms of negative changes in thinking and mood may include:

- Negative thoughts about yourself, other people, or the world
- Hopelessness about the future
- Memory problems, including not remembering important aspects of the traumatic event
- Difficulty maintaining close relationships
- Feeling detached from family and friends
- Lack of interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Difficulty experiencing positive emotions
- Feeling emotionally numb

## Phone numbers to remember:

211 non-emergency  
988 suicide hotline  
911 emergency

- Symptoms of changes in physical and emotional reactions (also called arousal symptoms) may include:
- Being easily startled or frightened
- Always being on guard for danger
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drinking too much or driving too fast
- Trouble sleeping
- Trouble concentrating
- Irritability, angry outbursts, or aggressive behavior
- Overwhelming guilt or shame

According to the Pew Research Center, 96% of Veterans who have served, post-9/11, are proud of their service; however, nearly half say that readjusting to civilian life was difficult, most often citing family issues. About one in six Veterans were wounded in combat and slightly more than half experienced emotional trauma or distress while serving. Tragically, even with the positive, supportive culture we have, 84% of post-9/11 veterans feel like the public just doesn't understand the sacrifices made by them or their families. This touches on one truly hidden wound of war.

**"When angry, count to four; when very angry, swear." — Mark Twain**

**"To close your eyes will not ease another's pain." – Chinese Proverb**

### GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



**Humana**

**Doreen Barnes**  
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## Pickleball 101: Fundraiser



In support of



**Thursday, Feb 22**  
**2 pm - 5 pm**  
At Parasol 55+  
4881 Dairy Rd, Palm Bay

**\$20**  
Per Person

- Learn Pickleball Basics from Diane and Harry Zizzo
- Meet the Space Coast Honor Flight Community
- Enjoy Refreshments, Info and More!

Learn a new hobby for the new year!  
Wear workout/gym clothes and sneakers!  
To sign up, call 321-361-8040

## 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





## Rivetting Presentation on Francis Gary Powers and the Cold War U2 Incident

*We'd like to thank Gary Powers, Jr. for presenting at the Veterans Memorial Center on Jan 29th. With over 40 in attendance, Gary's presentation about his father was well received.*

As for my background, I have lectured internationally on the Cold War, my father, the U-2 Incident, espionage, and the need to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period for over 30 years. My recent book, *Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident*, and a *Controversial Cold War Legacy*, helps to set the record straight in regards to the fake news that surrounds the U-2 Incident and tarnished my father's reputation. It gives an overview of what it was like to grow up in the shadow of a famous Cold War figure, my search for the truth after my father's death in 1977 when I was 12 years old, and how my research led to the USAF and CIA posthumously awarding my father the POW Medal / Director's Medal and Silver Star in 2000 and 2012 respectively. My newest book, *Enemy Territory*, is a graphic novel about the U-2 Incident.

I discussed other related books and Spielberg's 2015 Cold War thriller, *Bridge of Spies*, on which I was a technical consultant, that depicts my father's exchange for Soviet spy Rudolph Able in 1962 at the Glienicker Bridge in Potsdam, Germany.

More info on my efforts can be found online at [www.garypowers.com](http://www.garypowers.com), [www.spytour.com](http://www.spytour.com), and [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org).



**Pictured:** Gary Powers autographs copies of his book for the audience







# Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center



**Brevard County's Newest Military Exhibit**



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**"Preserving the Legacy"**

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Vietnam War Exhibit.com - thenamwar@yahoo.com

Fbook: Vietnam War Exhibit

**Military Patriots is a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Organizations**

Financial Support – Donation of Artifacts and Volunteering is welcomed

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Rt 1 & Pineda Causeway - Across from Grills Restaurant

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# Park and Plaza Report

## by Shaun McKinney

### Bricks, Benches and Trees

The Brick Bench and Tree Team reports a light month of orders after the demand surge in November and December.

**Bricks:** Two new submissions were received and one order from many years ago was discovered not to have been installed. All orders are at CSPRAY and are expected to be in place in February. The Brick Request Form is posted on our website: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MEMORIAL-PLAZA-BRICK-ORDER-FORM-030420.pdf>

**Trees:** All orders for the memorial plates for the trees are received and are stored in the VMC Library.

**Benches:** We have one open order for a bench with arms. We are expecting that order on or near February 1st.

**White Stone Benches on the Plaza:** CSPRAY has one name to add to the Merritt Island Bench. This is expected to be done in February.

The Brick, Bench and Tree Committee consisting of Garett McKimmie, Doug Bisset, Wayne Fried, Shaun McKinney and the VMC maintenance supervisor, Jerry Johnson, are proud to support veterans' families.

If you are interested in ordering a memorial brick, tree, or bench and have questions, feel free to contact Shaun McKinney @ 614-327-6328 or visit our website at <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/plaza/>

Shaun McKinney



**USA RiverRats, Inc. Presents**

COME JOIN US IN HOSTING OUR 4TH ANNUAL MEDAL OF HONOR PARK FUNDRAISER

February 18, 2024  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Medal of Honor**

Entertainment by DOC HOLIDAY with Live music by WHISKY SUNRISE AND SHOVELHEAD

FOOD TRUCKS & VENDORS

**Medal of Honor Park**

The Medal of Honor Park to be built at Veterans Memorial Center  
100 S. Sykes Creek Blvd, Merritt Island, FL 32952  
This fundraiser Event is Hosted by: USA River Rats

**ALL** Donations and proceeds will be used to build & maintain The Medal of Honor Park which honors **ALL** recipients of The Medal of Honor (Our Nations Highest Award) & Honors **ALL** Veterans.

Donations: Cash or Checks Payable to:  
**Medal of Honor Park**  
501(C)(3) #59-3070304

On behalf of The Medal of Honor Park,  
We Thank You for your generous donations

For more information contact:  
Flame @ 321.652.0000 or Santa @ 321.683.4281

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](http://SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org)

**SPACE COAST JAZZ SOCIETY**





# Putting Real Meaning into National Service Cemetery Day

## MLK Holiday Restoration Work and Ceremony at Oak Hill Saints and Sinners

On 13 January, at a small, historically African American Cemetery in the tiny town of Oak Hill, Florida, only 10 miles north of the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, something very special happened. More than 85 people including many veterans from Volusia and Brevard County as well as the community, came together to restore headstones from vandalized and sunken veteran grave sites. They were also there to honor the veterans and hold a re-dedication and remembrance military burial ceremony for one family who missed that promised ceremony decades earlier.

This year, the VA National Cemetery Administration (VA/NCA) chose the tiny Saints and Sinners Cemetery in Oak Hill to support on MLK Day. A new headstone was supplied, in the case of one family, and ongoing support given to repair 21 veteran grave sites damaged by vandalism, floods and neglect over many decades. Dan Devine, the VA/NVA Outreach Director organized the support and came to Florida for the Ceremony. Most of the veterans were from WWI and WWII.

There are five million veterans who rest in peace at carefully maintained VA Cemeteries, but millions more are buried in private



cemeteries. All are entitled to a military service and a proper headstone or marker. On that day, two such headstones were brought to VA/NCA standards, one was raised from being almost fully sunken in the flood prone area, and another provided a brand new headstone by the NCA after having been crushed by vandals.

*continued on next page*



Pictured: 217 VMC Oak Hill Passion Flower Flag



More than 20 descendants of Army SP5 Blaise Merrick Cook drove from Miami and Jacksonville to see the new headstone unveiled and to be honored by American Legion Post 285 of Edgewater, FL with their Honor Guard. They performed folding the flag and presented it to her sister, the rifle salute and Taps. In addition, the Fitzgerald family of Mims provided their beautiful caisson while Doug Bisset and Hans Hunt of the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) connected the first veterans in America (their ancestors) with uniforms and the firing of a miniature Revolutionary War Cannon in honor of Ms. Cook.

Numerous veteran organizations from both counties planned and conducted the event. Special hats off to Dru-Ann Welch and others from the Oak Hill Saints and Sinners Historic African American Cemetery Restoration, Inc. committee. They began their work 18 months ago and still have months ahead to finish all 21 veteran sites in the still active cemetery. More than 35 veterans and others came north from Brevard to provide logistical support and funding from the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America.

It was truly a case of many communities, including many veterans, coming together. When the 45 minute ceremony was over and the work continued, there were many smiles and some tears, but all were happy they spent that holiday in service in a very unique way and place.

## FROM THE NET

Dayton Beach News-Journal

### **"Vandalized and timeworn Volusia County cemeteries getting repairs.**

Two hidden cemeteries for Black people in Oak Hill that time forgot are getting much-needed repairs. The cemeteries include vets'..."

Dayton Beach News-Journal

### **"Oak Hill Saints and Sinners Cemetery veterans**

Volunteers and Veterans of Foreign Wars post members traveled to the Saints and Sinners cemeteries in Oak Hill to clean up graves..."

**A Sweetheart Bake Sale**

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
 Time: 9:00 AM until all goodies are gone  
 Where: Veterans Memorial Center  
 400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, MI

Come out and snare your Valentine a special treat

All proceeds will benefit our Veterans and Children & Youth Programs

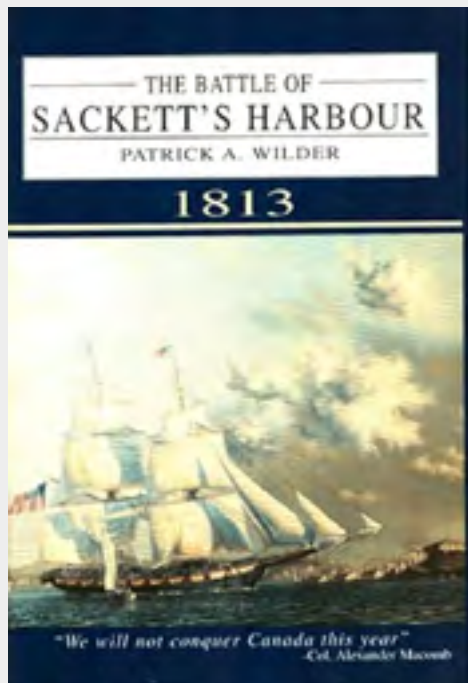




**Pictured:** Scenes from the Oak Hill Slnners and Saints Cemetary. The caisson and new gravestone form Daise Merrick Cook and raising old stones out of the ground.

## Book Report

### *The Battle of Sackett's Harbour -1813* by Patrick A. Wilder



Author Wilder is a studious sort who worked for 25 years as a New York Office of Parks and Historic Preservation historian. As such, he was unimpressed with earlier versions of the Sackett battle and set to correct earlier versions of the fracas with ground truth observation. He reviewed the terrain, making personal visits to the harbour itself, and the British, Canadian and US historical records.

This story in ten chapters is a small book about a naval battle(s) after the 1776 Boston tea party. The US declared war against the United Kingdom on June 18, 1812. Sackett's Harbor became an important naval cog in the Battle of 1812 and the Battle of Fort Erie in 1814. Sackett (Sacket) was a New York land developer who thought that the little harbor on the Lake Ontario at the entrance of the St. Lawrence River would be a good investment in the 1800s. The Harbor was well protected by the surrounding hills. Sackett built a nice house, the US built fort, and all was well. However, there seemed to be a lingering issue with the Brits as they took issue with the Americans in the area. A series of land battles and lake wars ensued.

Author Wilder takes us through these extended battles; imagine thunderous roars, ship building and naval battles on the Lake. It is an interesting read for a quick overview but it's easy to get bogged down if you want to see better detail of land troop placements and lake ship movements. Enjoy!

*(Note: Book has been donated to BVC library in honor of the five 1776 patriots in the reviewer's ancestry)*



# 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**

*One Voice of Hope*

**Our Women Veterans Transitional Facility is in need of supplies.**

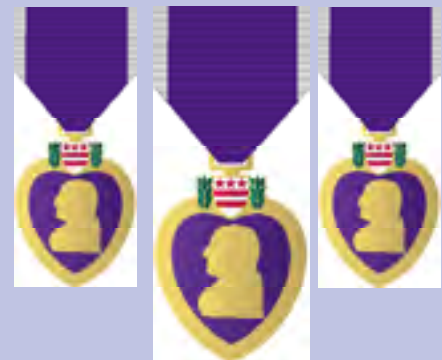
Mesh Clothes Hamper	Shaving cream/gel
Detergent/Fabric Softener	Deodorant
Dryer sheets	Razors
Mesh shower caddy	Hairbrushes/Combs
Toothbrush	Hair ties
Toothpaste	Cotton Swabs
Toilet paper	Bath sponge/loofah
Body wash	Nail Grooming Kits
Dental Floss	Band-Aids
Shampoo/Conditioner	Tissues
Mouthwash	Feminine 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
401 S Sylas Creek Pkwy	105 Long Point Rd	1795 N Harbor City Blvd
Merritt Island, FL 32952	Cape Canaveral, FL 32020	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

The month of January was a quiet one while everyone recuperated from the holidays. Our women veterans did join together for some yoga fun and decided that they would love to have "Yoga with Dena" incorporated as a monthly event. So that's what we will do; contact me for more details.

We have several events coming up but our next luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 11:30 AM. We will have special guests to speak with our veterans; Lisa Martel, to talk about the services available to our women veterans as well as Dr. Dixie Riepl who will discuss Workforce Development. It is sure to be an interesting meeting.

If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Dorothy Walsh at [dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com](mailto:dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com).



Source: US Department of Veterans Affairs



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
to be Part of

**The Women Veteran Outreach & Support Program**

**Sponsored By The Brevard Veterans Council**

**The Veterans Memorial Center &**

**Their Voice of Hope**

*Their Voice  
of Hope*

**Special Guest Speaker:**

**Lisa Martel, LCSW**

**Women Veteran Program Manager**

**Orlando VA Medical Center**

**Tuesday February 20, 2024**

**11:30—1:30**

**Veterans Memorial Center**

**400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy**

**Merritt Island, FL**

**This event and the  
program are for women  
veterans only please**

**Created to address  
the unique needs of  
our women veterans**

**Lunch will be served**

**Please RSVP to Dorothy Walsh at [Dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com](mailto:Dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com)**

# 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](mailto: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.



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



## Old Fish House Restaurant

249 W Cocoa Beach CSWY

Cocoa Beach FL 32931

[oldfishhouse-restaurant.com](http://oldfishhouse-restaurant.com)

321.799.9190

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

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

Sunday & Monday: CLOSED

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





# The Patriot Report

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



## How TRICARE Covers Ambulance Services

In some emergencies, an ambulance could be the difference between life and death. Fortunately, your TRICARE plan covers ambulance services in these events. "TRICARE covers ambulance services when medically necessary, based on the condition of the beneficiary receiving the service," said Elan Green, chief of TRICARE Health Plan's Medical Benefit and Reimbursement Section at the Defense Health Agency. "It's good to know how TRICARE covers these services before you have an emergency. This can help you avoid surprise costs." If you have TRICARE For Life, you must follow Medicare's rules for ambulance services.\* This doesn't apply if you live outside the United States and U.S. territories. For other plans, read on to learn how TRICARE covers ambulance services.

*\*Medicare rules are lengthy and will be provided at a later date.*

### Outpatient and Inpatient Ambulance Services

Your location plays a role in the type of ambulance service you receive. Outpatient ambulance service happens when an ambulance takes you from your home, an accident scene, or another location to a hospital. Inpatient ambulance service happens when an ambulance takes you from one hospital to a hospital more capable of providing the care you need. These services have out-of-pocket costs based on:

- Your TRICARE plan.
- Your beneficiary group.
- Whether you go to a network hospital or a non-network hospital.
- Whether the ambulance service is inpatient or outpatient.

You can find these costs with the Compare Costs tool. Call your regional contractor to learn more.

### Treat-and-Release Service

Treat-and-release service is when an ambulance treats you for an emergency but doesn't take you to a hospital. TRICARE covers treat-and-release when:

- The services you receive are medically necessary.
- You don't need to go to a hospital.

- You refuse transport after being treated.

### Air and Boat Evacuation

Emergency transport by air or boat may be medically necessary. TRICARE covers air or boat evacuation only if:

- A regular "land" ambulance can't get to you.
- The nearest facility is far away or there are other obstacles.
- You must be seen quickly for your medical condition.
- You can't safely get the care you need in your location.
- You're taken to the nearest hospital with appropriate facilities.

### Ambulance Services Overseas

The TRICARE Overseas contractor, International SOS, provides 24/7 support if you need emergency care. Call International SOS to confirm your coverage before you receive ambulance transport. On the Contact Us page, choose where you're located to see a list of contact numbers, including Medical Assistance numbers. As noted in the TRICARE Overseas Program Handbook, you should only call Medical Assistance numbers to coordinate emergency care.

### Limitations

TRICARE doesn't cover ambulance services that aren't medically necessary. To learn more about what TRICARE covers, check out Ambulance Services. Remember, if you have a medical emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

*Source: By TRICARE Communications*

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



## Serving the BMC and Community Brevard County Detachment 513

### COLLABORATION AT THE BVMC

This may be a good time to talk about the organizational structure of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, i.e. the "BVMC". This entity is actually comprised of two separate bodies, the Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) and the affiliated Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). Overseeing both of these entities is an Executive Committee to manage the day to day business and provide Command, Control and Communications. Both organizations work to assist veterans (and their families) in need. While the BVC works with assistance groups throughout Brevard county, the VMC houses "tenant" veteran service organizations (VSO's) which utilize the facilities to support their causes. Currently 17 groups comprise the Tenant Committees. Groups such as the Sea Cadets, Sons of the American Revolution, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, the Fleet Reserve Association, and several other VSO's comprise Tenant Committees. All of these working to keep the museum and the grounds, an 82 acre Brevard County park, centered on veteran affairs and support.

Our monthly membership meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 0930, pulls together government (state and federal), private, and membership organizations to help all veterans in need in Brevard county. Over 35 different participants are available to co-ordinate and participate in veteran services with the BVMC working as the hub in this effort.



The Old View

Recently, two of our tenants came together when they saw a need with-in the center. After a new overhead projector was installed in the Gray Room to increase the technical capabilities and provide support for the units that utilize the facility, it became apparent that the previous connection methods were insufficient and outdated. The Marine Corps League and The Fleet Reserve Association came together to fund, purchase, and install two new interfaces for the projector, dressing up the area, and providing a clean look to the room and facility.

Two hours of work from by two organizations! Imagine the tenants worked together, or in when there is a need. Each of our Tenant Committee Chairman if you together we can make the BVMC an



The Two Guys

two individuals backed possibilities if all 17 conjunction, to "give back" to the center tenant members can work through the want to reach out to another tenant. Working even better place to house our organizations.



The New Look

Dennis Herring  
VMC Tenant Committee Chairman  
Brevard Veterans Memorial Council



# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar February 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/>

## FEBRUARY

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

**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.

**13 Feb – Senator Rubio's staff will be in the VMC Library** from 1100 - 1300 hours to meet with Veterans and their families - no appointment necessary.

**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.

**27 Feb – VMC Library Discussion Program** 1800-1930, Topic and Speaker TBD.

## 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 of 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.

**26 Mar – VMC Library Discussion Program** 1800-1930, Topic and Speaker TBD.

## APRIL 2024

**15 Apr – Deadline to sign up to as vendor/participant in the 36th Annual Florida All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park** featuring VVB's Traveling Walls from Vietnam and GWOT. Contact Doc Russo 321-652-4185 or RARusso1962@gmail.com

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



## ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

[www.atlanticmusiccenter.com](http://www.atlanticmusiccenter.com)

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





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	<a href="mailto:jdavie@cfl.rr.com">jdavie@cfl.rr.com</a>
Paul Julian	321-749-7369	<a href="mailto:pjulian54@yahoo.com">pjulian54@yahoo.com</a>

## VIDEOGRAPHERS

Joe Davie	321-626-5462	<a href="mailto:jdavie@cfl.rr.com">jdavie@cfl.rr.com</a>
Paul Julian	321-749-7369	<a href="mailto:pjulian54@yahoo.com">pjulian54@yahoo.com</a>

## VHP SUPPORT

Bill Wilkening	321-428-3422	Hank Rhodes	321-799-1219
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BECOME A BOOSTER TODAY and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.  
Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



## Boosters

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

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Clark, Garrett Sept, 2024

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2024

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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

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Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norman, Ray April, 2027

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Sherman, Rheta Campbell Oct, 2024

Taylor, Skip USA (Ret.) June, 2024

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Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2024

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If you feel your name is missing and that you paid for Booster sponsorship this year, please contact the Treasurer. Thank you for your forbearance and understanding. Fill in your names and send to the BVC along with your check.

Please make your check payable to: Brevard Veterans Council (Boosters).

Single Name per year- \$10.00 / Double Names - \$20.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_