



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

MARCH 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Color Guard Training Updates

The official color guard of the Veterans Memorial Center will be ready for their first appearance at the Last Naval Battle.

— page 5

A Beautiful Day for the JROTC Event on February 24

Great effort and performances by cadets from nine programs on Saturday morning.

— page 11

How Medicare Covers Ambulance Services for TriCare for Life Veterans

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

— page 22

VMC Hosts Major Initiative supporting the County

A new project in Brevard launched on 15 Feb at the VMC Museum: the Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC).

— details page 6

Photo by R. Scruggs

MARCH 2024

COURIER CONTENTS

President's Report • Page 3

Library Report • Page 4

Chaplain's Report • Page 7

Park and Plaza Report • Page 10

Book Report • Page 15

Women's Veteran Outreach • Pages 18-19

Patriot Report • Page 21

Event Calendar • Page 26

Boosters • Page 28

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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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)

Activities and Events

Last month I was on a cruise to the Panama Canal and Paula Biggs did an excellent job filling in for me by writing my column. Thanks Paula, I could not have said it better.

This month starts off with a **Back Brevard Heroes (BBH)** event in the park on March 2nd. Come out and enjoy the fun with a Car Show, food trucks, vendor displays and much more. **Please come out and support this major event!** We had to reschedule this event because of the rain on the weekend of February 17-18. The Medal of Honor fundraiser for the future Memorial, to be located in the park, was also cancelled on Sunday the 18th and will be rescheduled as well.

Another major event coming up is the **241st commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War** fought off the coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. It will be held from 1000 - 1200 at the VMC Plaza area with food and drinks and a parade of colors and wreaths with many in colonial attire. It is sponsored by the Brevard chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution along with the VMC.

The rest of the month has many more events scheduled that are on our activities calendar. Going into April, I would like to mention another event coming up sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Propeller Club of which I am a member of and on their Board of Directors. The **Propeller Club ShrimpFeast** will be held at Terminal 5 on Friday, April 5th from 6 - 8:30 pm and is an annual fundraising event to support the Sea Cadets Courageous Division and Maritime Education Programs. This is a

fun event, wear your best Hawaiian shirt for the contest, with a live band, dancing, silent and live auctions featuring our very own Sheriff Ivey. If you have never been to one of his auctions, they are a real treat.

The VMC Building and Park

In the January Courier, I gave an update on the **Amphitheater** progress and the County Manager has approved the Scope of Responsibilities that our task force was working on. We are still waiting for the county to finish a parking study before we can proceed with the project. That will be completed by April. This week, the VMC and Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) went to the Tourist Development Council to request more funding for the Amphitheater and it was approved. Now it's with the County Commissioners for final approval.

We are still improving our "lobby" entrance and have met with the DAV to present our plans prepared for us by Vic Rogers. Thanks Vic, for all your work and ideas. I am sure everyone will be impressed with the fresh look of our entry way when we are finished.

Finally, thanks again to Paula for filling in for me last month. Her comments on Volunteering were spot on. I want to thank all volunteers for keeping the Center operating and for all your dedication. God bless you and all armed services as we serve our nation.

Dean

GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY
GO PURDUE in the NCAA March
Madness Tournament

VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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



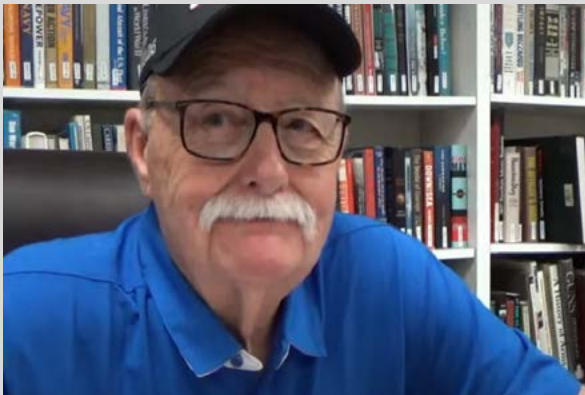


Library Notes

SGT Joe Davie,
USAF (Fmr)
VMC Librarian

Find a Book in VMC library using Key Word, Title or Author

If you are doing military research, you can click on the link above to search our collection by Title, Authors Name, or Subtitle Keyword content. How to open a find field to enable searching our catalog. If you are using a computer hit the "Control F" Key after opening the above link. If using a Smart Phone use the magnifier glass icon to search our catalog after opening the find a book link above. If you find a book to check out, please get it at the VMC during our regular library hours during the week or Sunday afternoons.



Veterans History Project Interview: Gary E McCauley

Captain McCauley served in the US Air Force in the 321 Strategic Missile Wing during the Vietnam Era. Gary was located in Grand Forks, ND and won the Distinguished Unit Award. He served from 1966 to 1970.

[Click to see Gar E. McCauley's full Veterans History Project interview.](#)



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN

Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 6:00-7:30 PM
The Library, Veterans Memorial Center
Merritt Island, FL

Presented by
Doug Bisset

The outcome in Yorktown Virginia, marked the conclusion of the last major battle of the American Revolution and the start of a new nation's independence. The photo pictured above was taken by Doug Bisset when he visited the Yorktown battlefield. Doug is one of our librarians and an authority on the American Revolution. Doug is also the Historian for the local Sons of The American Revolution (SAR) organization. His SAR chapter has donated twenty new books about the American Revolution to the library in the last two years. Everyone is invited to attend these library discussion group meetings.



ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

atlanticmusiccenter.com

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



Color Guard Training Going Well

The official color guard of the Veterans Memorial Center is still in training, but will be ready for their first appearance at the Last Naval Battle.

Under the guidance of Drill Captains Don Pearsall, and Bryant Faulkenberry, the guard will be under the control of EXCOM. They will approve the appearance if the event is off site.

Not only will they be present at VMC Events, but available at a cost, to anyone wishing flag honors at Celebrations of Life or other events held at the facility. The uniforms for military honors will change from the traditional burgundy berets and neck scarf to the black ceremonial berets and black neck tie.

Currently we have four flags and two riflemen. They will be led in by a horizontal banner. You do not need to be prior military, just be over 18, a member of the Veterans Memorial Center and live in Brevard County.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of this guard, please contact Don Pearsall at (321) 313-2444 or any EXCOM officer. They will supply the training and uniforms for those who wish part of this squad honoring veterans and their service.

Veterans' Children's Easter Party

*American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344
Annual Veterans' Children's Easter Party*

Saturday March 23, 2024 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Veterans Memorial Park, 400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy.
Merritt Island

All Veterans' children & grandchildren are welcome, we just need to know you'll be there so please RSVP by Tuesday, March 28th Diane: (607) 382-3405 or dianed276@yahoo.com

games, crafts, lunch, and an Easter egg hunt with the Easter Bunny

Contributions of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate), small Dollar Tree type Easter baskets, and candy filled plastic Easter eggs can be left at the MOD office at the Veterans Memorial Center. Please be sure to mark it for Diane Davison, ALA 344

American Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale was a success!



Pictured: Dean Schaaf (VMC President) presenting members of the American Legion Auxiliary with an additional donation at their Feb 14 bake sale

VMC Hosts Major Initiative to Support Brevard County

by Donn Weaver

After months of planning meetings, mostly at the VMC, a new project in Brevard launched on 15 Feb at the VMC Museum. It is the Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC). The group will eventually include leaders from all schools, public, private, and home school at all grade levels; DoD, USG Contractors, and active-duty military outreach units; many veteran organizations and other groups like Rotary that sponsor scholarships and other youth programs. The program is set to launch in August when the new 2024-25 school year begins.

The group has three goals:

1. A) Steer students toward the more than 23 Brevard County Museums to both visit for credit and to perform service hours. This part will kick off in the summer if all goes well.
2. B) Engage all veteran and many civic groups to provide details of their student scholarship and awards programs as well as military track training programs from Academies to STEM programs to be compiled in a list including deadlines, details and how to apply information. This will then be made available to all guidance counsellors and other teachers in all schools to encourage a wider range of participation. All this will be intended to help students find and fund more education.
3. C) Expand opportunities for STEM related learning through new programs in the Brevard Public Schools; an outreach STEM program at PSFB; and other organizational STEM programs like the Civil Air Patrol, Fleet Reserve at Titusville HS and more.

The next planning meeting of ECAC will be 02 May at the VMC Museum 1800-2000, when more members outlined above will be invited to join and sign-up for their programs.

Contact MOAACC, Vets Back to Class and VMC Rep to ECAC, Donn Weaver. (757-871-6576), for more information.



Pictured: BPS School Board Member Matt Susin speaks to the 28 assembled at the 15 Feb kick off meeting of ECAC.



Pictured: Networking after the meeting in a unique VMC Museum.



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf speaks about VMC and the Museums of Brevard (MOB).



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain
Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

This month I am going to pass along information about our National Cemeteries.

ALL Veterans with an honorable discharge are eligible to be interred in any National Cemetery. No one can reserve a spot in any National Cemetery. The exception is if both Spouses are Veterans, and one dies the remaining Spouse can reserve the spot next to the deceased.

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

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

Cremation as an Option

Cremated remains represent about 75% of interments in National Cemeteries. They receive the same honors as casketed remains. However, with cremated remains, there are 4 separate ways of interment:

- They can be buried in the same manner as a casket, with the same headstone as a standard casket grave.
- The cremated remains can be placed in the columbarium (a wall with areas for the urns).
- The ashes can be buried in the Ossuary (a Memorial Garden) and the name placed on the Memorial Wall.
- Finally, if the Family chooses to spread the ashes in a manner that cannot be visited (such as spreading them around in the ocean or a meadow or other ways the Veteran wanted to interred), the name of the Veteran can be placed on the Memorial Wall.

Visit the VA at
<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>
 to read how to apply for
 burial allowances

There is never a charge for any interment at a National Cemetery or the Memorial Wall.

Finally, Veterans aren't eligible if they were convicted of a Tier III sex offense and sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment—and the conviction is final. These Veterans also don't qualify for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, a burial flag, a headstone, or a marker. (Oct 12, 2022)

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

-- George S. Patton

John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

God Bless America
 Chaplain Chip Hanson

FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Barrancas Naval Air Station 1 Cemetery Rd Pensacola, FL 32508-1054 (850) 453-4108 | St. Augustine 104 Marine St St. Augustine, FL 32084-5004 (904) 766-5222 |
| Florida 6502 SW 102nd Ave Bushnell, FL 33513-8914 (352) 793-7740 | South Florida 6501 S State Rd 7 Lake Worth, FL 33449-5309 (561) 649-6489 |
| Cape Canaveral 5525 U.S. Highway 1 Mims, FL 32754-4826 (321) 383-2638 | Jacksonville 4083 Lannie Rd Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247 (904) 766-5222 |
| Bay Pines 10000 Bay Pines Blvd St. Petersburg, FL 33708 (727) 319-6479 | Tallahassee 5015 Apalachee Pkwy Tallahassee, FL 32311 (850) 402-8941 |
| Sarasota 9810 State Rd 72 Sarasota, FL 34241-9574 (941) 922-7200 | |



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**Jalaine
Spears**
Assistant Store
Manager

Greetings! Well, the ground hog saw his shadow so we are to have an early spring but the cool weather is still hanging on. The good news is that we now have long sleeve Veteran's Memorial Center shirts in red, aqua, navy and black.

We also have some ship models, and various planes for the collector in your household. Come see the large selection of challenge coins in addition to our regular merchandise of hats, t-shirts, messenger bags, toys, etc. We also have some novelty Navy bears. Visit us and replenish your stock of military items and support the museum!





Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center



Brevard County's Newest Military Exhibit



TRIBUTE TO THE VIETNAM VETERAN



HUNDREDS OF AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS

"Preserving the Legacy"

Call for times: 321-212-9726

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

2475 Jen Drive #5 Melbourne, FL 32940

Rt 1 & Pineda Causeway - Across from Grills Restaurant

Member of the

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A National Veterans Service Organization

VVA Chapter 1096 Melbourne FL 321-326-3247

In Service to America





Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Bricks, Benches and Trees

The Brick Bench and Tree Team reports a light month of orders
Shaun McKinney

Bricks: Five new submissions were received. All orders are at CSPRAY and will be in place in early March 2024.

Trees: All memorial plates for the trees are in hand in the VMC Library.

Benches: We have one open order for a bench with arms. We are expecting to receive that bench by March 15th.

White Stone Benches on the Plaza: All updates to the white plaza benches are complete. CSPRAY added one name to add to the Merritt Island Bench in February.

There is one Eagle Scout project which will be completed in the plaza in March and April 2024. This project will include an independent inventory location of all 1,000+ bricks and will establish an electronic location for use in our future plaza kiosk.

The Brick, Bench and Tree Team consisting of Garet 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.



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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





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

A Beautiful Day for the JROTC Event on February 24

What a terrific and beautiful Saturday morning, February 24th at the VMC. The smooth operation and great effort and performances by cadets from nine programs was astounding. Dozens of parents and cadets thanked us old veterans for providing the VMC Park and MOAACC/Good Deeds Support today and through the years. What a good day and set up for the 09 March District Drill Championship. Thought you all would enjoy this unique photo.



— All 7 Army JROTC Drill Teams attended along with the Orange County based Umatilla HS Army JROTC Drill Team and the AFJROTC Satellite HS Color Guard Teams.

— This meet included Platoon, Squad, Individual and Color Guard teams with armed and unarmed versions.

— All Drill Team Members were awarded the JROTC Drill Ribbon to wear during the JROTC careers.

— The visitors from Umatilla walked away with the overall first place prize which was earned on the parade ground, but also since they got up at 0400 and parents had to carpool to get them here when the bus broke down.

Days like today make our effort to support cadet programs visibly worthwhile.



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA





JROTC at Veterans Memorial Park on Feb 10 starting at sunrise.



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by Donn Weaver

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Pictured: Networking after the meeting in a unique VMC Museum.



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf speaks about VMC and the Museums of Brevard (MOB).

Thank a Vietnam Veteran on March 23rd

By Jim Carleton, Vice Chairman Brevard Veterans Council

Join the nation and thank a Vietnam Veteran on March 23rd, 2024 at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery during the United States of America's 50th Year Vietnam War Commemoration.

The Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025.

The objectives for this Commemoration are:

- To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War
- To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War
- To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front
- To highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine
- To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by our allies

There are approximately 7 million veterans living today who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War. Join us in this noble mission and thank a Vietnam Veteran for his or her service and welcome them home. For some, it may be long overdue.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIETNAM WAR
50th Anniversary Commemoration



CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
10 a.m.

5525 U.S. HIGHWAY 1 • SCOTTSMOOR, FLORIDA

To thank and honor Vietnam War veterans, including those held as prisoners of war (POW) or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

Your attendance to recognize our Vietnam Veterans, and their families, is much appreciated.

 The Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin will be presented to all Vietnam and Vietnam era veterans by the Unforgettable Memories Foundation.

Veterans from all wars and their families are invited.

For more information, contact: Tom Fitzgerald 321.403.0120

SUPPORT COMMITTEE
CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Support Committee at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, Inc. is not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any Military Service.

VMC Library Discussion Group Series



Everyone agrees John Wilkes Booth fired the bullet that killed Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater. But that is where the agreement over the assassination of Lincoln ends. The controversies and debates swirled around those fateful events from that day to now.

Wayne will give us a multi-media presentation and will take us on a wild and colorful journey to learn and remember the key people and events. The journey will start by looking at the making of a conspiracy, then review the planning and the actual dynamics of the assassination, then travel with Booth on his escape and watch

"The Myths, Mysteries and Facts: of the Booth Conspiracy, Lincoln's Assassination, the Manhunt and Trial."

Presented by Wayne Rowe
 Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 6:00-7:30pm
 The Library, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island

the largest manhunt in the history of America unfold. Wayne will briefly cover the conspiracy trial and why it's proceedings and verdicts remain controversial still today. There will be a few sidebars to include Lincoln's funeral and travel back to Springfield, IL to be buried and the Booth.

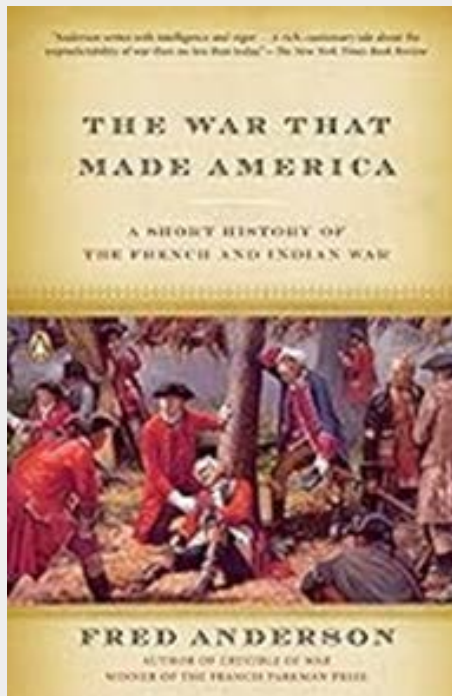
Wayne's mastery of PowerPoint presentations is second to none, so come to our meeting and join us on what will be an interesting and fun journey to discover the facts, mysteries and myths behind the assassination of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth.



Pictured: Bayside High School JROTC Present the Colors During the BVMC Membership Meeting on 14 Feb

Book Report

The War that Made America, A short History of the French and Indian War, by Fred Anderson.



The War that Made America, A short History of the French and Indian War, by Fred Anderson.

The French settled in Quebec at about the same time as the British settled in Jamestown and Plymouth. The French explored and claimed the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, but the English primarily stayed along the east coast. For the French, rivers were their roads. French traded with the Indians and lived among them. The English live apart from the Indians. In fact, the English fought several minor wars with the Indians in New England in the 1600s.

In October of 1753, Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent Washington to the disputed territory to ask the French to leave – the French refused. Washington returned to Williamsburg, Virginia arriving in January 1754. His report to the Governor indicated “The French have swept south.” The Painting on the book cover depicts the wounding of British General Braddock by Robert Griffing. British Army General Braddock shown wearing the red uniform and Virginia Militia officer George Washington wearing the Blue Coat.

By Bill Wilkening Catalog # Revolution-79.



A TISKET...A TASKET...LET'S FILL AN EASTER BASKET

When: Saturday, March 16, 2024 @ 9am

Where: Indian River Lanes Bowling Alley 800 Cheney Hwy Titusville, FL

Let us not forget those that are so far away from home this Easter. OASIS, in conjunction with our generous contributors, will be packing boxes to send Easter boxes to the troops currently serving in the Global War on Terror. We're accepting candy, cards, deployed military addresses and monetary donations to help with postage.

If you have a loved one serving overseas or would like to contribute, please contact us at:

www.oasisofcfl.org

OASIS

P.O. Box 542768

Merritt Island, FL 32954

OASIS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

All donations are tax deductible. All sponsors recognized.

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/oasisofcfl>

Instagram: @OASISOFCFL

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Tess Brady Heribacka cofounder@oasisofcfl.org 321-243-7753 Cofounder | Patty Carlson scholarship@oasisofcfl.org 607-684-5483 Director Scholarship | Beñ Garrison fundraising@oasisofcfl.org 321-208-6955 Fundraising Director | Hope Rutherford marketing@oasisofcfl.org 240-577-1467 Marketing Director |
| Laura Lawrence Holmes 321-607-0195 lnholmes45@yahoo.com Project Coordinator | Robin Nicol 321-652-2699 Robin4OASIS@yahoo.com Project Administrator | Cathie Beskow 321-210-2783 EventCoordinatorOASIS@yahoo.com Event Coordinator | Michelle Wilson 321-704-1053 Bonds_michelle@yahoo.com Project Administrator |

VA is Hiring!!!!

With Preference to Veterans & Eligible Spouses

In support of the Congressionally approved "Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act" the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will soon recruit veterans and qualified military spouses to fill federal civil service jobs ~~ and are seeking qualified candidates possessing the following skill-sets:

- Information Technology Specialists
- Customer Services (Medical Claims Examiners/Representatives)

- Logistics (Supply Chain Management) Specialists
- Acquisition/Inventory Management Specialists
- Management and Program Analysts
- Specialty Medical Staff

**In many instances, employment opportunities will offer remote (virtual) work locations, and you can work from home.

To expedite the process, you are highly encouraged to create an account and load your resume within **USA-JOBS.Gov**.

Women Veteran Outreach & Support



Our Women Veterans Transitional Facility is in need of supplies

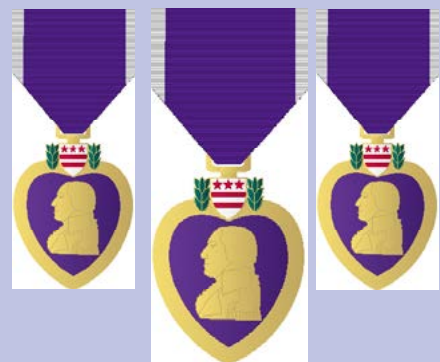
| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mesh Clothes Hamper | Shaving cream/gel |
| Detergent/Fabric Softener | Deodorant |
| Dryer sheets | Razors |
| Mesh shower caddy | Hairbrushes/Combs |
| Toothbrush | Hair ties |
| Toothpaste | Cotton Swabs |
| Toilet paper | Bath sponge/loofah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

Drop Off Locations:

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

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

Thank You!!



ATTENTION!

If you have been awarded
one of these,
DID YOU KNOW . . .
There is a MOPH Chapter
at the Veteran Center on
Merritt Island?

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

Women Veteran Outreach & Support Group

Our first luncheon of the year was a nice one. We had Lisa Martel, Women Veteran Program Manager from the VA come and speak with our veterans and share some of the services that the VA offers specifically for Women Veterans. We also had Dr. Dixie Riepel come and speak about accessing Vocational Rehab services. Our next luncheon will be on April 23, 2024, see flyer.

We will be having monthly yoga sessions for women veterans. These will be held in the Gray Hall at the Veterans Memorial Center. See flyer.

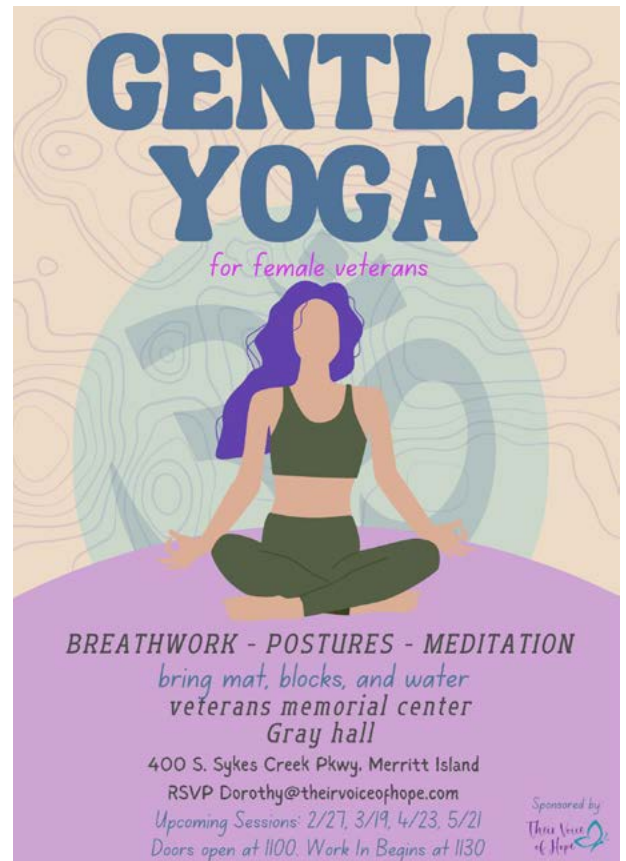
The month of March is Women History month, and we will be having several outings, kayaking and hiking that our women warriors can attend and get out and enjoy nature and the camaraderie of other women veterans. See flyers.

Our group is growing, and we are working on various ways to get the word out to the public and invite more of our women veterans to come and join us – in their own private safe space. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

For God & Country,

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

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















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



Special Guest Speaker:
TBA

Tuesday April 23, 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

Lunch will be served

Created to address the unique needs of our women veterans

Please RSVP to Dorothy Walsh at Dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com

KAYAKING at BALLARD PARK

Saturday, March 30th

10 am to 12:30 (approximate end time)

Ballard Park, 924 Thomas Barbour Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935

We will have a short guided tour on a sit-on-top kayak on the gentle inland waterway. Time spent on the water will be determined by the number of people attending. All kayakers must sign a safety waiver and a personal floatation device must be worn while on the water.

- All women Veterans are invited
- Wear/bring water shoes or flip-flops (your feet may get wet)
- Bring water, a hat, bug spray, and a sack lunch
- Picnic area provided
- Restrooms are available

Due to the limited number of kayaks, only 15 participants will be accepted and must sign up individually before 8pm on March 28th

Sign up here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/7c6e5ac9-84f8-4bc5-9e2f-47d1ccb7b716>

This event is supported by the Space Coast chapter of Heroes on the Water, a national veteran's nonprofit organization. <https://heroesonthewater.org/chapters/space-coast-florida/>



HIKE at MERRITT ISLAND PINE ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA

Tuesday, March 5th

9:45 am to 12:30 PM (approximate end time)

6195 N Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL 32953

We will tour the oldest standing home in Brevard County, the 1875 Sams family cabin. We will also walk along the trail through a live oak hammock. It's an easy flat hike on a mostly shaded dirt trail with tree roots. Trail conditions vary due to recent weather. The hike is about *1.5 miles*.

- All women Veterans are invited.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots. The ground may be wet.
- Bring water, bug spray, and a sack lunch.
- Restrooms are available.

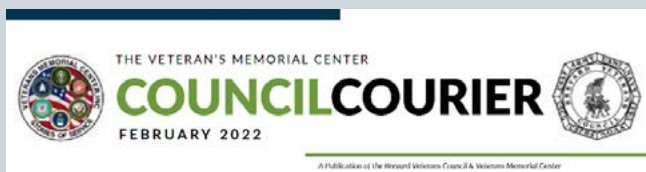
Sign up here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/4a8c8b24-2b2e-4e4e-b336-d9cf0a547ee8>



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

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UNIQUE ART
by
Dan Haddad

310 Le Jeune Dr
Merritt Island, FL 32953

321-536-5585
rrragent@gmail.com

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



Old Fish House Restaurant

249 W Cocoa Beach CSWY

Cocoa Beach FL 32931

oldfishhouse-restaurant.com

321.799.9190

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

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

Sunday & Monday: CLOSED

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



The Patriot Report

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

Meet Your Service Officer: Rodger A. Pickett

Rodger A. Pickett: Born 19 Feb 1945 grew up as an Air Force dependent, attending 18 schools in twelve years and finally graduating from Taipei American High School in 1963, I attended Indian State Univ. for 3 years and joined the U.S. Army Warrant Officer flight training program.



Graduating as a W-01 in 1968 and assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Tx. for training as a Medical Evacuation (Dust-off) Pilot. After a Combat tour in Vietnam** in 1969 and teaching basic helicopter flying at Fort Wolters Tx. for 3 yrs., I accepted a direct commission as an Armor Officer and went on to Fort Riley Ks. to command the First Infantry Division Adjutant General Company.

Leaving the Army in 1975 and completing his B.S. degree at Kansas State University in 1976 I obtained a position with

the General Dynamics F-16 program office in Fort Worth Tx., managing the retrofit and configuration management programs for the F-16 fleets of Israel, Egypt, and Venezuela.

Leaving General Dynamics in 1985 I moved to my family home in Brevard County FL. and joined Harris Corporation in Palm Bay FL, rising to Senior Principal Engineer, I managed several diverse workforce teams in Logistics and Information Technology.

In 1997 at Computer Sciences Raytheon and later L-3, I Directed a \$24 million dollar supply support program for the Space Lift Range contract at Patrick AFB. I architected and directed the implementation of the MAXIMO Material Review Program, providing total asset visibility of all range equipment. I designed, wrote and implemented the Logistics Management Information database and managed the Materials Planning



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

function until 2008.

As a resident of the Florida Space Coast, I provided IT management expertise and high-level logistics management on many multi-million-dollar contracts for L-3 Communications, Titan, CSR, IAP, and Harris Corporations.

I joined the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in 1994 after recognizing and admitting I had several service-connected disabilities and became a Service Officer in 2014 to help other Veterans recognize service-connected disabilities and how to get help and compensation from the VA for those disabilities. To date serving over 5000 volunteer DAV hours, I am the Senior. Service Officer and Senior Vice Commander for DAV Chapter 123 in Merritt Island. I am also an accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for the DAV Department of Florida, currently serving at the Viera VA Clinic. I also hold a Commercial Instrument Pilot Certificate for Helicopter and Fixed Wing aircraft.

**Rodger is really a modest man. He does not know I am adding the following to his biography. While I was watching "Wings Over Vietnam" I got to the part about the "Dust Off" operations and I got interested in it and started to research more and I found the following:

PICKETT, ROGER A.

Chief Warrant Officer 2, Army Medical Department,
U.S. Army

68th Medical Detachment (HA)

Date of Action: 23 May 1969



Citation: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942, as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942, AR 672-5-1, and USARV Reg 672-1, the Air Medal with "V" device for heroic achievement while participating in aerial flight is awarded to Chief Warrant Officer Two Roger A. Pickett, Army Medical Department, United States Army, for heroism in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam. Chief Warrant Officer Pickett was the aircraft commander of a dustoff helicopter that was called upon to evacuate the wounded from a helicopter that had been shot down by hostile fire. The ship had gone down in a dense jungle area and a hoist rescue was required. Other helicopters that had been in the area had drawn heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. After assessing the ground situation and his gunship support, CW2 Pickett decided to attempt the extraction. As CW2 Pickett skillfully maneuvered the aircraft to a tree top hover over the crash wreckage, the hoist was lowered. The injured on the ground was unable to get to the hoist and the crew chief volunteered to ride the hoist down and to aid the wounded soldier. As CW2 Pickett continued to hold the aircraft hover, the crew chief went down with the hoist, located the injured, and crawled with him back to the hoist. At this time the dustoff helicopter came under fire from hostile ground forces. Despite the great personal dangers involved, CW2 Pickett maintained the aircraft at a hover until the injured soldier and the crew chief were aboard the aircraft. Chief Warrant Officer Pickett's skills as a pilot and heroism in the face of known enemy danger are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

General Order number 27, Headquarters, 44th Medical Brigade, 7 January 1970.

How Medicare Covers Ambulance Services for TriCare for Life Veterans

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

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers ground ambulance transportation when traveling in any other vehicle could endanger your health, and you need medically necessary services from a:

- Hospital
- Critical access hospital
- Rural emergency hospital, or
- Skilled nursing facility

Medicare may pay for emergency ambulance transportation in an airplane or helicopter if you need immediate and rapid transport that ground transportation can't provide.

In some cases, Medicare may pay for limited, medically necessary, non-emergency ambulance transportation if you have a written order from your doctor stating that the transportation is medically necessary. For example, someone with End-Stage Renal Disease may need medically necessary ambulance transport to a kidney dialysis facility.

Your costs in Original Medicare After you meet the Part B deductible, you pay 20% of the Medicare-Approved Amount.

Your doctor or other health care provider may recommend you get services more often than Medicare covers. Or they may recommend services that Medicare doesn't cover. If this happens, you may have to pay some or all the costs. Ask questions so you understand why your doctor is recommending certain services and if, or how much, Medicare will pay for them.

To find out how much your test, item, or service will cost, talk to your doctor or health care provider. The specific amount you'll owe may depend on several things, like:

- Other insurance you may have.
- How much your doctor charges.
- If your doctor accepts assignment
- The type of facility
- Where you get your test, item, or service.

Things to know:

Medicare will only cover ambulance services to the nearest appropriate medical facility that's able to give you the care you need. The ambulance company must give you an "Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)" when both of these apply:

- You got ambulance services in a non-emergency situation.

- The ambulance company believes that Medicare may not pay for your specific ambulance service.

You may now be affected by a Medicare demonstration program if:

- You get scheduled, non-emergency ambulance transportation for 3 or more round trips in a 10-day period or at least once a week for 3 weeks or more.
- You get this transportation from any ambulance company nationwide.

Under this demonstration, your ambulance company may send a request for prior authorization to Medicare before your fourth-round trip in a 30-day period. They'll do this so you and the company will know earlier in the process if Medicare is likely to cover your services.

If your prior authorization request isn't approved and you continue getting these services, Medicare will deny the claim and the ambulance company may bill you for all charges. Either you or your ambulance company may request prior authorization for these scheduled, non-emergency ambulance services.

For more information, call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY: 1-877-486-2048.

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VMC Library Discussion Group Series

Adventures of the Rebel Raider Tallahassee The Ship, The Captain, and Their Stories

Presented by Wayne Rowe, CDR, USN-ret

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 6:00-7:30pm

The Library, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island

The Ship -- CSS Tallahassee

A true story of maritime audacity that has never received proper treatment.

In August 1864, the Confederate Navy deployed the fast cruiser Tallahassee to threaten the Northeast Coast of US. A beleaguered Lincoln administration faces the possibility of a failed war effort and a probable defeat in the coming national election.

At the same time, the leaders of the Confederate government desperately seek victory in their struggle for their nation's survival.

The success or failure of the raid would have an impact on the public perception-both North and South-regarding the overall progress of the war.

The Captain -- John Taylor Wood



John Taylor Wood, was a 3rd-generation military man born in 1830, at Fort Snelling (now the city of St. Paul, Minnesota), where his father, Robert Crooke Wood, was an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army.

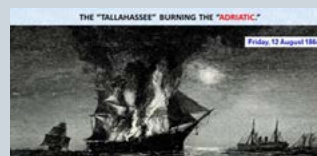
His mother, Anne Taylor, was a daughter of the post's commander, General Zachary Taylor, a future president of the United States. [grandson]

And when a young officer named Jefferson Davis married one of the general's other daughters, Sarah, Wood also became the nephew of the future president of the Confederate States of America.

Their Stories

One of CSS Tallahassee's ships that was captured and burned.

The Wreck of the Adriatic – Discovered off Long Island (2016)





Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



All 4 Screenings for \$149

Carotid Artery Disease:

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA):

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation :

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

We will be in your neighborhood soon on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at Merritt Island - Veterans Memorial Center

Get your special Community Circle pricing!

Three ways to register and receive the special discount:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5191

Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://llsa.social/hc)

Text: the word [circle](https://llsa.social/hc) to 216-279-1607



Getting Screened is Simple!

Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.



¹ <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/peripheral-artery-disease/about-peripheral-artery-disease-pad>

No single screening can detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

² <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation>

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar March 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/>

MARCH

02 Mar – Back Brevard Heroes Car Show Fundraiser at Veterans Memorial Park 1000-1500. Plenty of music and food trucks with prizes awarded and raffles. Major fund raiser for Back Brevard Heroes Celebration in May at the VMC.

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.
23 Mar – Veteran's Children's Easter Party in the VMC Park. All children of Veterans are welcome but please RSVP to Diane at (607) 382-3405.

23 Mar – 024 Vietnam Welcome Home Commemoration Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims. 1000-1100 with Reading of the names of those who served in Vietnam now resting at CCNC following. Open to the public. Including pinning and Honor Guard with keynote speaker Carl Miller, Vietnam Veteran and Commander of the Brevard Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter.

23 Mar – Be The One 5K Run and Walk VMC Park 0700 – 1030. Sponsored by American Legion Post 344 with half the proceeds going to preventing veteran and first responder suicides. T-shirts included with \$20 registration fee with active duty, veterans, first responders invited. Contact post344adjutant@gmail.com. or call 321-350-6163 to sign up or for questions.

26 Mar – VMC Library Discussion Program 1800-1930, The Revolutionary War Siege at Yorktown with Doug Bisset.

APRIL 2024

05 Apr – 2024 Shrimp Feast at Port Canaveral Terminal 5. Sponsored by the Propeller Club to support Maritime Education Programs. 1800- 2220 hours. Entry \$60 at the, in advance (none at the door) door but early bird discount at \$50 through 17 March. Cocktails, Shrimp Dinner, door prizes, silent and live auction with Sheriff Wayne Ivey. Contact 321-698-5296; www.spacewcoastshrimpfesat.com to register or for more information.

April 12, 2024 -National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) 3rd Annual Golf Tournament. For more information on any event Latest Events & Updates | National Veterans Homeless Support (nvhs.org)

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.](#)



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

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

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Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



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Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2024

Florida State University College of Social
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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) _____