



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

JUNE 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Applications are open for this year's scholarship program.

Pick up your applications at the library or on our website. The June 28th deadline is quickly approaching.

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AUSA Invitation to the US Army's 249th Birthday

AUSA invites all the Space Coast area veterans, Army active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and all Army veterans, to the 249th Army's Birthday, June 14, 2024

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EAA Chapter 724 Honors Special Veteran and First Responder's Children

Five children of Gold Star families flew with EAA Chapter 724.

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Memorial Day Ceremonies in Brevard

There were five major Memorial Day Ceremonies this year all over Brevard County. They were perhaps the best attended such ceremonies in several years.

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JUNE 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 and request for advertisement must be sent to the address listed below. The deadline is the third Wednesday of each month.

Please send submissions to:
brevardvmc@gmail.com

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Our Organization

As of 29 February 2024:
[List of Board Members 2023-2024](#)

As of 31 May 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)

Memorial Day was last Monday, and the Veterans Memorial Center honored our fallen. Each name engraved in our plaza and on monuments across our country represents a story of courage, sacrifice, and selflessness. They remind us that freedom comes at a great cost and that it is our duty to honor and uphold the legacy of those who have gone before us.

May was a busy month with several events to support. We went as far as Deland, Florida to participate in Volusia County Valor Days. Thanks to Ed Pingston, our amazing Curator, and to Kristi Blanchard for promoting our Museum. This was followed by a well-attended Back Brevard Heros Day at the VMC to honor all first responders. They also had a record 50/50 drawing! The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB) held a great event at Wickham Park with the Vietnam Moving Wall and subsequent walls to honor all veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice. Many veteran organizations, including the VMC, placed wreaths at the Wall to honor veterans.

With May being the end of the school year, many of us attended awards programs to present awards to the high achievers. Of special note was the MOAACC Luncheon to honor 27 JROTC Cadets from Brevard schools who received either JROTC scholarships or service Academy appointments. What an honor!

This brings me to the next topic: Scholarships! The VMC scholarships have around \$20,000 to award and the deadline is fast approaching, June 28. The Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) has around \$70,000 to award and their deadline is even closer,

June 15. PLEASE get the word out to anyone you know who needs financial assistance to continue their education.

Donn Weaver and I have been working with a coalition that consists of retired veterans, museum leaders, veteran organization leaders, educators, elected officials, and community partners. The ECAC (Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast) was formed a year ago with the sole purpose of supporting the youth of Brevard to become model citizens. The first three tasks the coalition took on to support this goal included increasing participation with local museums, increasing civic scholarships and competitions, and increasing the availability and participation of civic minded STEM programs.

The first of these goals has been completed with the Museums of Brevard (MOB) by launching a Passport Program with 20 museums around Brevard beginning on June 1st. Students will carry their passports during visits to the museums and historic homes of Brevard to get it stamped for participation and eventually receive awards and recognition from the Brevard County School Board.

The slate of those running for office was approved at the last general meeting and the election will be held on June 12th. It is your duty to attend and cast your vote!

Finally, I want to thank all volunteers for keeping the Center operating and for your dedication. God bless our fallen heroes, God bless our armed forces, and God bless America.

Dean
GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY

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





VMC Librarian Report

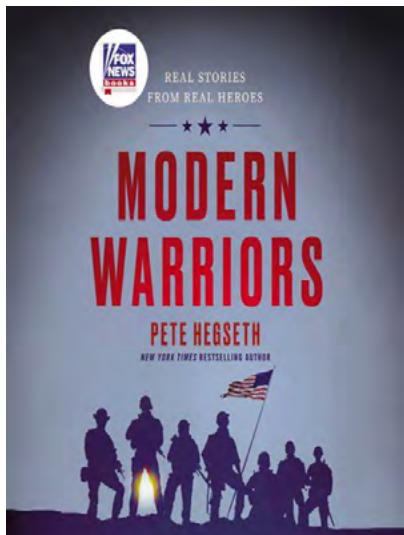
Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr)

VMC Library Updated Catalog

Bill Ellis, one of our librarians, has updated our Library Catalog file in order to improve its search functionality. As you may know our library is a valuable research resource for US Military History from the American Revolution to the current War on Terror. If you're doing military research, you can click on this [Embedded Link](#) to search our collection by Title, Authors Name, or Subtitle Keyword content. If using a computer just hit the "Control F" Key after opening the above link to search our catalog. For Smart phones use the magnifier glass icon to search the catalog after opening the Embedded Link above. We also have a librarian on duty at our information desk during regular hours to help find Books. "Modern Warriors" is found in our WarOnTerror section.

Book Report: Modern Warriors by Pete Hegseth

Modern Warriors is told by US Army Veterans, Navy Seals, and combat pilots in their own words. Vivid descriptions of battlefield experiences and personal reflections of how their personal lives were affected are included. What inspired them to become warriors, their training and multiple deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and special operations around the Mediterranean. These stories are unfiltered and told from the personal perspective of the individuals. Many of the warriors names found in this book are familiar to us as these Heroes go on to hold positions in Congress or are recognized authorities on Modern warfare.



Pete Hegseth, a decorated Army Veteran of three Army combat deployments has conversations with these Modern Warriors and relates in depth the details of their battlefield experiences. Key questions like how they dealt with the reality of warfare and what it meant to them and coming home how they adjusted to life after the military. Book Report by Joe Davie Modern Warriors Catalog # WarOnTerror-174.

VMC Educational Scholarship Program School Year 2024-2025



Doug Bisset
Scholarship Committee Chairman

Applications are open for this year's scholarship program and can be picked up on the VMC website and in the library.

Essential criteria, described in the form are:

- Applicant needs to be tied to military service or service of a sponsor
- Brevard County Resident
- Enrolled in an institute of higher learning
- A minimum GPS of 2.5 or higher
- NLT August 1 graduated from high school - ROTC program a plus

Please download and submit your application [BVMC 2024-2025 Scholarship Application](#) with supporting documents to the VMC Library before June 28th. Questions can be sent to Doug Bisset (321-208-7557) docbisset@gmail.com or Dean Schaaf, dschaaf@brevard.net

Special Gift: Thank you Georgianna Church!

In memory and honor of America's Fallen over the Memorial Day period, leaders from Georgianna Church on Merritt Island stopped by the VMC on 29 May. They brought an unbelievable donation from Pastor Corky Calhoun and the entire congregation of \$25,000 for our mission. Here the check is presented to Dean Schaaf Pres (l) and Dave Clayton, Treasurer (r). In the past three years Georgianna Church has donated over \$38,000 to the VMC, making them a non-government donor second only to the Dancing with Brevard BCSO donation two years ago. With many projects planned for 2024-25, the funds will be put to good use and we promised a report to the Church early in 2025. Thank you to the great people of Georgianna Church!!!





Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

This month I am going to discuss the importance and meaning of outreach.

Outreach is an activity of providing services to any populations who might not otherwise have access to those services. A key component of outreach is that the groups providing it are not stationary, but mobile; in other words, they are meeting those in need of outreach services at the locations where those in need are. In addition to delivering services, outreach has an educational role, raising the awareness of existing services. It includes the identification of underserved populations and referral to services.

Objectives (According to the website Showers of Blessings):

- To analyze the local Veterans, and community to determine the breadth and scope of needs
- To assess our strengths and abilities for outreach
- To determine appropriate responses within our abilities, strengths, and interests
- Compassion – involves addressing the immediate needs of Veterans, families, and communities (food, clothing, emergency housing, employment, etc. give
- Assistance – involves addressing changes in local communities related to welfare, long-term housing, education, community economic development, and health services.
- To offer encouragement and support for those participating in outreach programs
- To track the activities of all we do through sponsored events, activities, and the actions of individuals

At the DAV 123, we are working with veterans to provide them with an income to not only live on, but also for aid and attendance. Some DAV chapters like Titusville 109 offer transportation to veterans. DAV 123 works with different hospice organizations to help terminal veterans. DAV 123 also provides programs at different retirement communities concerning the benefits for veterans. I conduct funerals, celebrations of life, and graveside services, several times a week, free of charge to veteran families. Brevard County's NVHS is an organization dedicated to helping homeless veterans and their families.

We are not put on this earth for ourselves but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you." "He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own." "Caring has the gift of making the ordinary special."

Any person or organization can develop an outreach for veterans. My question to you is what can you do?

1 Thessalonians 5:14: And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

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



Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard
USA (Fmr)

Help Us Fight Against Veteran Suicide

Hello Membership,

Thank you to the three members who took the training in May to stand against veteran suicide.

I want to challenge more of you!

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) is about 1/3 of the way to becoming a Veteran Safe Place (VSP) with our 15 Watch Standers but we require 50 for the "VSP" designation.

The Fire Watch is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. They are building a life-saving network of community members and organizations trained to identify the warning signs of veterans in crisis and to direct those veterans to the help they need.

1. Please find more information here: <https://www.thefirewatch.org/veteran-safe-places>
2. Complete the training online and add "Brevard Veterans Memorial Center" as your "Organization" when you submit your information.
3. Email me at brevardvmc@gmail.com when your training is complete.



STAND AGAINST VETERAN SUICIDE

Invitations to the US Army's 249th Birthday & Army-Navy Football Game



**By Vincent (Kip) Mathias
President, Space Coast
Chapter of AUSA**

The Space Coast Chapter, Association of the United States Army (AUSA), invites all the Space Coast area veterans, Army active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and all Army veterans, to the 249th Army's Birthday, June 14, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This event is open to the public, and will include our tradition of a cake cutting by the oldest and youngest Soldier in attendance. Our guest speaker for the event is Guy C. Swan, III, Lieutenant General, US Army, (retired) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_C._Swan_III).https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_C._Swan_III General Swan's topic is the Army's Need for Space-Based Technology.

The location is at The Broken Barrel Tavern (<https://www.brokenbarreltavern.com>) located at 4700 S. Babcock Street, Palm Bay, FL 32905. Attendees can order their own food and beverages will be from the menu. For questions or to RSVP for the event, please contact Corey Mason, VSpaceCoast@ausa.org, or cell: 321-537-5936.

Reminder to all who are AUSA members or anyone interested in attending our 2024 Annual Meeting & Exposition, 14-16 October 2024, in Washington D.C., and attendance is free for all AUSA members. The AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition is the largest land power exposition and professional development forum in North America. Taking place over three days, the Annual Meeting is designed to deliver the Army's message by highlighting the capabilities of organizations and presenting a wide range of industry products and services. AUSA accomplishes this task throughout the entire event by providing informative and relevant presentations on the State-of-the-Army, panel discussions and seminars on pertinent

military and national security subjects, and a variety of valuable networking events available to all that attend.

For more information, please see the AUSA website at <https://meetings.ausa.org/annual/2024/index.cfm>.

Don't forget to mark your calendars now to join us for the 2024 Army-Navy Game at The Broken Barrel Tavern on Saturday, 14 December 2024. Tickets to attend the game this year are sold out, but there will be a good time with local fans for this

AUSA
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
★ Space Coast Chapter ★

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Space Coast Chapter invites you to our
General Membership Meeting/Membership Drive
to celebrate the

**US ARMY'S
249TH BIRTHDAY**

Friday June 14, 2024
6:00 to 8:00pm

BROKEN BARREL TAVERN
4700 Babcock Street NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905

**No-host dinner event | Open to the public
Guest Speaker**

Limited Seating. Please RSVP to Corey Mason at
VSpaceCoast@ausa.org or 321-537-5936.



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

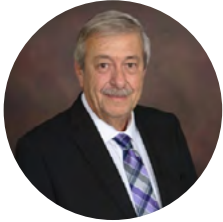
Mike Erdman



**MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA**



Governance Committee Report



**By Don Pearsall,
Chairman**

Voting Procedures

Well, here it is election time again, and we should just remind everyone what the by-laws state about election procedure. In Article VII Section 3 "The complete slate of nominees and sample ballot will be published in the June edition of the Council Courier for the benefit of the members.

Article VII Section 6/ Sub Section A-G At the June membership meeting, individual and organizational members will elect the officers and board members for the coming year.

A) There will be a 1.5 hour time frame, 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. for members to cast votes prior to the start of the June membership meeting. The membership Chairman shall use the current membership data print out to verify eligibility to vote. If the member does not possess a valid membership card, they must produce a valid photo identification.

B) For organizational memberships, the Point Of Contact for that organization, upon presentation of a valid photo ID, will receive one ballot to be cast as the organization's valid representative (Individual members may not also be an organizational representative. One Person One Vote.

C) You must be 18 yrs or older to vote.

D) Upon verification, the verified member or organizational representative, will receive a numbered ticket. Numbered tickets are used for tracking purposes and validation of number of ballots distributed and received.

E) Upon entering the voting room the member or organizational member shall present their ticket to the teller, and in return receive one ballot which will be completed and placed in the ballot box.

F) At the completion of the allotted time, Announce to voting is closed, oversee the process as the tellers tally the votes, and report the results to the presiding officer.

G) A majority of votes will be required to elect a candidate for officer or board member. In event of a tie, there will be a run-off election announced by the secretary.

Meet Your Candidates

Read more about each person on the following pages.

Running for Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) Chairman



Don Pearsall



Ted Suzor

Running for Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) Director



**Ray
Norman**



**Paul
Julian**



**Crystal
Turman**

Running for Veteran's Memorial Center (VMC) Director



**Ed
Pingston**



**Dorothy
Walsh**



**Michael
Wrazen**

Please see sample ballot on page 10.

Candidate Bios

Don Pearsall for Brevard Veterans Council Chairman

I am running for the position of Chairman for the Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) for several reasons, First, I am not the kind of person to sit around and watch others work. I am a hands-on team player. I hope to bring new life to existing programs and implement a few more to benefit Brevard Veterans and their families. I currently sit on:

- Congressman's Posey's Veteran advisory Task Force,
- Brevard County Military Affairs Council,
- Governor DeSantis Forward March Initiative

I was born in rural, Lake Ronkonkoma, on Long Island. I served with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and was an Assistant Chief with the Nesconset Volunteer Fire Dept., before moving upstate to the small farming community of Moravia, NY. I worked with the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, and was Captain of the High Angle Rescue Team, helping lost hunters, hikers, injured snowmobilers and skiers from the mountains and state parks.

I enlisted in the military in 1966 and after basic training was stationed with the U.S. Army in Darmstadt, Germany. My assignment was working as a Huey helicopter door gunner flying missions that were supporting a US geological weather survey team in the mountainous region of Austria.

I am a Certified Professional Life Coach and a Certified National Support Specialist. I have studied at the Army's Palo Alto, California in-patient PTSD clinic. I have started many programs like the Equine PTSD Therapy Program and the Return to Flight Aviation Program to help Brevard veterans cope with PTSD and other issues. I am a former two term VFW District Commander supervising 13 posts in Brevard and Osceola Counties with over 12,300 members.

I am also the author of the bestselling book "Back from the Front" a book relating to military PTSD, which enjoys sales in 24 countries, and is used by organizations such as the Israeli Defense Ministry, and the Argentine National Gendarmerie (Border Patrol). I am currently a BVC Board Member and Chairman of the Governance Committee here at the center.

I am also proud of my present assignment of being Chairman of Brevard Sheriff Ivey's Swat Veteran Negotiating Team. I am also joined by VMC Members Dorothy Walsh, Paul Julian, Chip Hanson, Amanda Herrnkind, Christine Tate, and Bob Doyle on this extraordinary team.

As the 2024-2025 Chairman, I will strive to assist all veterans and their families. I now spend many hours a week in the bush delivering food, tents and other equipment while homeless

veterans wait for their Hud-Vash Vouchers for housing. My most treasured and successful projects is the Equine Health and wellness program for veterans with PTSD. Our farm is adjacent to the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Ted Suzor for Brevard Veterans Council Chairman

Hello There, Just a note to let everyone know that I will be running again this year for Chairman. I know I didn't get much done this year. I had some health things I had to take care of. Now that's behind me I look forward to a better year. So with that said I will step up to the plate And take care of things like I should.

Ray Norman for Brevard Veterans Council Director

Before the current Brevard Veterans Center, memorial park, and physical plant became a reality, the Brevard Veterans Center was housed in a small structure. My association with the Brevard Veterans Center began around 1986, before the memorial plaza, aircraft displays, and museum addition.

At that time, there was a small library and a co-located museum...that was a long time ago. As chairman, I signed a \$26 check to lease the park from the Brevard County Parks and Recreation. This lease expires in 2026. Over time, I held various offices. Fortunately, with subsequent leadership and the support of many, we were able to add the physical plant you see today.

One of my later contributions was a financial forecast that covered several walls. The subsequent leadership utilized this contribution and have since moved on to other forecasting procedures. Currently, I serve as a Sunday afternoon docent and assist with public relations and publicity.

One of my activities involves the recovery of past veterans in lost graves, including a Tuskegee Airman and his wife, and more recently, a WWII veteran.

Paul Julian for Brevard Veterans Council Director

I am running for the open BVC Director in the upcoming general membership election. I was a Veteran's Memorial Center (VMC) Librarian, Director and now the VMC Vice President. At this point, I would like to work on the "other side of the house" by more directly supporting Veteran's in need.

I became a BVC/VMC member in March 2017. I was initially assigned to help organize the physical library and build the electronic database. Myself and a couple of others were able to successfully accomplish this in about two years. We are proud of what we accomplished!

Candidate Bios Cont.

Myself & Joe Davie run the Library of Congress' "Veteran's History Project" for the VMC. We have performed approximately 100 Veteran interviews and all have been submitted to the Library of Congress to be added to its "American Folklore" collection. I and a couple of others recently planned, organized and launched a monthly Library "Discussion Group" that is growing in popularity. We have begun to fill our Library with attendees! Finally, I also have been a part of Joe Fossi's "Veteran's Back to Class" program that have presented "patriotic" topics in various Brevard Public Schools.

If I am elected a BVC Director, I will work with Don & Dorothy Pearsall and our other non-profit "partners" to attempt to "make the load lighter" for our local disadvantaged and "in-crisis" Veterans. In particular, I would determine how our BVC can become more involved in the suicide-prevention organization "Firewatch".

Based upon my experience and performance serving Veteran's over the last seven years, I believe I am the best candidate for the position – please give me your vote for BVC Director!

Crystal Turman for Brevard Veteran's Council Director

I am a veteran of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and the wife of a retired Air Force AFSOC and CSAR member. I am the owner and CEO of Wellspring Counseling Services, with a special focus on neuro-feedback therapy. Where I seek especially to serve veterans, first responders, and their families. It is my honor to continue to serve her country in this way.

I have been a member of the Brevard Veterans Council/Veterans Memorial Center and chairman of the Women Veterans Outreach & Support Committee for a short time and love the work that we all accomplish working together as a team for our veterans, their families, and the Brevard community. I feel I bring much to the table and would enjoy becoming more involved with the workings and mission of the Brevard Veterans Council. With that said, I am respectfully requesting your support for me on June 12, 2024.

Ed Pingston for Veteran's Memorial Center Director

I retired from the U.S. Army and am the current VMC Museum Curator. I have volunteered at the VMC for years and just completed a three year term on the BVC Board of Directors. In this election, I would like your vote to serve on the VMC Board of Directors, which is closely aligned with my curator responsibilities and mission to continuously improve the museum and educate our youth through the Traveling Trunk Program.

Dorothy Walsh for Veteran's Memorial Center Director

Hello!!! Many of you know me, but for those who don't, please allow me to introduce myself. I am running for the Board of Directors position for the Veterans Memorial Center. I have been a VMC member since 2018 and since then have held many positions and I believe and I hope I have been a positive influence on the growth and changes within the organization. I served on the VMC Board of Directors for 2 terms and took a year off. I have been a member of the governance committee for 5 years and for 4 of those years, I was the chairman, coordinating the writing and implementation of the current by-laws. I am a strong veteran advocate and feel that working together with the VMC/BVC membership we can all continue to work together as a team for the benefit of our veterans, their families, and our community. I would appreciate your vote of support on June 12, 2024.

Thank you!

Michael Wrazen for Veteran's Memorial Center Director

I would like to continue my work supporting the VMC, I believe that we need more people to be involved in our activities including supporting the museum. There is continued interest in volunteering and if we are no longer a fraternal organization then we could expand our membership in the future. I look forward to continuing my efforts and will work to improve the assistance the VMC provides to veterans and the public.

About Me: I have 37 years of program management and research experience relating to armaments, munitions manufacture, metal parts components and environmental projects at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ.

Current Volunteer work includes being a Brevard County Master Gardener Volunteer at the University Of Florida Extension Service, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization representing the Canaveral Port Authority, and Museum store cashier/Docent twice a week.



Voting will take place on
12 June, 2024 from
8:30AM-10:00AM

**BALLOT 2024-2025 BVC / VMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTION: JUNE 12, 2024**

BVC Chairman

Pick One Only

- Don Pearsall
- Ted Suzor

VMC President

- Dean Schaaf

BVC Vice-Chairman

- Jim Carleton

VMC Vice-President

- Donn Weaver

BVC Board of Directors 3-year

Pick Two Only

- Paul Julian
- Ray Norman
- Crystal Turman

VMC Board of Directors 3-year

Pick Two Only

- Ed Pingston
- Dorothy Walsh
- Mike Wrazen

BVC Secretary

- Kristi Blanchard

VMC Secretary

- Kristi Blanchard

BVC Treasurer

- Dave Clayton

VMC Treasurer

- Dave Clayton

Memorial Day Ceremonies All Around Brevard County

By Donn A. Weaver

There were five major Memorial Day Ceremonies this year all over Brevard County. They were perhaps the best attended such ceremonies in several years, with one at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery reporting about 750 observers and about 300 at several others. Two were videoed and put on the web while media in other forms covered them all.

The weekend began on Friday, 24 May at Erdman Automotive in Cocoa with about 50 watching a moving ceremony. It included guest speakers from, Space Coast Honor Flight (Christine Tate), the US CoastGuard (CDR Sarah Brennan), the AVET Project (Garren Cone) and Gold Star Mom, artist and author (Jeanne Weaver). In addition to a great contingent from Erdman, local VFW, American Legion, MOAACC and VMC veterans also came out. The complete event is available to see on line at spacecoastdaily.com Friday night lights.

There were four big events on Memorial Day itself on 27 May which took place from Melbourne to Mims as well as many smaller ceremonies at various veteran and civic locations. The Liberty Bell Museum saw over 250 attend their annual ceremony with Naval Ordnance Test Unit Commander, CAPT Jason Schneider and Gold Star Dad Donn Weaver as guest speakers. The ceremony included reading the names and tolling the bell for each of the 22 Brevard connected military members who lost their lives in combat since 9/11. That remembrance was repeated at the Cocoa Riverfront Park that evening.

The Veterans Memorial Center held a moving ceremony with about 300 attending. Keynote speaker was LTC Tim Thomas, USA (Ret) offering his thoughts about the day and his combat experiences including the loss of his soldiers. The guest speaker was Herman Cole, COL (Ret), a Tuskegee graduate who spoke of his experiences in the service and what Memorial Day means to all of us. The invocation was presented by Pastor J.B. Kump from the Great Outdoors and the benediction was given by Navy Chaplain Zack Parker from NS Mayport, Florida. Zack's parents live in the area and attended the ceremony

The CCNC event was the best attended in over four years and included speakers CAPT William Toti, USN, Ret, a former submarine commander, with Esther Bower, Fox 35 Orlando News, serving as Emcee.

The final event took place in the evening as the 18th Annual City of Cocoa Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Major speakers were COL Steve Bond, USA, Ret who served in several recent combat areas and Chandler Langevin, former USN Corpsman who saw combat in Afghanistan supporting Marine units. He now serves with St Francis Reflections Life Stage care helping veterans in many ways. That event saw well over 500 attend the Parade and/or Ceremony.

In all, the true meaning of Memorial Day was on display all over our county. Thanks to all who made these events happen and all who chose to take some time during that special weekend to remember its purpose.



Veterans Memorial Center held a moving ceremony with about 300 in attendance.



Navy Chaplain Zack Taylor LT USN and family.



Panoramic view of Veterans Memorial Center's ceremony.

Women Veteran Outreach & Support

By Crystal Turman, LCSW, Chairperson, Women Veteran Outreach & Support Group & Dorothy Walsh, MS, CPC, President, Their Voice of Hope, Inc.

All Women Veteran support activities in May

The family fun day on the farm was a great success. We had 25 kids with their parents who came and had “a blast”. It was a day for kids to be kids, with horseback riding, visiting with the farm animals, face painting, a bounce house, ices, fresh popped popcorn and hot dogs and hamburgers. Each child received a western hat, scarf, and sheriff’s badge. It made them all feel very special. Thanks goes to the Good Deeds Foundation for their generous donation as well as Elevation Church for their volunteers and food donation and to Home Depot for their donation. It Takes a Village!!



Our last luncheon, held on April 23, 2024, had a very nice turnout and some significant speakers with a lot of information sharing. The meal was prepared and donated by Wellspring Counseling Services. Thank you to Crystal and James for a magnificent meal. Thanks, once again, also goes to the BVC/VMC for the use of the gray hall as well as covering the cost of additional necessities.

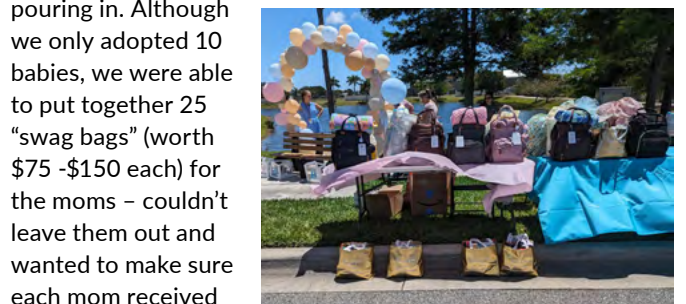
Equine Health & Wellness program continues with an added feature, 8AM trail rides. The women love how it’s a great start to their day.



On May 6, 2024 two of our women veterans, Rosa Reich and Linda Hagen presented a Women Veterans wreath made by woman veteran Beverley Sangeleer at the Vietnam Traveling Wall.



The “Mom to Be” baby shower was a great success. We adopted 10 moms to be from the Viera VA. And as usual Brevard County stepped up in a big way to fill those wish lists. Diaper bags, cases of diapers, baby wipes, newborn clothing, bibs, and all sorts of other stuff for a new baby came pouring in. Although we only adopted 10 babies, we were able to put together 25 “swag bags” (worth \$75 - \$150 each) for the moms – couldn’t leave them out and wanted to make sure each mom received something. We then delivered the gifts to the VA. The social workers were blown away by the amount of gifts donated. And then we participated in the “drive-thru” baby shower where the moms came to pick up their gifts. They were in tears and could not believe the generosity shown to them. They especially loved their “swag bags.” Total donations were just above \$4,000.00. We cannot thank everyone enough for their thoughtfulness and generosity. It truly does Take a Village!!!!



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Women Veteran Outreach & Support Cont.



On Thursday, May 16th the group went on a tour of the Cape Canaveral lighthouse, made possible through the help of Dean Schaaf and Becky Zingarelli, and they had a wonderful time. Peaceful, fun, and relaxing. There will be many more outings to come.

On Saturday, May 18th, our women veterans were invited to participate in the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Woman Veteran-owned Hand in Hand Healthcare office. Great networking and a lovely event.

We are also very proud to report that 4 of our women veterans, Ailene Picheco, Linda Hagen, Emilie Truman are part of the VMC Color Guard with Tina Smith leading the way as VMC Color Guard Captain.

Our monthly women veteran yoga with Dena classes have picked up a little bit and the women who attend say "Dena is the Best!!" But we have room for more women veteran participants. The day is the third Tuesday of the month in the gray hall. Doors open at 10:30, class starts at 11:00AM.

Our next luncheon is planned for June 25, 2024, at 11:30 AM. The theme for this luncheon is health & wellness. We have several wonderful speakers who will address this issue, with fresh new ideas.

Please note that ALL women veteran luncheons and activities are free for the veterans. We are able to do that with the support of the BVC/VMC and our awesome community partners.

If you're a woman veteran and are interested in joining this group, or you're a civilian and want to help out, donate, or volunteer please contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

St. Francis 5K Follow Up

By Donn Weaver



In our May Courier you read about the VMC hosted Brevard Parkinson's Alliance very successful 5K on 27 April. Later in May, Barbara Fradkin, President of BPA (center) visited VMC to present \$450 to Dean Schaaf and Dave Clayton for the rental of the center and park that day. It was truly a good cause with good results.

SAFE SPACE GENTLE YOGA
for female veterans

bring mat, blocks and water
3rd Tuesday of the month - 11:00am

Gray Hall
veterans memorial center
400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island

Sponsored by
Their Voice of Hope

RSVP and Information:
Dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com

Inaugural BPS Science Fair Brings Stem and Museum Learning at VMC

For the first time ever on 18 May, the Veterans Memorial Center hosted about 60 family members, 14 Entrants and 15 vendors to the annual end of year school science fair.

Organized by BPS STEM teacher, Naomi Curry, with good support from the VMC and Scout Troop 243, those who came had a great time and learned a lot. Many also visited our museum and hopefully will return over the summer.

The MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation provided funding for the support and rental. Veterans Back to Class stalwart Mac Baird, a nuclear submarine veteran, served as one of the judges.

Ribbons and cash were handed out to First (\$150), Second (\$75) and Third (\$50) place winners in elementary, middle school and high school divisions. One family had two winners!!

As always, VMC tries to do as much as we can to support our youth. Two days after the fair, 120 Odyssey Charter School kids had a great Museum visit.



Judging the entries at 5 all levels – Vets Back to Class volunteer and STEM expert Mac Baird (far left) was one of two judges.



Vendors setting up at the 18 May Science Fair.



Veteran's Connections Don Pearsall, CEO

New Gift Certificate Program

A real busy month of May. It seems more and more veterans and families are becoming at-risk or on the verge of being homeless. Our new Gift Certificate program is starting to come alive, after an expected period of socialization and getting the word out to those who need it.

Our gift certificates are distributed to organizations such as the DAV and other select groups, so if a veteran in need, wants quality merchandise from a thrift store, we give them a gift certificate that allows them to visit four area thrift stores to get what they need. Most of the time it's household goods, and small appliances.

At the end of the month, we visit, collect all the certificates and pay the thrift store for what they gave the veteran. We are strict with our screening process and no cash is given back to the veteran. We work closely with the Homeless Outreach Program with the Veterans Administration at the Viera Out-Patient Clinic



EAA Chapter 724 Honors Special Veteran and First Responder's Children

By Shaun McKinney and Donn Weaver



Pilots Meeting.

On May 11th, 2024, EAA Chapter 724 located at the Merritt Island Airport flew five children of Gold Star (where a service member died during active duty), military and first responder families impacted by career related disabilities. This also includes children whose parent lost their battle with depression.

These children learned about aircraft safety, avionics and were flown for approximately 30-40 minutes over Merritt Island, Port Canaveral, the Banana River, and the Indian River Lagoon. Chapter 724 honors these children with wonderfully positive and safe experiences. May 11th was a beautiful day for each of these children.



Donn Weaver (L) and Shaun McKinnie (R) Gold Star Families (1)



Michael with his Dad, Dwayne Waters, EAA Chapter 724 President (1)

The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) national program began back in 1992. <https://www.eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights>. This national program originated in Oshkosh, Wisconsin with a goal of introducing one million children to aviation before the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. EAA achieved that goal and decided to carry the program forward where today, 32 years later, they have given 2.3 million children this free, fully insured introduction to aviation.

Each child received a certificate documenting their flight and a formal Logbook with the date of the flight, pilots' signature, and the amount of flying time. When the children are old enough, the national EAA Headquarters offers them free online ground school worth several hundreds of dollars. Lastly, the flights of these children and the other 2.3M children are placed into the EAA's world's largest Logbook, online with their name, date, pilot's name, and the type of plane they flew in. <https://www.eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights/ea-young-eagles-logbook>

Locally, EAA Chapter 724's pilots <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea724/about-us---officers> have flown nearly 8,900 children as part of an introduction to aviation. This May 11th event was the second annual event sponsored by EAA Chapter 724 dedicated to these special children. We believe EAA Chapter 724's specific effort for these particular children is unique in the nation.

The third annual Young Eagle event for children of specific military and first responder parents is scheduled for February 22, 2025.

Veterans Memorial Center Color Guard

By Don Pearsall

The Color Guard representing the Veterans Memorial Center was recently invited to post Colors at the National Chapter of LMAC in Melbourne. The group supports many military organizations, including the ROTC. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Express on Wickham Rd and I-95 in Melbourne.

The Newly formed color guard under the direction of Army Veteran Don Pearsall and Air Force Veteran Tina Smith has a schedule of practices before each event. Everyone has a duty such as Riflemen, Flag Line or Banner, but all cross train depending on the event. Each practice is geared to rehearse for the individual event, as many are different.



Anyone interested in joining this prestigious group, please call (321) 313-2444

Veterans Memorial Center Hosts Crestview Elementary School

By Shaun McKinney



Approximately 70 students, teachers (Melissa Lang, Eleno Padolko, and Gary Smith) and supporting adults visited the VMC Museum, Library, and Plaza. All enjoyed the many hands-on artifacts of the museum. The students toured all three floors of the museum and participated in a scavenger hunt trying to find just a small sampling of the items in and around the VMC.

Pictured in the Army 1/4-ton jeep is the trip coordinator, Melissa Lang, and students Scarlett Glover and Madison Satterfield.

The VMC was honored and delighted to host these attentive students. The VMC looks forward to more visits from home schooled children and Brevard County School students. Compliments to these students, teachers, and parents, and the BCS system.



HERO FEST 2024: A Huge Success at VMC on 5 May

More than 800 people came to the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) on May 5 to be recognized, to support or to just honor the county's First Responders and their families. The event was the fifth annual HERO FEST sponsored by Back Brevard Heroes (BBH), Inc, led by President Sherri Centore, her amazing BBH Board, and over 100 volunteers.



BBH raises funds all year round and welcomes many donors who support not only Hero Fest, but many other programs to support local law enforcement, fire departments and EMS personnel. This year they raised enough funds and had in kind help during a February Car Show and through many companies and organizations, including the VMC and Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, to break all records.



Thus, BBH could include more events, food and fun than ever before. A total of 640 free meals were served. At least 400 first responders and their families from Mims to Palm Bay attended and were given donated gift baskets as well. Quite a day to recognize those who willingly help others and put their own safety at risk whenever necessary.



Those who came saw Sheriff Wayne Ivey get soaked in a dunk tank at least three times; the jaws of life at work by a volunteer fire department; a local acrobatic team: K-9 dog team demonstrations; foam frenzies with kids; a petting zoo; USCG Aux boat show; BCSO Diving Team programs; five fire dept vehicles and much more. While people came and went during the 1000 am - 3 pm event, no one left without smiles.

BBH announced at the event they had been able to provide relief funds in a new annual program to six first responder families that faced hardship after injuries or illnesses and needed an extra boost.

The theme of the day, and for BBH throughout the year, was to recognize and appreciate our First Responders. Also, to let them know what they accomplish and risk, helps all who live or visit Brevard County every day.





Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center



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2475 Jen Drive #5, Melbourne, FL.

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Park and Plaza Report by Shaun McKinney

Bricks, Benches and Trees

Bricks: Eleven new 4x8 and 8x8 bricks were ordered. CSPRAY installed these on Wednesday, May 22. The bricks are for: Gary Schulte, Willard Darby, Richard Apple, Robert Limberg, Robert Hughes, Barry Schmoyer, Peter Guzzardo, Donald Beyer, David Beyer, Warren Rowe, and Wayne Rowe.

Trees: All memorial plates for the trees are in hand in the VMC Library. We did not receive any orders for tree memorials in May.

Benches: All orders for memorial benches have received and are assembled.

Plaza: Eagle Scout, Nebraska Trask, Scout Troop 369, earned his Eagle Scout rank through completing a major service project on the our memorial plaza. Nebraska and his team of 12

individuals completed a one hundred percent inventory and a location review of 1000+ plaza bricks and monuments. They also completed some grounds clean-up while there. Eagle Scout Nebraska and his team of twelve individuals completed this project on Saturday, April 13th. utilizing 72 manhours. This project consisted of an intensive digital and hard copy review of the plaza records, identified 15 omissions on our brick data files and identified over 300 names on various monuments and benches on the plaza. Eagles Scout Trask's data will be the foundation of data going into our plaza kiosk. The VMC thanks Eagle Scout Trask and his team for their efforts.

The Brick, Bench and Tree Team consisting of Garet McKimmie, Doug Bisset, Wayne Fried, and Shaun McKinney are proud to support veterans' families.

If you are interested in ordering a memorial brick, tree, or bench, feel free stop in the museum for order forms or contact Shaun McKinney @ 614-327-6328.



Correspondence from our former Courier Newsletter Editor, Paula Biggs

Hello Dean and Donn --

Thought I'd send you a quick note to update you on life. As of yesterday, I am done with my 2nd bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity Technology and am graduating summa cum laude. I want to thank you again for both your parts in making that happen; the scholarships that took care of my fall semester tuition were extremely helpful in getting me to the finish line, and quite the blessing when they came along. I'm attaching a cap and gown photo--my daughter, a senior, is graduating from Edgewood this year and is in the picture with me. She's headed off to study mechanical engineering/computer science at FSU next year.

Again, I greatly appreciate everything you guys have done for me over the past few years, and I thoroughly enjoyed working with you on the Courier. Look forward to seeing you out at an event or two in the future!

All the best-
Paula Biggs



Advertise in the Courier

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.



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You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Veterans Memorial Center

When: Friday July 26, 2024



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

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Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone over the age of 40

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Call 321-480-3669
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The Patriot Report

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

Meet Your Service Officer William J. Grooten III Commander DAV Space Coast Chapter #123 Lt. Col. USAF (Retired)

My USAF career started two days after I turned seventeen. On March 19th, I was on a Lockheed Constellation ("Connie") flying to basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Three hot's and a cot; basic training was great! The first meal was pancakes, medium rare. Drill Instructor said you took them you eat them. Never ate another pancake for 20 years.



After basic training, I was sent to Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado and trained as a Airborne Camera Repairman. After graduation, I was assigned to Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Washington, a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base. The "Cuban Missile Crisis" was my first military action. Fairchild was the western SAC consolidation base with some 90 B-52s which were loaded with nuclear weapons and made ready to respond to any Russian threat. I Helped load and launch 90 B-52s along with many other west coast SAC bases. Security forces brought coffee and donuts in the early morning, and I used a 50-megaton nuke bomb as a table. It looked like a large 55-gallon drum on its side.

I experienced multiple assignments in England, California, Florida, and Mississippi. First England assignment was RAF Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex where I worked on F-100s. I had guard duty one night and F-100s were on nuclear alert. A Captain tried to cross into alert area, and I challenged him and chambered a round in my weapon. The Security forces heard it and with whip antennas and flashing lights, came to his rescue. Don't think he ever forgave me and I'm not sure if I would have shot him. My final enlisted assignment was in Missouri as an academic instructor at the Air Force Communications Command NCO Academy. Another story: As a MSgt I was eligible for promotion to SMSgt. General Sadler, Commander AFCC came down to present SMSgt stripes and three of our instructors who were promoted. They all held master's degrees. I challenged the General that I thought it would be easier to make 2nd Lieutenant. He asked me if I wanted to be a 2nd Lieutenant and (mouth overloaded my butt!) I said yes: Sixty days later I was in Officer's Training School.

My first Officer assignment was as the Range Support Officer (RSO) at Cape Kennedy, responsible for aural warning on the shuttle pads and High Frequency (HF) radios and antennas for the range. I completed my tour after STS-1. My next Officer assignment was as a MAC IG Inspector and did a two-year rotation inspecting all MAC bases worldwide. Upon completion of that tour, I was sent to Senior Communications Officer Course at Keesler

AFB, Mississippi and I also attained a Master Degree at University of Southern Mississippi.

After that I was assigned to NATO AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System) at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) Belgium and flew as crew-dog out of Geilenkirchen, Germany.

After that assignment, I was sent to MacDill AFB as the J-6 (The Joint Staff J6 provides expertise in support of all domains to enable a globally integrated Combined/Joint Force) initial cadre and stand up of U.S. Special Operations Command.



Command assignments included 1970th Communications Squadron in Woomera, South Australia. Story; Final military action: I was on the radar scope with an operator and identified the first scud launch for Desert Storm. I alerted a Patriot Missile unit in the AOR (Area of Responsibility) within 2 minutes, and they confirmed the kill. My final assignment was to the 57th Communications Group (15thCS "Voice of the Pacific"), Hickam AFB, Hawaii, I retired from the Air FORCE ON 1 July 1996 at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, as the USAF Senior Communicator in the Pacific. I served a total 35 Years, 3 months, 11 days as enlisted and officer and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Planning Ahead for a Burial in a DVA Cemetery

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) manages 155 national cemeteries and has provided a final resting place for more than 4.1 million Veterans. The NCA has assisted millions of Veterans and their families in arranging burials at a national cemetery. Due to a pre-need eligibility application, Veterans and their spouses no longer have to wait until the Veterans passes to find out if they are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, or for memorial benefits such as a headstone, flat marker, or bronze medallion for use in private cemeteries.

Pre-need applications require all the relevant dates, discharge character, and rank information. This type of information is commonly found on a DD14 or other separation documents. If you do not have discharge documents, NCA staff or your friendly Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Service Officer's OR Any Veterans Service Organization will help obtain the required information needed to determine eligibility.

Determining your eligibility to be buried in a DVA national cemetery before you pass on can make it much easier on your survivors when that time arrives. Burial in a cemetery associated with the Department of Veterans Affairs is important to many Veterans. It honors their military service, and it may decrease the cost of their funeral.

Moreover, jumping through the DVA's eligibility determination hoops can be a daunting task for grieving survivors. The Veteran can make that task much easier by obtaining a Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a DVA National Cemetery. For those who choose to go this route, you can obtain this document online at www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials/pre-need/form-10007-apply-for-eligibility/introduction.

You are correct in what you're thinking. The DVA could have worked a little harder to come up with a wordier website, but for some reason they chose not to.

Generally, Veterans, service members, spouses and certain children might be eligible for burial in a DVA national cemetery. However, a Veteran and his dependance are disqualified from burial in a national cemetery if he/she received a dishonorable discharged. Spouses are eligible to be buried even if they remarry after the Veteran dies. Minor children and certain unmarried adult children are eligible also.

The DVA requires form 40-10007 and documentation to verify your eligibility. Verifying your eligibility in advance

*Dept of Veteran Affairs
requires form 40-10007 and
documentation to verify your
eligibility.*

will make it easier for your survivors. If you are pre-paying for your funeral arrangements, it will also help to plan what you are paying for.

Completing the form in advance is optional and if the Veteran has not done so his survivors must present his DD Form 214 to the funeral director who can plan to have the Veteran buried in a DVA national cemetery.

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



Vic Rogers (shown) is painting a mural in the lobby after painting and prep completed by Don Pearsall, Kristi Blanchard and Paul Julian



Traveling Trunk Program

Bringing history to life

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Museum offers a Traveling Trunk Program to help bring history to life in schools, libraries, other museums, or youth groups. Each trunk focuses on a specific war and contains an assortment of items—original or reproduction—that would have been commonly used by soldiers during that time in our nation’s history. The contents of these trunks can be used for research, exhibition, or as a hands-on educational resource that piques student interest in history by engaging them in object-based learning.

Contact us to connect with veterans if you would like to add a human perspective to the artifacts in the trunks.



Trunks are available for the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War.



Trunk FAQs

How do I reserve a Traveling Trunk?

Download and fill out a *Traveling Trunk Loan Agreement* form. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

How long can I keep a trunk?

Trunks are loaned for three weeks.

What does it cost?

Trunks are available free of charge.

How do I pick up and return my Traveling Trunk?

Borrowers may come in person to the BVMC to pick up and return a trunk during regular visiting hours.

What are my responsibilities?

As borrower, you must agree to return the trunk by the due date and be responsible for its care and security while it’s in your possession.

Contact Ed Pingston at 321-794-9401
Scan or Visit

<https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/traveling-trunks/>



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar June 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/>

JUNE 2024

04 Jun – Career Source Brevard Job Fare Including For Veterans 1000– 1300 in the Melbourne Auditorium. Contact Lori Robinson via careersourcebrevard.com

08 Jun – Space Coast Honor Flight to WashDC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome the ceremony to launch the flight – 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321– 456– 7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information.

08 Jun – Zachary M. Martin Memorial 5 K Run/Walk at Viera Regional Park (2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way) in Melbourne 0800– 1000. The proceeds will benefit Stop Soldier Suicide and help Brevard County veterans with PTSD. visit zacharymartinmemorial.com to register and for more information about this 501c3.

12 Jun – Military Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration and Luncheon 1130– 1330 at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge at the Brevard Zoo, 8225 N. Wickham, Melbourne. Details and sponsorship information at info@avet-project.org.

14 Jun – Celebration of the US Army's 249th Birthday at Broken Barrel in Palm Bay 1800– 2000. Sponsored by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) which will also hold a General Member Ship Meeting. AUSA is the newest partner of the VMC. Contact Shaun McKinney for more information.

JULY 2024

04 Jul – Annual BCSO and VMC Merritt Island Independence Day Parade. 1000– 1200 with details in June. Start at Merritt Island HS and finish at Veterans Memorial Center with food and festivities.

04– Jul – Melbourne 4th of July Independence Day Parade 1000– 1100 am Downtown Melbourne. Starts at Liberty Bell Museum (1601 Oak St) with Ceremony and Awards there afterwards. Route along Hickory to New Have East, ending at

New Haven and Municipal. Grand Marshalls Green Gables and Larry/Jeannette Jarnes. Celebrate Americana.

AUGUST 2024

04 Aug – Annual Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony at the VMC Gray Hall 1400– 1600 sponsored by Chapter 453 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Special recognition of 10 PH recipients and ceremony to tell their stories and recognize their sacrifices. Contact Donn Weaver, 757– 871– 6576 for more information.

09 Aug – Annual National Veterans Homeless Support Fundraising Dinner 1715– 2100 Radisson Resort at the Port. Hosted by Brevard County Constitutional Officers including Sheriff Wayne Ivey. Sponsorships and individual tables/seats available. \$100 per seat, \$1250 for Sponsor tables. Silent auction, Live Auction, 50/50 raffle and a great dinner!! Visit www.nvhs.org/events to register or email events@nvhs.org.

14 Aug – Senator Marco Rubio's Staff Mobile Office Hours at the VMC 1300– 1500, specifically for Veterans and their families.

24 Aug – Seminar for High School Soph's, Juniors and Seniors on Military Academy, ROTC Scholarships and other military paths to education and leadership. VMC Gray Hall, Foyer and Library 1300– 1700. Details in June.

27 Aug– VMC Library Discussion Series 1800– 1930. 9/11 Missed Warnings and its Impact on Three American Generations. – A Gold Star Perspective and 9/11 Perspective. CAPT Bill Toti. USN Re5 and Donn Weaver, Gold Star father. Drinks and snacks served.

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



MISSION

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



TO PARTICIPATE

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

CONTACT US

To arrange an appointment please contact either:

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

VIDEOGRAPHERS

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

VHP SUPPORT

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

Adair, Mark and Karen Croft, IMO
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Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2025

Carleton, Jim March, 2025

Clark, Garrett Sept, 2024

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2024

Ericson, Robert & Robin Mar 2026

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2024

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2024

Florida State University College of Social
Work, August, 2024

Fugaro, Ricardo and Joan April, 2024

Garcia, Jackie and Danny June, 2025

Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 2024

Kanis, Jussara and Michael Nov, 2027

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2028

McKinney, Shaun and Adora Sept, 2024

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rowe, Wayne June, 2025

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2024

Sherman, John S. (Tank) Oct, 2024

Sherman, Rheta Campbell Oct, 2024

Taylor, Skip USA (Ret.) June, 2024

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2024

Space Coast Honor Flight June, 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) _____