



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

AUGUST 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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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 28 July 2024:

[List of Board 2024-2025](#)

As of 28 July 2024:

[BVMC Committee Departments 2024-2025](#)

As of 28 July 2024:

[BVC VMC Org Chart 2024-2025](#)



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)

July was another slow month with summer vacations going on. I even took one to Dallas, TX. Although a "working" vacation, it is always great to visit family, and grandkids! We were scheduled to leave on July 20 on American, but when the cyber outage hit on the 19th, we decided to drive. Even with the two day drive, we made it before our flight would have and we missed all of the airport hassels. Crazy!

The scholarship committee was busy finalizing the selection of our scholarships for this year. We are presenting sixteen scholarships worth a total of \$18,500. Our scholarship program mainly goes to high school seniors entering a university. A big thank you goes to Doug Bisset, Jay Longway, Vic Rogers, Garet McKimme, Mary Ann Tucker, and Ray Norman for their tireless work. Scholarships will be awarded at the August General Membership meeting on August 14th.

On Tuesday, July 31st, the VMC color guard was invited to the ribbon cutting of the new Viera Middle School opening ceremony along with Rolling Thunder who was there to perform the POW flag raising. Both our color guard and Rolling Thunder's participation very much appreciated by the school board. Bravo Zulu!

This weekend, Aug 3rd is US Coast Guard family day at the port, and we will be there with our display to promote our mission and museum. Thanks to Harry Beaver and his traveling show for supporting. Also, this weekend is our annual Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony. This year we are honoring ten Purple Heart recipients with bricks, valor quilts and stories of service.

August 9 is the annual National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) fundraising dinner. Several VMC members will attend the \$100 per plate dinner. Sheriff Ivey always entertains and raises a lot of money with his lively auctions. It should be a great evening.

The Brevard School Board "Passport program" in conjunction with the Museums of Brevard (MOB) kicked off in July. The passport consists of seventeen museums or historic homes on a card that requires a stamp to prove the student visited. When they have completed at least ten visits, they can turn in the card for recognition from the school board. There was at least one student that completed the passport with all seventeen the first week it was out! The parent should get credit for driving him/her around!

Please read our highly informative Courier and thank you to all that contribute great articles on a regular basis. In the military, we had a saying "publish or parish," so I am doing my part. Seriously, thanks to all and particularly Kristi Blanchard for all her efforts in getting it out on time. Remember, August 20 is election day and the VMC Gray Hall is a voting place. Be flexible on the 19th and 20th during the set up and voting. VOTE, it is your duty.

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.

GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY

VMC/BVC CONTACTS

VMC President

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BVC/VMC Treasurer

Dave Clayton
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321-453-1776 ext. 6

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





Council Report

Don Pearsall, Chairman

I want to thank everyone who supported me in securing this position. I have spent the last 29 years assisting Florida Veterans. With those years of experience, I will bring fresh new ideas and programs while resurrecting and improving the outdated ones. Our Veterans Memorial Center is the epicenter of all good things for veterans and their families we love and respect our deployed active duty military and assist them when we can. Veterans are near and dear to our hearts. All of us veterans have at one time served with some of the most dedicated and patriotic people, both enlisted and officers.

But we couldn't do it without the volunteers at the VMC. Whether you are a veteran or not, we appreciate you. Those who didn't get to serve, are certainly doing so now. I see a bright future for our organization. I am happy to be part of the decision-makers who work tirelessly to be an asset for Brevard County's active military and veterans. Go Army Beat Navy



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson USMC (Fmr)

I read an article, "History suggests how to stave it off," by Peter Turchin. Here is a portion of the article:

"The United States is a Nation that is divided. There was a time when we as Americans could disagree about certain issues, but at the end of the day we would come together for the greater good. The same was true about our leaders."

We are members of the most elite Veteran's organization ever. By example let us show loyalty, to our country our Veterans and their families.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This is a beautiful promise, showing that God is in control and that He loves His children.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
ALWAYS FAITHFUL
Chaplain Chip Hanson

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344
And the Veterans Memorial Center**

School Supply Drive

Drive ends Saturday, August 10, 2024

Donations can be left in the donation box in the VMC Lobby

Items needed:

Pens	Pencils	Writing pads
Erasers	Protractors	Backpacks
Book covers	Notebooks	Printer paper
3 Ring Binders	Pocket Folders	Band-aids
Glue sticks	Rulers	Clorox Wipes
Safety scissors	Crayons	Hand sanitizer
Markers	Colored Pencils	Lysol spray
Kleenex	Paper towels	

Helping those less fortunate on Merritt Island

The 2024, Brevard County 9/11 23rd Anniversary Memorial Tribute will be held at:

The Veteran's Memorial Park

Located at:
400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy
Merritt Island, FL 32952

CITIZENS OF BREVARD COUNTY JOIN US
AT 5:30PM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
SUPPORTING AND REMEMBERING THE FIRE, POLICE, EMS, CIVILIANS, AND MILITARY WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON 9/11 AND ALL THOSE AFTWARDS WHO SUFFERED THE LOSS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL 9/11 CHALLENGES.

UNIFORM CEREMONY BEGINS AT 5:30PM.



Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard
USA (Fmr)

This is my fourth year organizing the BVMC Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, and on July 10th, the BVMC held a moving tribute for their volunteers. Over the past year, 87 of their volunteers contributed approximately 17,797 hours of their time in support of local Veterans and their families throughout the community.

Kristi Blanchard and Bill Pollock were recognized for lifetime achievement with 4,000+ hours of service in the past 5 years.

The following Individuals were recognized with certificates and Presidential Service Award coins for their volunteer contributions of 100-500+ hours:

Kay Achee, Ross Amelio, Doug Bisset, Dave Boyd, Connie Calub, Jim Carleton, Dave Clayton, Karen Croft, Bill Dansbury, Joe Davie, Norm Desmarais, Bill Ellis, Eleanor Fadok, Bob Finke, Wayne Fried, Jay Longway, Helen Magner, Garett McKimmie, Shaun McKinney, Ray Norman, Rita Perini, Ed Pingston, Mick Ray, Hank Rhodes, Vic Rogers, Wayne Rowe, Dean Schaaf, Gina Schlegel, Rita Shapiro, Jalaine Spears, Allen Spence, Rich Tomasso, Mary Ann Tucker, Dorothy Walsh, Donn Weaver, Brian Whalen, and Rob Whisenant.

We also welcomed their 2024-2025 Board of Directors:

Executive Committee: Dean Schaaf, Donn Weaver, Don Pearsall, Jim Carleton, Kristi Blanchard, Dave Clayton BVC

Board of Directors: Paul Julian, Crystal Turman, Bill Pollock, Joe Davie, Vic Rogers, Chip Hanson, Rodger Pickett, Ted Suzor

VMC Board of Directors: Ed Pingston, Dorothy Walsh, Harry Beaver, Garett McKimmie, Jay Longway, Jalaine Spears, Dennis Herring

I'd like to thank Tim Thomas for assisting with the ceremony and everyone who has taken their time to serve as board members or volunteers in support of our Veterans and their families. There is no greater gift to serve our Veterans and others in need.



Recognizing the Outgoing 2023-2024 BVMC BOD



Swearing-in the Incoming 2024-2025 BVMC BOD



Tim Thomas (L) and Dean Schaaf (R) present Kristi Blanchard and Bill Pollock Lifetime Awards 4K hours.



VMC President Dean Schaaf is joined by BVC Vice Chairman Jim Carleton and VMC Vice President Donn Weaver.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please visit the BVMC's volunteer website by [clicking here](#).



VMC Librarian Report

**Joe Davie,
USAF (Fmr)**

Please note that Paul Julian has been filling in for Librarian Joe Davie. We anticipate Joe's "return to duty" at the beginning or middle of this month.

Our second month of the summer went well. We had the benefit of Norm Desmaris continuing to support the library and it various projects through the third week of July. Norm, Wayne Rowe and Doug Bisset will return sometime from the middle of October through the beginning of November.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new volunteers – Kathy Rizi and Jim Pirotti! We hope to find interesting work for them to do which will benefit our veterans and other citizens in our county.

Bill Wilkening, as supported by co-volunteer Bill Ellis, is working with Secretary Kristi Blanchard in reviewing the policies, Standard Operating Procedures (i.e. SOP) and miscellaneous instructions to determine if these documents are current, accurate and complete. They will update and revise those already existing written documents, as necessary. Any needed SOPs or instructions will be drafted.

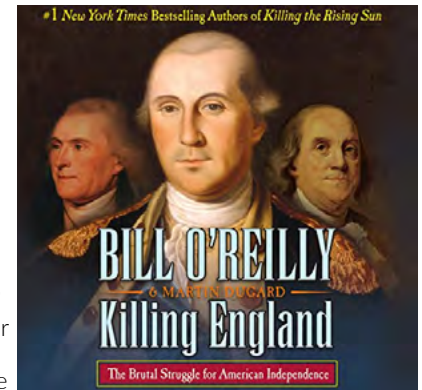
Bill Ellis is also updating the subtitle field of "Past Perfect" catalog file for each book to better identify the subject of the book. This is especially helpful when librarians or the patrons themselves search the "book list" file on one of our desktops. Hank Rhodes is working on devising a way to better define the "Miscellaneous Object ID" field into "subtopics" in the books found in our Miscellaneous Section.

We are honored to have Captain William Toti, USN-retired, reflect upon his experiences while he was present at the Pentagon during its attack on 9/11/2001. Our VMC Vice President Donn Weaver plans to assist him during his presentation on Tuesday, August 27th. Additionally, we anticipate that the Captain will also make a presentation next month (i.e. on September 24th) on his experiences as the Commanding Officer of the USS Indianapolis submarine during the period 8 January 1997 through 22 December 1998. His presentation will also include his work in helping to "clear the record" of the Captain Charles B. McVay III, who was charged and later convicted as being negligent in the sinking of the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis on 30 July 1945.

Paul Julian, BVC Director

Book Report: Killing England by Bill O'Reilly & Maetin Dugard

"Killing England" offers a riveting historical account of the American Revolution through the perspectives of pivotal figures: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Great Britain's King George III. Part of O'Reilly's acclaimed "Killing Series," this book (catalog number Revolution-59 in our VMC library) explores the struggle to end British control over its American colony.



On July 4, 1776, Thomas Jefferson penned the "unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America." Following eight arduous years of conflict, King George III conceded defeat on February 14, 1783, issuing a proclamation to cease all hostilities against the United States. Two months later, the Continental Congress passed a unanimous resolution to end hostilities with England, culminating in a formal treaty in which Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation, with borders extending to the Mississippi River.

The roots of this conflict can be traced back to 1755 when England and France fought for control over the Ohio River Valley. The battles, which had raged in Europe for centuries, had shifted to North America. During this period, George Washington, then a colonel in the Virginia militia, joined British General Braddock in a campaign against the French and Indians at the Battle of Monongahela, which resulted in a British defeat.

Facing mounting expenses from global expansions, England imposed heavy taxes on its American colonies, known as the Intolerable Acts, sparking revolutionary fervor. The American Revolutionary War began in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, with Boston emerging as a hub of resistance. British forces occupied Boston, leading to a siege by American troops under George Washington from April 1775 to May 1776. Washington's artillery from surrounding hills forced the British to evacuate via Boston Harbor.

In August 1776, the British landed a formidable force of 15,000 troops and 5,000 Hessian mercenaries in Brooklyn, New York, driving Washington's army out of Brooklyn and Manhattan. The war saw numerous battles and strategic movements, including the British invasion of the South, capturing Savannah, Georgia, in January 1780 and Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1780.

A crucial turning point came when Washington's forces, in alliance with French naval and land troops, trapped British General Cornwallis's army at Yorktown, Virginia. The French Navy's victory at the Battle of the Capes on September 5, 1781, prevented the British Navy from evacuating Cornwallis's forces. Surrounded by combined French and American forces, Cornwallis was compelled to surrender his 9,000 troops on October 19, 1781, effectively ending major hostilities.

Book Report by Joe Davie, Revolution-59

July Was A Wonderful Month Between Brevard VMC and AUSA Space Coast Chapter



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

July 2024 was a wonderful month between the Brevard VMC and the AUSA Space Coast Chapter.

A look into the short-term future: Mark your calendars.

On August 24th, the AUSA-Space Coast Chapter will be at the Palm Bay Greater Chamber of Commerce 2024 Space Symposium, held at Space Coast Convention Center, 301 Tucker Ln, Cocoa. You can register for the event through the QR code on this website: [2024 Space Coast Symposium - Palm Bay Chamber \(greaterpalmbaychamber.com\)](https://www.greaterpalmbaychamber.com/2024-space-coast-symposium)

The AUSA Space Coast Chapter will hold our quarterly General Membership Meeting (GMM) at the Brevard VMC on September 20, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Our scheduled keynote speaker is MG Michael Repass, USA, ret., who consults with Ukraine and Taiwan to address their defense requirements against potential regional threats. We believe this topic is of considerable concern to our community and the presentation will be open to the public and additional information will be available soon.

Reminder to all who are AUSA members, or anyone interested in our 2024 AUSA Meeting and Exposition, 14-16 October in Washington, D.C. It is the largest land power exposition and professional development forum in North America. There will be 33,000 attendees and 700 exhibitors from eighty countries, and it will include 150 conference and training sessions. Please see <https://meetings.ausa.org/annual/2024/index.cfm> for further details.

Remember to join us for the 2024 Army-Navy Football Game, at The Broken Barrel Tavern in Palm Bay on Saturday December 14, 2024. The game starts at 3:00 pm. We have a great time every year and the event is open to everyone who

likes to enjoy this annual tradition. Please join us and have some fun and veteran fellowship!

Lastly, Our Chapter is hard at work scheduling the 250th Birthday of the United States Army, June 14, 2025. We hope every Army soldier and veteran participates in this noteworthy event throughout America. More information will be forthcoming through the VMC Council Courier.

For questions on any of these events or/and AUSA-Space Coast memberships or Community Partner memberships, please contact Kip Mathias, 321-591-9826; Corey Mason, 321-537-5936; or Shaun McKinney, 614-327-6328.

"Bowling for Heroes"
 a Charity Event benefiting
Heroes United to Heal Foundation

Grand Prize Shark Fishing Trip
 courtesy of
Fired Up Fishing Charters

Where: **Blue Dunes**
 Palm Bay
 4851 Dairy Road
 Melbourne, FL 32904
 When: August 24th, 2024
 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Tournament Rules

- Initial entry fee of \$70 due upon registration.
- Grand Prize awarded to the team that presents the largest donation on the day of the event.
- Team Categories:
 - Juniors (High School Teams)
 - Corporate/Private Businesses
 - Hero category

(Heroes are defined as those who've served, past or present, in the military or as a first responder)

REGISTER NOW >

Sign up by **August 17, 2024**
 To register or for more info,
 contact: admin@hu2h.org

All proceeds from funds raised will be donated to our mission to End Veteran and First Responder Suicide.
 Heroes United to Heal Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA



Introducing the 2024-2025 Board of Directors for Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center

Welcome to the incoming 2024-2025 BVMC Board of Directors! Tim Thomas swore-in the BOD on August 10th at the General Membership Meeting and they are already working with their committees to make the upcoming year great. Links to the current Board of Directors information, committees listing and organization chart can be found on page 2 of this issue.



2024-2025 Organization

as of 7/29/2024

BVC/VMC Leadership Team			
3VC Chairman	Don Pearsall	313-2444	djp32927@gmail.com
3VC Vice Chairman	Jim Carleton	543-0646	jimcarleton4@gmail.com
/MC President	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
/MC Vice President	Donn Weaver	757-871-6576	donnweaver2020@gmail.com
3VC/VMC Secretary	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
3VC/VMC Treasurer	Dave Clayton	453-1776 ext 7	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Brevard Veterans Council Board of Directors			
3 Year	Paul Julian	749-7369	pjulian54@gmail.com
3 Year	Crystal Turman	604-2451	crystal.turman@wellspringcs.org
2 Year	Bill Pollock	352-258-6414	wrp50@yahoo.com
2 Year	TBA		
1 Year	Joe Davie	626-5462	jdavie976@gmail.com
1 Year	Vic Rogers	603-707-2304	itcret@yahoo.com
3VC Chaplain	Chip Hanson	543-7505	chipvietnam68@aol.com
3AV Chapter 123	Rodger Pickett	795-3108	rpickett@davfla.com
Immed. Past BVC Chair	Ted Suzor	271-4327	suzorted9@gmail.com
Veterans Memorial Center Board of Directors			
3 Year	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
3 Year	Dorothy Walsh	426-6736	dwalshusa@gmail.com
2 Year	Harry Beaver	501-9156	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
2 Year	Garet McKimmie	571-239-9991	garetmck@yahoo.com
1 Year	Jay Longway	449-9037	jpl3x@yahoo.com
1 Year	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
/MC Advisory Chair	Dennis Herring	693-7209	dmherring7602@sbcglobal.net
Immed. Past VMC Pres	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
Veterans Center - Non Voting Support Positions			
Store Manager	Dave Boyd	266-3825	dboyd52@outlook.com
Asst. Store Manager	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
Asst. Secretary	Julie Adamson	446-4663	Juliecladamson@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Librarian	Joe Davie	626-5462	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
Maintenance Supervisor	Charles Schaaf	470-8008	charlesschaaf23@icloud.com
Membership	Jill Rippon	453-1776 ext 5	jillrvmc@gmail.com
Museum Curator	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
Online Media & Pubs	Kristi Blanchard	453-1776 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
Photographer	Roger Scruggs	795-6545	scruggs@tvphotog.com
Public Affairs	Harry Beaver	501-9156	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
Women Veterans Outreach	Tina Smith	453-1776 ext 5	sunshynsmith1968@gmail.com

Women's Veteran Outreach & Support Updates

By Dorothy Walsh

Yoga

Our awesome yoga instructor Dena has upped her game to help us all!!! Our August yoga session will be geared towards those of us who struggle with getting up and down from the floor - she will be offering a chair yoga session. This session is open to women veterans, women in the military, female spouses of veterans, female First Responders.

Please note the date change for August - to Friday, August 23. There will be no yoga session on Tuesday, August 20th. Namaste and have a beautiful and blessed day.



August Luncheon

Our next luncheon is planned for Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Believe it - this is our 1 year birthday!!!! We will be celebrating with special events, and 2 wonderful speakers, Crystal Turman, LCSW, and Kim McDaniel, APRN-BC. The topic will be "coping mechanisms". The group will share each other's ways of dealing with the day-to-day stress and anxiety. If you have a prop that helps you - feel free to bring it with it (within reason of course) August's luncheon will be a potluck - so bring your favorite dish to share with your sisters!!

Hope to see you soon.



Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Bricks: In May ten 8x8 Bricks for the Purple Heart section were ordered through Donn Weaver. Eleven new 4x8 and 8x8 bricks were ordered for the other sections of the plaza. C-SPRAY installed these 21 bricks on Wednesday, May 22.

The bricks are for: Chris Donaldson, Ken Ondras, Sean Fisher, David Clayton, S. Mac McIntosh, Victor Perez, Chris Brink, Craig Waskow, Jeremiah Sancho, Scott Robinson, 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 360, earned his Eagle Scout rank through completing a major service project on 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 Garett 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.

Merritt Island Independence Day Parade: WWII Vet a Hit Support

July 4 saw many great events in Brevard County this year. The sixth annual Merritt Island Independence Day Parade had some surprises. The event was sponsored by Brevard County Sheriff Office Charities in coordination with the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). It included the largest number of BCSO vehicles and fire trucks yet, as well as more than 20 veteran and military related entries.

It likely was the hottest July morning since the tradition began and did not see as many viewers as last year, but well over 2000 people, including hundreds of children and young families lined the 1.2 mile route. The parade ran from Merritt Island High School south on Courtney Pkwy to Edgewood Jr/Sr High School on Merritt Ave. It was filmed and can be seen on Space Coast Daily Friday Night Lights TV link. Several other media outlets also covered the event.

The Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) at Port Canaveral made a big splash with their Color Guard and mini-submarine. The VMC truck with Liberty Eagle, driven by VMC Pres Dean Schaaf and his wife Susan, led the way for veteran groups, including the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC); the Marine Corps League; several American Legion Floats and others. It being election season, the parade ended with more than a dozen politically focused vehicles and marchers. Plenty of candy and mini flags were handed out to happy kids and families.



Wayne Ivey hugged him and presented a special BCSO pin to honor him as the parade concluded.

The Parade, along with other big events in Melbourne, Palm Bay and more locations, was clearly a great example of a special Americana type tradition. Seeing hundreds of youngsters who will become future adult citizens, made the time planning, decorating and facing heat challenge well worthwhile. Wait until the 250th Celebration of America in 2026!



The MOAACC Convertible, which included Pres Rick Kniseley and 1VP Steve Cusick, included a very special passenger - 98 year old WWII and Korean War Combat Army Veteran George Rosenfield. Along the route dozens of parade watchers and kids were invited to come to shake his hand and all said, "Thank you for your service". Mr. Rosenfield was all smiles, especially after Sheriff



Troop Support

by Don Pearsall

Troop Support is one of the most critical missions we have at the Veterans Memorial Center. It takes on many faces, such as At-Risk Family Support, Women Veterans' Outreach and Support, and others. We work alongside independent agencies, such as NVHS, AVETS, Their Voice of Hope, local churches, food banks, and of course, the Veterans Administration.

A new program is in development in 2024 is to assist veteran families as they get ready to welcome their military members home. The program is called "Operation Soft Landing. A family needs to know what to expect, what triggers and responses may be present from PTSD or MST, and most of all how to recognize and cope with personality changes.

A Veteran returning to civilian life faces many challenges. Readjusting to civilian life is hard for many veterans. Obstacles like employment, reuniting, and catching up with growing families. Will you know them or their interests? Will they know you? How to pay household bills, and pick up where you left off before their military service. These are all issues that may need to be addressed. The people who work on this committee are members of the BVMC who experienced the same thing themselves either as a veteran or a spouse. Information is available but rarely distributed from the VA.

Their Voice of Hope Supporting Women Veterans

Peer Support Program
To promote and support camaraderie and socialization along with health & wellness
These groups are specific to women only and there is no charge to the attendee.

Equine Health & Wellness Horses are quite soothing and offer many benefits. Through our Equine Health & Wellness Program, horses are able to promote spiritual, physical, psychological and occupational healing in post-traumatic stress sufferers. Will resume in September.

Day Trips Spending the day with your sisters in arms enjoying the beauty that Florida has to offer.

Zoom Group Chats Monthly zoom group discussions on various topics. Confidential, no recordings will take place. The 2nd Tuesday of the month starting September 10, 2024

Yoga with Dena Open to women veterans, female spouses of veterans and female first responders. Third Tuesday of the month except for August, will be Friday, August 23, 2024

Art Expression Therapy Monthly get together of expression of emotions and feelings No painting experience necessary — we're all newbie's. First Tuesday of the month beginning September 3, 2024

For more information contact dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com

Cape Canaveral Fleet Reserve Association Branch 263 Change Of Command

After an election process conducted in June 2024, FRA Branch 263 held an installation of new officer's ceremony at their regularly scheduled meeting in the Library at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. FRA Branch 263 is one of the founding organizations of the BVMC and has been a Tenant Committee member since it's inception. The FRA membership consists of Officers and Enlisted veterans of the "sea services", the United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. This veterans service organization (VSO) has over 90,000 members nationwide who serve to protect veteran's rights and privileges. In fact, the motto of the association is "In Loyalty, Protection, and Service".

Past President Dennis Herring had the honor, as installing officer, of transferring the gavel from those officers who had served so well to the new officer corps taking a leadership role in Branch 263. Outgoing President William (Bill) Pollock with a four year tenure relinquished his command to incoming President William

(Bill) Casey. Secretary/Treasure David (Dave) Clayton will remain in this position for the following year. And Wayne Barron has also retained the post of Membership Committee Chairman for an additional year. Dean Schaaf will continue to serve as the Youth Activities Chair for the 2024 -2025 fiscal year. CONGRATULATIONS to each of these newly elected officials. We would also like to wish "fair winds and following seas" to out-going President, Bill Pollock. Bill will remain a strong member of the branch taking on the duties of Chaplain. And a special "Thank You" to all the members who attend our meetings and do so much to remain active in the community.

If you are a veteran member of the sea services and would like more information regarding the FRA, or you are considering joining this outstanding organization, visit: https://www.fra.org/fra/Web/About_FRA/Web/About_FRA.org

or contact Wayne Barron at (678) 689-7921 or thru email: barronfra@gmail.com

Dennis Herring
Past President
Branch 263
Fleet Reserve Association



Color Guard Report

by Don Pearsall

We are pleased with the performances of our newly formed color guard. They are performing at different venues around the area. Under the direction of Army Veteran Don Pearsall and Tina Smith an Air Force Veteran who serves as the squad drill Captain. They are an asset to Brevard County and are available for veteran ceremonies. We also have a special detail for honors at gravesites, funeral homes, and celebrations of life held at the Veterans Memorial Center and Park.

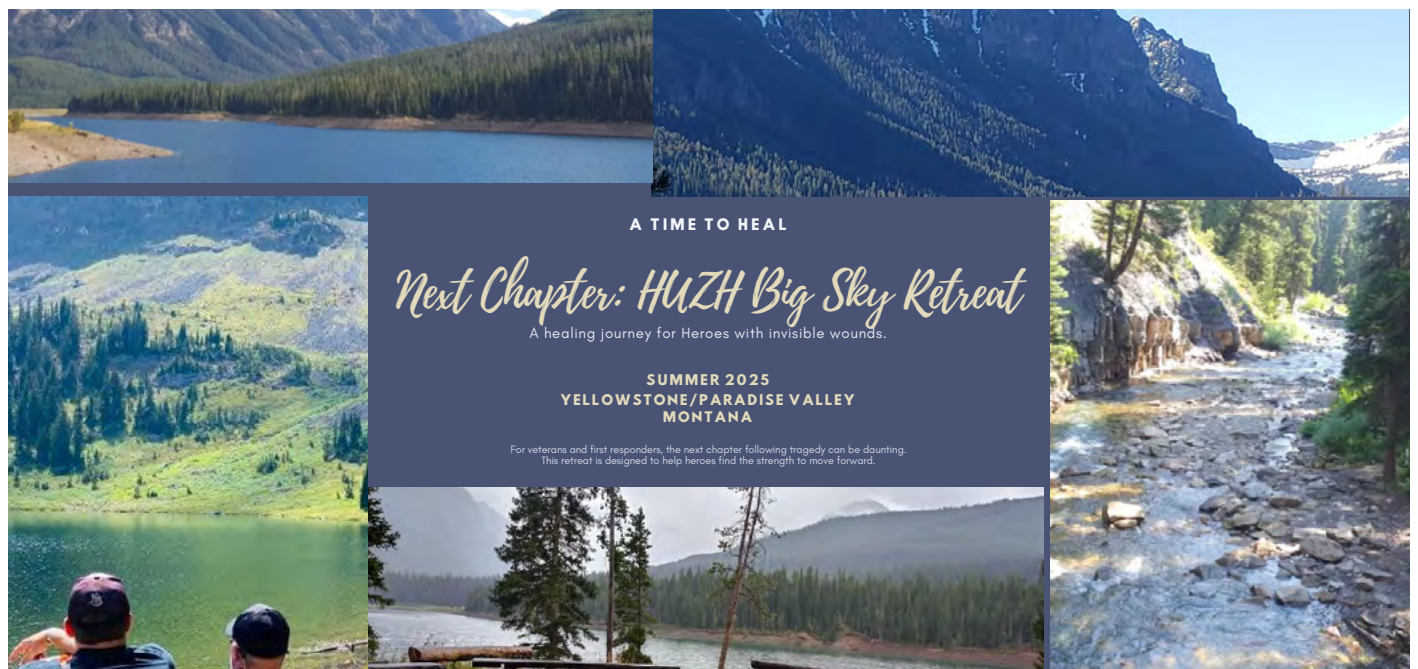
Their squad complement consists of five veterans and two civilians. Those with little experience marching, are effectively taught like we were in the military, except for a drill sergeant yelling and shouting in your face when you'd get out of step. The long-range plan is to recruit new members and cross-train everyone, so all events will be attended. For more information, please call Dean Schaaf or Don Pearsall at 321-453-1776



The VMC Color Guard (L-R Ailene Picheco, Tina Smith, Shaun McKinney.)



The VMC Color Guard.



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Special Topic:
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The Program is 1 year old!! And we will celebrate!!!

Pot Luck Luncheon

Tuesday August 27, 2024
11:30–1:30
Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy
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This event and the program are for women veterans only please

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Please RSVP to Dorothy Walsh at Dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com



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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar August 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/>

AUGUST 2024

03 Aug – Annual Coast Guard Birthday and Family Day

at Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral 1000-1500. USO, MOAACC Good Deeds, VFW 10131 and many other sponsors and booths. Free food and fun, great activities for kids. Come celebrate the USCG Birthday and support the Station's people and families. Access and parking just before closed entrance to Space Force Staton CC south gate.

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.

20 Aug – Women Veterans Yoga, VMC's Gray Hall 11am-1pm. Contact Crystal Turman, crystal.turman@wellspringcs.org, for more info

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. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more info or to request a Poster about the event,.

24 Aug – Bowling for Heroes Charity event by Heroes United to Heal Foundation at Palm Bay Shore Lanes 4851 Dairy Rd, Melbourne 1300-1500. Five man team entry fee is \$70 for each lane with grand prizes available in Juniors (under 21).

Corporate/Private Business, Hero (Vets and First Responders) categories. Register your team by email: admin@hu2h.org. The event is aimed at "Striking Out" the stigma of PTSD and vet/ first responder suicide. ,

27 Aug – VMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930. 9/11 Missed Warnings. CAPT Bill Toti, USN Ret. Drinks and snacks served.

27 Aug – Women Veterans Luncheon, VMC's Gray Hall, 11am-1pm. Contact Crystal Turman, crystal.turman@wellspringcs.org, for more info.

SEPTEMBER 2024

07 Sep – Space Coast Honor Flight to WashDC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for 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.

11 Sep – Annual Brevard County 9/11 23rd Anniversary Memorial Tribute and Patriots Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 1730 -1900. Sponsored by Club 1013 of retired NYPD Police and FD Officers, many of whom were in NYC on 9/11/2001. Also supported by the VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. Citizens of Brevard are asked to join in supporting and remembering the Fire, Police , EMS, Civilians and Military who lost their lives on 9/11/2001 and all those afterwards who fell in combat or as a result of 9/11 medical challenges. Contact Club 1013 or VMC for more information.

17 Sep – Women Veterans Yoga, VMC's Gray Hall 11am-1pm. Contact Crystal Turman, crystal.turman@wellspringcs.org or Dorothy Walsh, dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com, for more info.

For events beyond August, 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	jdavie976@gmail.com
Paul Julian	321-452-9414	pjulian54@gmail.com

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Joe Davie	321-626-5462	jdavie976@gmail.com
Paul Julian	321-452-9414	pjulian54@gmail.com

VHP SUPPORT

Bill Wilkening	321-428-3422	Hank Rhodes	321-799-1219
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Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2024

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2024

Florida State University College of Social
Work, August, 2024

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Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 2024

Kanis, Jussara and Michael Nov, 2027

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McKinney, Shaun and Adora Sept, 2024

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

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Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2024

Sherman, John S. (Tank) Oct, 2024

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

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

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