



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

SEPTEMBER 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center






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 AFTERWARDS WHO SUFFERED THE LOSS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL 9/11 CHALLENGES.

UNIFORM CEREMONY BEGINS AT 5:30PM.

WHAT'S INSIDE

VMC Color Guard Deliver Great Flag Ceremony at new Viera Middle School

Viera Middle School was the scene with over 250 attending the grand opening ceremony, which included many elected officials, school board, contractors, staff.

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Scholarship Committee Awards 16 Applicants

VMC President, Dean Schaaf, introduced all awardees, announcing which school they were attending and their major. Jay Longway handed out the scholarships with their parents joining for a photo opportunity.

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Recognizing Purple Heart Recipients at a Special VMC Ceremony

More than 350 people attended the annual US Coast Guard Birthday and Family Day Celebration at the USCG Point Canaveral Station on Saturday 3 August.

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9/11 23rd Anniversary Memorial Tribute

Please join us at the Veteran's Memorial Park on 11 September at 5:30PM to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11.

SEPTEMBER 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 30 August 2024:

[List of Board 2024-2025](#)

As of 30 August 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)

I hope this comment will not jinx us, but we are halfway through the hurricane season with no significant storms in our area, let us hope it continues. September is Suicide prevention month and on Sunday, September 8, there is the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Day Virtual event, check out the QR code later in the newsletter. National Heritage Month starts on September 15, and National POW Day is on September 20th. All important and worthwhile, please participate.

The Veterans Memorial Center got great news today at the County Commissioner's meeting. The \$8.3 million amphitheater project has been approved!! Give them a couple of weeks to sort out the paperwork and we will participate in a groundbreaking ceremony in the park. Ivey's Construction is the main contractor, which is great as they built the museum addition in 2016. After almost 10 years of working with the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency, the Tourist Development Corporation, the County, and the State it is finally coming to fruition.

The VMC hosted two major events in August. The Purple Heart program held on August the 4th, honored ten recipients of the Purple Heart with stories of service and bricks placed around the Purple Heart Memorial. The second event was the Seminar put on by the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral (MOAACC) to educate students interested in military service on how to apply to the academies and other scholarships such as JROTC scholarships.

Our next big event is the annual Brevard County 9/11, Patriots Day Ceremony. This is the 23rd anniversary memorial tribute. It is sponsored by Club 1013 of retired NYPD police and fire department officers, many of whom were in NYC on 9/11/2001.

The Scholarship Committee did an outstanding job of reviewing and selecting the scholarship recipients. This year the VMC awarded \$18,500 in scholarships. Please read the article later in the Courier. Bravo Zulu to the Jay Longway and the Scholarship Committee.

Other events coming up are a VMC fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Viera. The event is on September 18th from 5 PM to 8 PM. See you there. Jazz is back this month in the Gray Hall on Sunday, September 8 and again on October 3rd. I mentioned September 20th is POW Day and there is an event in Andersonville, Ga from 6 PM to 8 PM that several of our Rolling Thunder brothers will attend. Andersonville was a Confederate Prisoner-Of-War camp during the final fourteen months of the Civil War.

Many more activities are scheduled but covered elsewhere. Please read our highly informative Courier and thank you to all that contribute great articles on a regular basis. Thanks to all who submit articles for the Courier and particularly Kristi Blanchard for all her efforts in getting it out on time.

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

Dean
GO NAVY - BEAT ARMY

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





Council Report

Don Pearsall, Chairman

The month of August was the busiest we've had for a while. We received a total of 74,000 donated dental plaque sticks. Most will go to Oasis for their Christmas gifts for overseas military. Some also went to veteran organizations, and other veteran support programs.

Governor DeSantis made an appearance at the War Bird Museum to present Space Coast Regional Airport with a grant for expansion and revitalization. I got to speak to him about the Veterans Initiative program "Forward March" from the State Office. He gave me the contact person from his office, and I will be reaching out to her inquiring about the program status, more to follow.

I made an inquiry to the Veterans Administration about the return of the Kiosks to record veteran mileage to and from medical appointments. When they were removed from the outpatient clinics and the system became totally computerized, many older veterans had issues using computers, if they even owned one. The VA will no longer issue checks for travel, the reimbursement for this will come in the form of direct deposit to your selected bank account.

I met with the management of "Under the Bridge Ministry" in Titusville. They are the recipients of food boxes donated to the BVC from Vietnam Unforgettable Memories Foundation. We will be assisting their veteran community with other items donated by Community Thrift Shop in Port St John.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson USMC (Fmr)

Remember September 11, 2001

It was a quiet Tuesday morning; everyone was either at work, on their way to work or just settling in with a warm cup of coffee. Little did we know that a group of men had boarded at least 4 aircraft, not for travel but for death and destruction. It's a day we'll always remember, and a complete timeline can be found in Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_September_11_attacks#September_11,_2001

"America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this

time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world. Thank you." President George W. Bush

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

- a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal,
- a time to tear down and a time to build,
- a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
- a time to search and a time to give up,
- a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace.

GOD BLESS AND PROTECT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Park and Plaza Report

by Shaun McKinney

Bricks: We have three open brick orders. Two of those orders are requesting for them to be located adjacent to other family memorial bricks. We are working with CSPRAY to co-locate those new brick orders as the family requested. CSPRAY installed ten "Purple Heart" bricks on the week of 19 August.

Trees: There is one open order for a tree. The plate is on order with CSPRAY.

Benches: One bench is on hand awaiting two data plates for this bench. Coordinating with Lickety-Split for those two plates. We have one open order for a bench to be shipped. The data plate is on order.

The Brick, Bench and Tree Team consisting of Garet McKimmie, 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 to stop in the museum for order forms or contact Shaun McKinney @ 614-327-6328.



Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard USA (Fmr)

Hello Membership,

Thank you to the eight members who took the training over the summer to stand against veteran suicide. I want to challenge more of you! The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) has 21 qualified. We need 29 more to take the training before we become a Veteran Safe Place (VSP). We can do this!

1. Please find more information here: <https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers>
2. Complete the 20-minute training online (as a veteran or civilian)
3. When you complete your account setup, add "Veterans Memorial Center" as your "Organization"
4. Email me at brevardvmc@gmail.com after you complete your training

The Fire Watch is organized 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.

Thank you for all for what you do everyday for veterans and their families!



Become a Watch Stander Today!



In early August, I also had the opportunity to march the 14 miles back from Lake Frederick at the United States Military Academy with the Class of 2028 New Cadets, who were completing their training. The march back begins at 0330 hours, but we had great weather, and I met many amazing young people poised to be the next generation of the Army's leaders. I was there to support the five high school graduates from Brevard County. Two of them, Gretchen and William, are pictured. Beat Navy!



VISN 8
2nd Annual
Suicide Prevention
Awareness Day Event
September 10, 2024
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Don't Wait. Reach Out.

This event is for Veterans, families, and VA employees, to raise awareness of suicide prevention. Remember, every conversation can change a life. We urge you not to wait. If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out. Let's stand together in this fight, because no one should face these battles alone.

Virtual Microsoft Teams event - Registration not needed

To join, scan QR Code

Or join, via link below

Or join, by calling in



Join the event on **Sep 10 at 8 a.m.**
Meeting ID: 222 693 654 314
Passcode: psLA7o

+1872-701-0185,
Phone conference ID: 346 455 834#

VA Employees: CEUs Offered; Register via TMS - Course ID VA 4663451

Join us Tuesday, September 10 and learn more on the following:

- Suicide Prevention Awareness Training by the Experts
- Training on Screening and Evaluation for Suicide Risk
- Governor's Challenge Priorities
- Information on COMPACT Act
- VA and Community Resources will be shared





VMC Librarian Report

**Joe Davie,
USAF (Fmr)**

Thanks to our library volunteer's willingness to pitch in and help with improvements to the library The VMC library's Miscellaneous category (Misc-01 thru Misc-369) has grown so large that we felt that the topic has outgrown the ability to easily find topics of interest to the reader. Hank Rhodes, one of our librarians, has further defined the topics by using the databases Call# field in the Misc. section. The new topics can be found under the libraries projector screen as follows:

- Guidance for Vets and Families
- Monuments and Cemeteries
- Uniforms and Medals
- Theory, Strategy, Policy
- History of the United States
- Arms and Equipment

The bottom two rows of books underneath these new topics above remain in our miscellaneous category of books.

More improvements, the library now has Blue Signs attached to the bookshelves the help us find the lesser known wars and topics of interest. New signs are: Free Books, Quasi-War with France, Barbary Wars, War of 1812, U.S. Mexican War, Spanish American War, and Joint Military Aviation found after US Military Services Army section.

Book Report on “The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot”

“The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot” is the story of Mr. No Kum Sok, a young man who served as a Lieutenant in the North Korean Air Force, defected to the United States, and became a Cold War hero. His life, marked by hardship, luck, and survival, culminates in the ultimate reward of freedom.



The narrative, told in his own words, spans from 1935 to 1954 and offers a firsthand account of life under a totalitarian regime. The author provides insights into the skills, experiences, and fates of pilots from various nations, including the U.S., China, North Korea, and Russia, who fought in the skies over Korea and China.

The story also delves into the technical aspects of the MiG-15 fighter jet, detailing its successes and failures. Despite the CIA's \$100,000 bounty to entice defectors, Mr. Sok defected out of a pure desire for freedom, unaware of the reward. After emigrating to the U.S., he built a successful life, exemplifying courage and determination. The book is described as a compelling and engaging read.

By Jim Pirrotti

Library Discussion Series



CAPT. Toti the last Captain of the Submarine Indianapolis presents the exoneration of the WWII Heavy Cruiser Indianapolis' Captain's fault in the sinking of his ship.
Tuesday September 24 6:00 to 7:30 PM VMC Library

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



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

Brevard County Veteran Community:

We hope that you've made it through a busy summer and getting ready for the new school year! Here are a couple of things we would like to present for your consideration in September.

JROTC Program Support: As the school year progresses, the Space Coast Chapter is active in supporting 13 JROTC programs from Spruce Creek High School in Volusia County to Okeechobee High School in Okeechobee County. With your membership, we are able to support their program events with volunteers or funding, and culminates with providing them with the AUSA Leadership Medals at the end of the year to present to cadets at various levels in the program. This is a great opportunity for us to support these students and their cadre by being present in their programs. We are seeking a volunteer to serve as our Vice President for JROTC, who would be our point person to communicate with these schools, manage the award requests, and help coordinate the volunteer presentations. We also would like to ask our Members to volunteer to represent our Chapter at one of these end-of-year events. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee (EXCOM) as the Vice President for JROTC Programs or volunteer to be a presenter in the spring (events are usually end of March through early May), please reach out to me at 321-591-9826 or at pressc@ausa.org.

General Membership Meeting: Our General Membership Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 20 September, but we have to postpone as our guest speaker has been called away to work on a critical international issue. At time we are working to book another guest speaker and reschedule in October after the Annual AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition: Just a reminder that registration will be open for the Annual Meeting and attendance is FREE to chapter members. This is one of the largest defense symposiums in the world and is a great way to re-connect with all things affecting the transformation, modernization and sustainment of our Army, many sessions to share ideas on things impacting our Army, and just fun to see and reacquaint with colleagues you may have lost contact with. If you are attending and would like to obtain a Space Coast Chapter badge with all of our streamers, please contact us at pressc@ausa.org

National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS): If you haven't heard of this organization, we encourage you to check out their website at www.nvhs.org, which is located here on the Space Coast. The NVHS team does great things every day to ensure veterans can find and stay in their homes. They have several volunteer opportunities on their site, but they have a 5K Run/Walk coming up on 10 November 2024 that you can either participate or volunteer to support. We ask that you consider supporting them and our Veterans as an act of service for the Veterans Day holiday this year.

As always, our Chapter needs you! If you have some time and can help us continue to communicate to our communities what our Army needs, please join our Executive Committee. I am open to all members to hear your inputs and receive your feedback at pressc@ausa.org or 321-591-9826 (please leave me a message and call back number if I cannot answer when you call).

Thank you for our membership and your support of our Army!

Always,
Kip Mathias, Sergeant Major, U.S. Army (Retired)



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA



Women's Veteran Outreach & Support Updates

By Dorothy Walsh

Monthly Luncheons

Tuesday, August 27, 2024, we celebrated the 1-year anniversary that this awesome group has been getting together for lunch and camaraderie. Each month these women, from all branches of the military, express their appreciation at having a safe, secure, and confidential place to talk about the unique issues faced by women veterans. Too many times I've heard "I feel completely forgotten" or "I'll be shopping with my husband, I'm the veteran wearing the veteran t-shirt, my husband never served, but people thank him for his service". They are extremely appreciative of the recognition they receive through this Women Veteran Program.

At this August luncheon, Elevation Church in Palm Bay was kind enough to donate the lunch items as well as serve these wonderful women. As this was a special luncheon, we had Crystal Turman, LCSW, CEO of Wellspring Counseling Services and Kim McDaniel, Autonomous APRN-BC and is co-owner of Hand in Hand Healthcare, both USAF veterans, facilitated the group discussion on coping mechanisms for stress, depression and anxiety. An hour flew by as everyone participated in the discussion which helped each other recognize 1) that they're not alone and 2) there are techniques that help. We also had door prizes for all in attendance – plus handmade "Proud Veteran" key chains. They loved it.



Please understand that these luncheons are very private, and we ask that no one walks into the room without first speaking with me. Many times, these women are opening up and sharing personal experiences. Thank you.

We had a visit from Don Pearsall, BVC Chairman, Dean Schaaf, VMC President, and Donn Weaver, Good Deed Foundation's president, to wish the group a happy 1st birthday and the women expressed their gratitude to them for helping to make these events possible.

Kim also offered to bake a monthly birthday cake to celebrate that month's birthdays. This month we celebrated Emilie's (retired

Navy Chief) 25th birthday. Emilie chanted right along with Dean "Go Navy – Beat Army".

On a personal note, these women thank me for helping them – but for me to see their tears and frowns turn to big smiles, is the best gift I can receive. The meetings start out quiet and somber but by the end of the meeting it's like herding cats – and I love it!!!! If you know a female veteran who may enjoy these luncheons and other events, please give them my contact information; talk/text 321-426-6736 or dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com. We can always use some more volunteers to help with set up, etc.

Our next luncheon will be held at the Viera Elks, we alternate locations to attract more women veterans throughout the county. It will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Yoga with Dena

We have been holding monthly yoga sessions for women veterans. The veterans who have attended are most grateful for the safe and secure place as well as for spending time with other women veterans. In order to reach a larger audience our yoga instructor, Dena Armstrong, a USAF veteran, took an extra training course to enable her to hold chair yoga sessions for those women who struggle with floor routines. We have also made the decision to open the program to female spouses of veterans as well as female first responders. Sorry guys – the class is for women only. Please reserve your space by emailing dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

Introducing a new program for women veterans: Healing Through Art Expression with Melinda.

Monthly get together as an outlet to express emotions and feelings. No painting experience necessary – we're all newbies. We provide the supplies; you just bring your apron. First Tuesday of the month beginning September 3, 2024, at 11AM. Being held at American Legion Post 332, Kennedy Space Center/Kars Park, Merritt Island. You need to reserve your space ahead of time, so we have enough supplies. No painting experience necessary – we're all newbies. We provide the supplies; you just bring your apron. First Tuesday of the month beginning September 3, 2024, at 11AM. Please reserve your space by emailing dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

There is no charge for any of these events.



RTFL/1 and VMC Color Guard Deliver Great Flag Ceremony at new Viera Middle School



With only a couple days' notice, and no JROTC units yet available, Brevard Public Schools (BPS) contacted the VMC to see if we could provide a Flag Raising Team and a Color Guard to support that Ceremony at a newly constructed Brevard School Building on 30 July.

Viera Middle School was the scene with over 250 attending the grand opening ceremony, which included many elected officials, school board, contractors, staff. School started on 12 August with 700 students and a capacity of 90. It will be joined by two other middle schools, feeding into one of the county's newest high schools, Viera. The buildings are right next door and will include some crossover since 8th graders will be allowed to "audit" JROTC, the band, sports teams, etc.

Within a day, the VMC Color Guard (led by new BVC Chairman Don Pearsall) had five members in position looking sharp despite it being one on the hottest days of the year. VMC based Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 also responded with 21 members on five motorcycles and five cars following. Board Chair Barbara Morris and Vice President Cindy Flowers led the RTFL-1 contingent. The two units practiced ahead of time and did a great job to "open" the campus with the flags just before the ribbon cutting ceremony.



"Bowling for Heroes"



**a FUN Charity Event benefiting
Heroes United to Heal Foundation**

GRAND PRIZE
Offshore Fishing Trip

with Fired Up Fishing Charters
Sponsored by Drop Zone Distilling

Where:  Palm Bay
4851 Dairy Road
Melbourne, FL 32904

When: November 17th, 2024
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Tournament Rules

- Team Registration Fee is \$120 due upon registration.
- Grand Prize is NOT based on bowling score but will be awarded to the team that raises the most money and presents the largest donation on the day of the event.
- Team Categories.
 - League Teams (Scratch)
 - 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



Register by
November 8, 2024
at www.hu2h.org
Contact admin@hu2h.org
with any questions

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

Game Night for Merritt Island

A "Pre-Game" FUNdraiser for Merritt Island's
2nd Annual Holiday Illumination Celebration

A casual evening of entertainment, tailgate style supper and drinks with friends.

FRIDAY NIGHT
SEPT. 20TH
6:30 PM
MERRITT ISLAND MOOSE LODGE

Test your knowledge of M.I. with a Trivia Prelude to our main event:



"The NOT so Newlywed Game"

Featuring:

Peter and Christy Black
Craig and Debbie Carson
Tony and Gia Sidor
Graham and Amanda Smith



Followed by the opportunity to share your best Karaoke performance!

Individual Ticket: \$100.00*

- Dinner by Cora's Island Cafe & Game Snacks
- 2 beverage tickets
- CAMI membership (1 year)

*Event discounted for current CAMI members

Table Sponsor: \$1,000.00

- Includes 8 Individual tickets
- Pre-entry VIP social
- Table Recognition
- Sponsor Recognition at Holiday Illuminations Celebration

Scan here for more information:



Visit us: www.ca4mi.com
Questions? Email us: communityadvocacymi@gmail.com

From the Marine Corps League Detachment 513

As Tenant members of the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) or one of the many Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's) associated with the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC), each of us are called to do a service in our communities in Brevard County. Many of our VSO's have a multitude of programs that we support, while others are very specialized and work in one or two specific areas. For some, it may be equine therapy for women veterans, or maybe hospice care for the elderly veterans in the community. Often, these specialized VSO's come from compassion relating to the provided service. Like the Firewatch program, who's goal is to eliminate community suicide, and is sustained by members that have a first hand knowledge of the tragedies and affects from these actions. Many of the programs offered have immeasurable results as the tangible products from their work cannot be quantified.

And then we have groups and associations and fraternal bodies whose work extends to many aspects of our daily community living here in Brevard County. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fleet Reserve Association, the Military Officers of America, and the Marine Corps League are composed of specific members from very select factions of our populace. The works of most of these organizations range from youth groups, to social functions, to veteran support, to health care, to the political arena and engage all aspects of our communities. Their format for operations is both internal and external to their institutions. That is to say that the membership of these organizations receive recognition from the parent establishment as well as the community receiving beneficial reward thru their service. This is no more apparent than in our Detachment 513 of the Marine Corps League. Our Commandant, retired Marine Rick Bedford, awards members of the detachment for obtaining membership goals and for participating in elected and appointed offices with-in the detachment. Furthermore, awards such as these are recognized at the Department of Florida and National level of the Marine Corps League.



Our Marine Corps League detachment also participates with other veteran's group functions like the annual induction into the Purple Heart Association, who's president, Carl Miller, is a wounded Vietnam Veteran and detachment member. It was our Color

Guard providing the presentation of Colors and honoring these revered veterans at a ceremony held right here in the Gray Hall at the BVMC.

Reaching out into the communities of Brevard County is also the compassionate goal for our detachment and a mandate of our by-laws through-out all Marine Corps League detachments. Supporting this mission, we reached out to Junior ROTC (JROTC) units in area high schools to see what services we could provide. At Titusville High School, the Naval JROTC unit had a team of students participating in the National Orienteering Competition in Georgia this year. We provided financial aid for their very successful trip where they placed third in the nation. We also provided awards to the top graduates in each class as well as attending many of the NJROTC functions through-out the year.

With this exposure at Titusville High School, we were introduced to the Marine Corps JROTC (MCJROTC) program in the Palm Bay school district. Here we discovered a JROTC unit with our own root values and legacy. Again, it was our pleasure to meet with Instructor Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Roy DeYoung at one of our monthly meetings and we became involved with these young, energetic, future leaders of our military and communities. After touring their facilities in Palm Bay and seeing the work they do with the youth in the area, we awarded a financial gift in support of their nationally recognized Rifle Target Shooting Team. We look forward to a long and supportive relationship with this MCJROTC unit.

But our interests are not just confined to military related youth organizations. With the start of a new school year, we realize there are many of our families in our community that are struggling financially with the costs of school supplies. Taking advantage of the Florida State Tax moratorium on school supplies, we raised and provided over \$2000.00 in education related items for the students at Endeavor Elementary in Cocoa, FL. This is the second year in a row we were able to help start a new year on the right foot for these students and teachers.

Our Marine Corps League is not the sole element at the BVMC that does this type of work for the communities in which we live. We are but one of the VSO's with-in the veteran community who actively support both veteran and civilian societies as our civic duty...to make a better United States of America.

Dennis Herring
Adjutant, Det. 513, MCL
Tenant Committee Chairman, VMC



VMC Hosts Two Special Events on 17 August - Veterans and Youth are Served

By Donn Weaver

The VMC Gray Hall and Museum were busy on Saturday 17 August. The Military Officers Association, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) hosted their first New Member BBQ there, after which they all adjourned to the Museum to recognize and provide special support to the VMC Based Sea Cadets Program. Thirty-four MOAACC members (many of whom are also VMC members) attended the BBQ including four new members who were given VMC Park tours via the VMC Golf Cart after a great BBQ meal and social event. Those veterans, many of whom are retired military with more than 20 years of service, and their spouses, all went to the VMC Museum where MOAACC and its Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) had a great surprise for the Courageous Division Sea Cadets and their leaders.

The GDF presented a record \$2000 to support the 22 Cadets currently registered for their 2024-25 school year. In addition, GDF awarded another \$1000 to the program to help completely refurbish their trailer outside the museum.

It was great to see all that military experience in the museum applauding the Sea Cadets, who will be part of America's future. After the presentation the Sea Cadets offered their special cheer of gratitude to MOAACC with smiles all around.



From L to R, Sea Cadets, XO Paul Julian, MOAACC SAC Chair Mike Tucker, GDF President and VMC VP Donn Weaver, and Courageous Division Commander LTJG Heather Owen

Remembering Long Forgotten Veterans in Brevard County

By Ray Norman



Donn Weaver is doing a good job of finding the remains of forgotten veterans and transferring them to the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. In addition, a very small group of BVC Veterans have been identifying lost veterans at other Brevard County cemeteries. We found another one in

Indianola cemetery described as follows:

Alfred Coffin Estes, born in New York in 1872, and served in World War I in France. The 1905 New York State Census records Alfred living with Elsie M. and two sons, Harold and Roy, in Halfmoon, New York. Alfred worked as a clerk for the railroad and Elsie was a music teacher. In 1920 per their census report, Alfred and Elise lived in East Orange, Essex, New Jersey with their adult sons and worked in a bank. Son Leroy worked as an insurance adjuster and his brother Harald was a store manager. According to their 1930 census, Alfred and Elise lived in a boarding house in Norristown,

Pennsylvania and he worked as a secretary for the Y.M.C.A. The 1940 census has them living in rental property in East Orange, New Jersey as Alfred worked as a "Promoter, Financial Campaign" and his son Roy, a restaurant manager. When Harold Coffin Estes registered for the WWI draft, he was a manager in the F.W. Woolworth store in Winstead, Connecticut and living at the Park Hotel. A draft per-registration survey asked if Harold could ride a horse, handle a team, and was good swimmer to which he answered "yes" to each.

We have another veteran whose remains were distributed at Indianola, but his history is vague at present. He died in a house fire on Merritt Island, but the Brevard Fire Dept. does not have or cannot release any information. Chaplain Chip Hanson was called up on short notice to distribute the ashes. An American Legion group provided an honor guard.

We stand ready to search for other lost veterans' graves with probes and metal detectors.

Regards,
Ray Norman

NVHS Dinner Sets Fund Raising Records

The annual fund-raising dinner on 9 August at the Radisson in Cape Canaveral for the Cocoa based National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS), drew a record 750 guests and raised many thousands of dollars for the NVHS missions. Dinner guests, sponsors, the slant and live auctions all led to record proceeds. Check out the details of that gala evening and more about what NVHS does in its unique role in Brevard County on nvhs.org.

The evening began by welcoming all veterans from all branches in attendance via a Roll Call by name and number — an amazing 129 guests stood up and gave their name and branch with more than a few “Go Navy, Beat Army” cries wringing out and vice versa. George Taylor, Jr. gave a moving history and update about NVHS, which was founded by his dad many years ago, and remains a true family calling as a 501(c)3 non-profit, unmatched anywhere else we know. George confirmed the challenges of today’s economy with higher rents and everything else has been demanding for NVHS. They were able to prevent 554 veterans, which included 191 children, from becoming homeless as they dealt with a 20 percent increase in requests for assistance 2023-24.

Dana Blickley, County Property Appraiser, who leads the NVHS

Board of Constitutional Officers, was the MC and, of course, Sheriff Wayne Ivey was the auctioneer who brought down the house and many wallets. LTC Tim Thomas, Melbourne Cit Councilman and just retired JROTC Instructor at Viera HS, won the NVHS Veteran Advocate of the Year Award and was completely surprised.

Among the sponsor tables of ten were the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA, the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and Rolling Thunder FL-1. The evening truly was the community (including veterans) coming together to make sure “no one veteran” is alone in their fight against homelessness.



USCG Birthday and Family Day Well Supported

More than 350 people attended the annual US Coast Guard Birthday and Family Day Celebration at the USCG Point Canaveral Station on Saturday 3 August. It was a hot day with storms threatening, but the USCG personnel, including dozens of children, were well supported by the community and very happy during the four-hour event.

There was plenty of free food provided by the USO, AVET and others as well as a great USCG Birthday cake to be shared. Kids enjoyed many treats as well as a bounce house and slip and slide. The tour of a USCG Cutter was a big highlight.

MOAACC and the Veterans Memorial Center were among at least 10 veteran and community organizations that sponsored the event and brought tables and canopies to add to the fun and offer information about what we do for active-duty members and their families. Thanks to 2VP Rosa Reich (MOAACC) and Public Affairs Chairman Harry Beaver (VMC) for organizing the side-by-side tables.

VMC drew lots of interest for our museum and ways to honor loved ones with bricks, benches and trees, as well as use of the VMC and Park for USCG events during the year. Wayne Barron of the VMC based Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) shared the VMC

table and spread the word about what FRA does and how to join.

The MOAACC table included Good Deeds Foundation and provided free military related toys for all the Coast Guard kids (\$250 worth purchased at the VMC Museum Sales Store) and give away snacks. GDF also arranged a \$1000 donation to the USCG Foundation to support families during the year and provided funds to both USO and AVET to assist their efforts that day.

It was a great time and showed those who serve and their families that the community recognizes and appreciates that service.



Third Annual Academy, ROTC and Military Leadership Seminars at VMC Get Rave Reviews

By Donn Weaver

The 24 August Military Leadership Seminar Program was held at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). The event is sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA, Student Affairs Committee, with supporters from the VMC and the MOAAC Good Deeds Foundation.

There were representatives from 19 different military leadership options on site ranging from all of the Service Academies, many of the local ROTC Colleges (including Emory Riddle and Florida Tech), to special programs like Warrant Officer Flight, Officer Candidate Schools and direct recruitment options. Thanks to all who gave up their Saturday to share their experiences and information with the students and parents who attended.

A total of 70 students and parents attended the two different sessions which began with a general orientation and introduction of all presenting units. More than 80 minutes was allotted for each one-on-one conversation session, allowing students to ask questions and make contacts for as many possible options they might want to consider.

This year high school sophomores, as well as juniors and seniors, were invited with about equal numbers of all three classes represented. They were given full contact information about all the Presenters which they can use to ask questions, seek more information and acquire mentors as they go forward. Everyone who attended raved about the experience and promised to share the same with friends.

While the student numbers were down this year (perhaps due to rain threats, soccer tournaments, SAT testing, etc.), enthusiasm and appreciation was not. Good luck to those students as they negotiate their educational paths and consider some fantastic military options.



Students and Parents talk with all the presenters (1)



MOAAC and VMC member Wayne Justice provides orientation on the Academy nomination and selection process

A TIME TO HEAL

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For veterans and first responders, the next chapter following tragedy can be daunting. This retreat is designed to help heroes find the strength to move forward.

Scholarship Committee Awards 16 Applicants



The Scholarship Committee finalized their review of all applications received by the end of June. The Committee members, Garett McKimmie, Mary Ann Tucker, Vic Rogers, Ray Norman, Doug Bisset, and Jay Longway, supported by Dean Schaaf, Kristi Blanchard & Dave Clayton were the basis for a combined team effort, of identifying an Applicant's compliance with the procedure, skills, rating, and ranking the applicants, thereby resulting in a very positive conclusion.

The culmination of this was the impressive presentation of awards to sixteen applicants at the 14 August General Membership meeting. VMC President, Dean Schaaf, introduced all awardees, announcing which school they were attending and their major. Jay Longway handed out the scholarships with their parents joining for a photo opportunity.

Scholarship recipients were Morgan Bentley, Madeline E. Biggs, James Captain, Matthew Corrigan, Elizabeth Corrigan, Amada Fentress, Luke Henderson, Braddock Keffer, Michael Kelly, Kelsey Kressler, Stacy Norman, Colin McLallen, Charles Miller, Brandon Myers, Quentin Picheco, and Chaz Schuijt.

The Committee will continue to streamline the review and selection process to build in more efficiencies that enhance future efforts. They will identify lessons learned and address opportunities to improve the process and update the procedures and associated forms for 2025.



VMC President Dean Schaaf (L) and Jay Longway (R) flank the Picheco family during the event.

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Record Setting Launch for all Brevard County JROTC Programs for the 2024-25 School Year

With classes less than a week away, all Junior Reserve Officer Training Course Instructors from the 14 JROTC Brevard Programs met at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) on 05 August. They were there to plan out the year and get support from the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association, military recruiters and the VMC in many ways.

There is seven Army, three Air Force, two Navy, one Space Force and one Marine JROTC Units from Titusville to Palm Bay. Brevard is clearly one of the most active JROTC Counties in the state, and likely many other states. Last year the average was over 140 cadets in each program.

This year, generous donations to MOAACC/GDF in the past 12 months allowed providing a record setting \$3,000 each to support the programs. These funds help to cover many costs not available through the DoD Service Branches or the school system. In addition, GDF announced it would again cover the costs of all ribbons, medals and trophies for the 13 competitive events on the schedule including Raider Challenge Meets, Rifle and Drill competitions and some others. That cost will likely exceed \$12,000. GDF also will provide \$2000 each to 2 Civil Air Patrol, 2 Sea Cadet and 1 Sea Scout Ship Unit to support these other county young people. The total grant of \$64,000 was greeted with smiles and applause by the JROTC instructors, since fund raising can take away from their many other missions.

The meeting also allowed time to plan and schedule seven major Raider and Drill competitions at the 82-acre VMC Park with full support starting in September.

MOAACC has a three-person Student Advisory Committee of Michael Tucker, Hans Hunt and Michael Broski, backed up by the ten member GDF Board and MOAACC's Officers. President is Col Rick Kniseley, himself a former JROTC instructor at Space Coast HS in Brevard. Clearly for MOAACC and VMC "Never Stop Serving America's Future" is much more than a slogan. Good luck to the thousands of cadets in Brevard in the school year ahead.



MOAACC Good Deeds Treasurer, Wayne Justice (light blue shirt center) presents \$3K checks to each of the 14 Brevard JROTC Instructor Teams at the Veterans Memorial Center.

Veterans Connections

by Don Pearsall



Exciting news here at the agency. We are in the process of working with another farm owner to see about transferring the Equine Health and Wellness program to Cocoa from the farm in Mims.

The reason is the distance some of our veteran participants have to travel. We have veterans traveling all the way from Palm Bay

and Micco out to Scottsmore Mims area. They are traveling almost 60 miles each way, spending an hour or more traveling, during rush hour even longer. The program has not started yet at the different location, but we will advise everyone when it does.

We are working with other organizations with their issues like the ones we face every day. This time of the year, every one of us sees the donations and other funding whittle down to zero. Some say it's because of the upcoming election, however I feel it is the uncertain economy. People are hanging on to what they have and afraid to spend. This is understandable, but it is a real challenge to assist veterans.

We used to spend about \$40.00 to pay an electric bill for a at-risk veteran, now in today's financial climate, it's about \$120.00 or more. We need help this time of year and we are always looking for financial assistance.

Recognizing Purple Heart Recipients at a Special VMC Ceremony

by Donn Weaver

More than 350 people attended the annual US Coast Guard Birthday and Family Day Celebration at the USCG Point Canaveral Station on Saturday 3 August. It was a hot day with storms threatening, but the USCG personnel, including dozens of children, were well supported by the community and very happy during the four-hour event.

There was plenty of free food provided by the USO, AVET and others as well as a great USCG Birthday cake to be shared. Kids enjoyed many treats as well as a bounce house and slip and slide. The tour of a USCG Cutter was a big highlight.

MOAACC and the Veterans Memorial Center were among at least 10 veteran and community organizations that sponsored the event and brought tables and canopies to add to the fun and offer information about what we do for active-duty members and their families. Thanks to 2VP Rosa Reich (MOAACC) and Public Affairs Chairman Harry Beaver (VMC) for organizing the side-by-side tables.

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It was a great time and showed those who serve and their families that the community recognizes and appreciates that service.



Donn Weaver speaks to those attending the Purple Heart Ceremony



Remembrance bricks, which will be placed in the VMC Memorial Plaza



A dedicated crowd was present to honor the Purple Heart Recipients

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Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including vet organizations, government officials, 500 VMC members and more.

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The Patriot Report

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

Know Your Service Officer and Past Chapter 123 Commander William (Bill) Benagh

I grew up in Northern Michigan and was very active in school activities, Boy Scouts, athletics in High School and was the class president my junior and senior years in High School. During the summer I worked full-time (and a lot of overtime) at a fish market. I became the assistant manager after two years and worked there until I headed for college at Michigan College of Mining and Technology in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Before I started college I applied for an appointment to West Point. While at college I was in the Air Force ROTC. I also applied for USAF Aviation Cadet training and was selected with a reporting date of January 1956. Back to college and one month later I received my appointment to West Point with a reporting date in July 1955.

I graduated from West Point in 1959 as an Artillery Lieutenant and spent the next several months in Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery training. I also became a parachutist before reporting to the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY. I was assigned to a Field Artillery Battery as a Forward Observer. I held other positions and became the Battery Commander.

In 1962, I was off to Germany to serve in an Honest John Rocket Battalion. I was a Battery Commander soon after my arrival. I moved to Logistics Officer where we accomplished two major reorganizations. My next job was the battalion operations officer where our tactical mission changed twice, and we added another artillery battery which made us the largest Honest John unit in Germany. After three years I was back to Fort Sill for more training. After the training I was assigned to be a Tactics Instructor. After about six weeks in that job, I was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis and on my way to Vietnam. After a year in A Field Artillery Battalion, I returned to the U.S. and assigned to the Army Material Command Operational Readiness Office and Assistant to the Deputy CG Logistics.

After three years in Washington, I was on my way back to Vietnam and assigned to First Field Force Headquarters Operational Readiness Office. Both my tours in Vietnam were in the same area.

I returned to U.S. and assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. Joined an Artillery Battalion for six months and Special Projects Officer for six months until I was selected to attend the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS. When I graduated from the year-long course I was selected to be an Instructor in the Tactics Department. This was a great three-year assignment.

My next assignment came directly from The Department of the Army. Six of us Instructors were assigned to Army ROTC Professor of Military

Science duty at colleges that traditionally produced good officers, but the programs were failing. Our job was "to fix the program or fold it" in eighteen months. To make a long story short, I had a great staff, and we made it work. I was the PMS for six years and we commissioned fifty Lieutenants during my last year when I retired.

I retired June 1, 1982, and went to work the following week as a Business Development Manager with an Intelligent Technology (IT) company. Was assigned to work with the team developing an automated Tactical Warfare Gaming System for the Spanish Army. Was sent to Madrid to brief the Chief of Staff of the Spanish Army. He requested our team to extend our stay to brief his Senior Staff. I was the briefer and had the opportunity to meet with two officers on his staff who were students of mine at Leavenworth. Unfortunately, the Program was cancelled due to funding. I was requested to assist another team to work on an Army Program named AFATDS. We started by redoing a Functional Definition that came from another company. This took a year. Then we moved to reviewing the System Specifications developed by the System Contractor. I was the Senior System Engineer on this task which required over two years.

I went to work for another IT company that had the contract for a major Army Command and Control System. That was a Business Development position where I had active connections with all five of the Army Command and Control Nodes. This was also a two year and very busy position.

For the next ten years I worked in Business Development for a major Systems Development Corporation. We developed several lightweight and handheld computers for the military. And I worked closely with all the ranks in the military in all branches of military services. I retired from industry and moved to Florida in 2005.

In 2006, I joined DAV Chapter 123. I was elected as Junior Vice Commander in 2007 and appointed as Adjutant in 2008. In 2010, I was elected to Commander and held this position until I retired in 2021.

VA Disability Rating for Sciatica

Sciatica is common for military veterans and can make life extremely uncomfortable and painful. Veterans with sciatica may be eligible for VA disability benefits if they can prove that their issue results from their time in the service. If you have shooting pain down your leg or both legs and feel like you can hardly move them, you may have sciatica. This article explains sciatica and the VA rating and how to know if you may qualify for disability benefits.

What is Sciatica?

Sciatica, (also known as “lumbar radiculopathy,”) occurs when irritation, inflammation, or some type of damage affects the sciatic nerve, which runs down your lower back and leg or both legs. Sciatica causes pain, numbness, and muscle weakness. In severe cases, it can also cause urinary or bowel incontinence. Veterans are considered at a higher risk for sciatica because of service-related injuries or wear and tear on the back. Sciatic Disability Rating.

The severity of the symptoms for sciatica are going to affect your VA rating. The VA rates sciatica in the Schedule of Ratings under diagnostic codes 8520, 8620, and 8720, depending on whether your condition is classified as paralysis, neuritis, or neuralgia.


Diagnostic code 8520 is for paralysis of the sciatic nerve. Diagnostic code 8620 is for neuritis, or inflammation, of the sciatic nerve. Symptoms, including severe loss of reflexes, loss of sensation, muscle atrophy, and severely reduced movement, can be considered severe neuritis. The VA rating for neuritis of the sciatic nerve depends on whether symptoms are severe, moderate, and mild. Sciatic neuritis can be rated up to 60%.

Diagnostic code 8720 is for neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. Symptoms include tingling, numbness, and moderate to severe pain. While neuritis has to do with inflammation of the nerve, neuralgia means you’re experiencing that pain. Sciatic nerve neuralgia can be rated at 10% or 20%.

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for Sciatica

SMC is a type of disability benefit for veterans that increases the amount of compensation they receive for certain severe disabilities. Complete paralysis of the sciatic nerve leads to loss of use of the foot or feet, which warrants special monthly compensation (SMC).

The VA provides SMC for various reasons, most often related to the loss of function of extremities and other senses. This



Veterans with sciatica may be eligible for VA disability benefits

additional compensation is intended to pay the veteran for the disability as well as the accommodation that they need to take care of their everyday needs.

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for Sciatica

Sciatica is frequently caused by a herniated disc or bone growth, like a bone spur. It also can cause pain, numbness, or other issues in other parts of the lower body, like the hip and knee. Sciatica can also cause incontinence of the bowels and the urinary tract. If you experience any of these other health conditions, it’s worth discussing with your doctor to determine whether they’re related to sciatica. Secondary service connections can help increase your overall VA disability rating and monthly payments, ensuring you get the full compensation you deserve for service-related conditions.

Is Sciatica a Presumptive Condition?

A presumptive service connection means that when a qualifying veteran applies for sciatica VA disability benefits, they are not required to submit a medical opinion that the sciatica is medically linked to their service. Otherwise, Sciatica is not a presumptive condition unless its onset was documented during active-duty service. Peripheral neuropathy, including sciatic neuropathy, is a presumptive condition for veterans who were held as POWs for more than 30 days. Early-onset peripheral neuropathy, including early-onset sciatic neuropathy, is presumptive for veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Sciatic neuropathy is considered constant pain in the nerve caused by damage that doesn’t dissipate over time. You may experience more consistent pain and more pain to the touch with sciatic neuropathy than with sciatica. If you are diagnosed with sciatic neuropathy and are eligible under the Agent Orange or POW presumptive criteria, you would not have to prove a service connection.

C&P Exam for Sciatica

Compensation and pension exams (C&P exams) are meant to determine how severe your condition is and whether it is service connected. The VA C&P exam for sciatica will typically include questions about your military service and a physical exam to check nerve reflexes and how the knees and legs respond to external stimuli.

The most common physical test for diagnosing sciatica is called a straight leg raise (SLR) test. In this test, you lie on your back and lift one leg at a time while the other leg lays flat or is bent at the knee. You then express your feeling pain to the doctor when you feel the pain, helping them measure the extent of your sciatica.

TDIU for Sciatica

A veteran can be awarded total disability based on individual unemployability (TDIU) benefits if they cannot maintain "substantially gainful employment" due to their service-connected conditions. If you have sciatica, walking or standing may be difficult, if not impossible, depending on the severity of your condition. You also may experience pain when you move during a flare-up. This condition can make it difficult to do any job where you must stand, walk, or sit for long periods of time without a great deal of pain and discomfort. If that's the case, you may qualify for TDIU. TDIU pays at the same level as a 100% disability rating, even when the veteran's combined rating is below 100%. Veterans will typically be eligible for TDIU if they have: At least one service-connected disability rated at 60% or more disabling OR Two or more service-connected disabilities with at least one rated at 40% or more disabling and a combined rating of 70% or more. prove a service connection.

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

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar September 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/>

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

11 Sep – AVET Firearms Fun Night 1700-1800 at Frogbones Family Shooting Center, 404 South Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne. AVET Fundraiser for their mission to empower military families. Registration required at email. info@avet-project.org. Details on AVET web site: www.avet-project.org

18 Sep – Texas Roadhouse Special Supporter Night for Veterans Memorial Center 1700-2000 at the 1975 Viera Blvd, Rockledge Restaurant. Portion of all sales go to support the missions at the Veterans Memorial Center.

28 Sep – JROTC Raider Challenge Invitational Competition at the Veterans Memorial Center Park (0630-1300) . Support hundreds of JROTC cadets engaging in five grueling events in 10 person male, female and mixed teams.

OCTOBER 2024

12 Oct – JROTC Raider Challenge Invitational Competition at the Veterans Memorial Center Park (0630-1300). Support hundreds of JROTC cadets engaging in five grueling events in 10 person male, female and mixed teams.

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31 Oct – BCSO Shred Event in VMC Park 0900-1030. BCSO conducts monthly shred services at various locations and will release their 2024 schedule in January.

NOVEMBER 2024

02 Nov – JROTC Raider Challenge DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP Invitational Competition at the Veterans Memorial Center Park (0630-1300). Support hundreds of JROTC cadets engaging in five grueling events in 10 person male, female and mixed teams.

10 Nov – NVHS's Seventh Annual Homestretch 5K for At-Risk and Homeless Vets. For details and to register see Latest Events and Updates on: nvhs.org

09 Nov – St Francis Reflections Lifestage Care Veterans Day 5K at VMC Park, 0800-1030, more details in Sep.

11 Nov – Veterans Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 0930 - 1100. Many others in Brevard as well. Details in October.

16 Nov – Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Indian River Colony Club 0800-1300. Save the date. Looking for sponsors and golfers. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576. Sign up at moaacc.org web site.

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:

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VIDEOGRAPHERS

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