



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

NOVEMBER 2024



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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Twenty-nine Dinner attendees had a chance to go through the amazing Brevard Veteran Memorial Center's museum.  
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Our October luncheon was also a big hit. We had a special tribute to thank our supporters over the past year.  
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### **JROTC Raider Challenge Meets in 2024**

Two Hurricanes, Helene and Milton, forced changes and the cancellation of one Raider Challenge Meet in Brevard at the Veterans Memorial Center Park this Fall, but the cadets never lost spirit.  
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# A Milestone USMC Birthday - 100 Years Old

*Gary Corbett came by Legion Post 163 to extend birthday wishes for a 100-year-old Marine, Corporal George Andrew Frank on Saturday 12 October.*

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NOVEMBER 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 25th of each month.

Please send submissions to:  
brevardvmc@gmail.com

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## Our Organization

As of 25 September 2024:

[List of Board 2024-2025](#)

As of 30 October 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)

The **Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce** held their annual **Space Coast HONORS** awards program on Friday, September 20th and the Veterans Memorial Center was honored as the **Non-Profit Business of the Year for 2024!** This is the first time since the Brevard Veterans Council and the Veterans Memorial Center has received one of these awards. **CONGRATULATIONS VMC!!!!**

**One more month left in the Hurricane season** so let us see if Milton is the last to impact us. The eye of **Milton passed directly over our heads** on the night of October 9th, and we were fortunate that we did not have more damage. See pictures in this Courier of the minimal damage but it did require a lot of clean up. Charles and I were on site the morning after the eye passed overhead and there was debris everywhere. The county turned out that day to pick up debris as they did in all the parks. Thanks to **Charles and Thomas** who cleaned up most of the debris over the next few days. We closed the VMC and park from noon on the 8th through Sunday the 13th. Charles and I opened the Gray hall for the Space Coast Jazz Society to hold their scheduled Sunday performance. The turnout was smaller than usual, but everyone enjoyed the Jazz session.

Charles pointed out that we had two good sized **Green Buttonwood trees** that were planted too close to the water and toppled into the lake. See my story on how we saved the trees.

By the time this issue of the Courier is published, we will have had the **groundbreaking** of our long sought-after **Amphitheater** in the Park. As I write this, we are planning for the event, sponsored by **Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department, Directed by Mary Ellen Donner**. She and her crew did an outstanding job sprucing up the VMC Park for the event. We are expecting several dignitaries and the general public to attend, and I am estimating attendance to be around 400. There will be twelve gold shovels in the hands of those individuals who contributed to bringing this dream to fruition. Thanks to **Donn Weaver** and **Dean Schaaf** for their tireless efforts over the last five years working with the **Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA)** and **County and State** officials to finally make this happen. **Ivey Construction** is the lead contractor and were on-site Friday, October 25th with the plans and initial inspections of the construction areas.

**During construction in the Park**, there will be **no access to the park from the main parking lot**. Entrance will be from the gate on Fortenberry during the first phase and from the **west parking lot the rest of the time**. The general public will only have access to the park from the west parking lot and over the bridge between the lakes. The pavilion, playground, exercise, and the raider challenge areas should be accessible unless the workers are running electricity to those areas. The users of the park will see major interruptions to their regular routines of walking or jogging along the walkways for several months. **Be patient and courteous during the construction phase**.

With Veterans Day approaching on November 11, the VMC will be involved in several events around the county. We will participate in an inaugural Veterans Day parade in Cape Canaveral on Saturday, November 9th. Our **Veterans Day Ceremony**, Monday, **November 11** starting at 0930 and referenced elsewhere in this issue. Thanks to **Don Pearsall** and **Donn Weaver** for planning this year's event.

Please read our highly informative Courier and thanks to all that contribute great articles on a regular basis. And thanks particularly to **Kristi Blanchard**, our secretary, and Information Technology expert 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.**

## VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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





## Council Report

**Don Pearsall,  
Chairman  
USA (Fmr)**

Man, what a change of the weather since those two hurricanes rolled through. I love sleeping with the windows open. Fall is upon us and so are many events you may be interested in volunteering for or at least attending. Please look at Donn Weavers Calendar of events in this issue.

Last Tuesday I was invited to the woman veteran luncheon, where myself, Dean and Donn were among the honorees, accepting their appreciation for our support with a certificate and lunch. This group, falling under the Brevard Veterans Council was started a few years ago by Dorothy Walsh with help from Donn Weaver then the BVC chairman. This group was an instant success, and is growing each event.

In today's military, the percentage of women is 17.5% of the active duty force, and 21.6% of the selected reserve. For many years, this group of veterans were forgotten. At that time, they were mostly found in support roles. Not anymore, the shift to combat roles is evident in all branches of the military. We find them as aircraft carrier captains, jet fighter pilots, and other jobs that were always held by men. No longer forgotten, the Brevard Veterans Council is proud of its support and participation in programs for these dedicated American Veterans.

I am back from Florida's west coast my service with the VFW Disaster Response and Recovery Team ending. These unfortunate people lost either something, or everything. In areas, the storm surge washed over the swamps, leaving dangerous situations with snakes, turtles and frogs in homes and yards. It was a double economic hit for beachside communities. Many beach homes were lost, those homes were rented by snowbirds. Now, they have no place to go and the homeowner has to refund their money in addition to losing their home. We are fortunate to live on the east coast, where ocean temperatures are cooler than the Gulf, allowing many hurricanes to develop and landfall somewhere in the three state region.

Have Nice Thanksgiving



## Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Chip  
Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)**

The most powerful weapon the citizens of the United States of America have is to vote. Election day this year is November 5th so get out and vote!

A brief history of voting rights in America is as follows:

- August 2, 1776: The Declaration of Independence frames Voters' Rights - In the Declaration of Independence, signed on this day, Thomas Jefferson writes, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."
- June 21, 1788: Voting Left to States in the U.S. Constitution was adopted on this date, but instead of a federal requirement, it grants states the power to establish standards for voting rights. As a result, males, who own property and are older than 21, are the only group allowed to vote. Article II establishes the Electoral College.
- July 9, 1868: Citizenship Granted to All US-born and Naturalized - Following the 13th Amendment, which prohibits slavery, the 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to all people "born or naturalized in the United States" and "equal protection under the laws," including formerly enslaved people.
- February 3, 1870: Black Men were Granted the Right to Vote -The 15th Amendment is ratified, granting Black men the right to vote and congress the power to enforce the right. However, laws, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses, are enacted in mostly Southern states, suppressing Black voting rights until 1965.
- August 18, 1920: Women Get the Right to Vote - After decades of protest and struggles for change, the 19th Amendment is adopted, granting American women the right to vote: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."
- June 2, 1924: Native Americans were Granted the Right to Vote - Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act, granting the right to vote to Native Americans born in the United States. Despite its passage, some states continue to bar Native Americans from voting.
- 1943 Chinese Exclusion Act Ends - "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." - Thomas Jefferson

"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies." Romans 8:33

Happy Birthday, Marine Corps - 10 November  
Veterans Day is November 11th and we hope to see you at the VMC Ceremony at 9:30 am.



# Secretary's Report

**Kristi Blanchard**  
USA (Fmr)



Encouraging everyone to vote!

I was reminded this week by some Vietnam Veterans that they couldn't vote until they were 21 during the 1960's - so encourage your 18+ young adults to vote too. Both of my twenty-something's voted during the convenient early voting here in Brevard. For more information see: <https://www.votebrevard.gov/Election-Information/Early-Voting>

I'd like to acknowledge the many years of service from Joe Davie, our outgoing Librarian Department Head, and say welcome to Hank Rhodes for stepping in as the new Department Head. I'm going to miss Joe particularly for his work on the committee for online media as no one else in the VMC gets our IT language - although I keep training! ha! I wish him the best in this next chapter of his life, and look forward to working with Hank as he becomes more involved with the Board of Directors too.

Also wanted to share this letter from one of our museum docents as a reminder of all of the support veterans have nationwide:

**Walls of Honor Ceremony**  
Email from Rob Whisenant, Museum Docent

Hello Kristi, I wanted to let you know I was invited to attend a rather fine event here in Idaho.

My good friend Bob Lowery is a member of the Ketchum American Legion here and I was fortunate to attend an event that honored an Army veteran who lost both legs above the knee &

hand injury as well in Afghanistan on June 2012 due to a IED.

This patriots name is Matthew Krumwiede. An Idaho resident, was recently honored with a home, purpose built to help with his physical needs now.

The Gary Sinise Foundation, in a Walls of Honor ceremony had the contractors & volunteers, along with several folks from the surrounding area to attend and show our support. I was honored to be part of this moment.

Great guy Matthew is, met him briefly and I feel certain is worthy of this home! You can see me in the second row wearing my BVMC shirt!

- Be well all, Rob



## NOTU Recognition



Six sailors from NOTU were advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer at a "pinning" ceremony



More than 100 people attended the pinning ceremony at the VMC



## VMC Librarian Report

**Hank Rhodes**  
USN (Fmr)

“Forgotten Wars” probably ranks among our least-favorite expressions. When people forget wars, then the warriors, their cherished ideals, and their sacrifices are forgotten.

We all have the privilege of living in a free society which includes the freedom to live in an ever-present moment, safe and secure, without regard for the past nor care for the future. In fact, many of our fellow Americans rarely cite national security among their most pressing concerns. This absence of worry is really a tribute to anyone who has served in defense of the United States over the last hundred years.

The concept of forgotten wars, however, ends where South Sykes Creek Parkway ends, at our memorial park.

In conjunction with the other departments and tenant organizations at the VMC, the library’s true mission is to assure that service, struggle and sacrifice are never forgotten. Our commitment that no hero is unsung, and that no loss is unmourned, is a never-ending task.

To accomplish this, we have a team of talented and dedicated volunteers, who you will meet in coming months in this space. We have also had two outstanding individuals- Paul Julian and Joe Davie- whose professionalism and leadership during their respective tenures leading the VMC Library Department were essential in achieving the library’s current standard of excellence. I’m honored to be the next Librarian Department Head, and look forward to working with the other departments, volunteers and board of directors.

The VMC’s collection of 4800 carefully cataloged books stands as a commemoration and as a resource for American warriors of the past, present and future.



Hurricane Milton loosened the Library ceiling tiles but it was an easy repair

## Book Report: Blind Man’s Bluff: The Untold Story of American Submarine Espionage

**Book Report by H.V. Rhodes**

At times, Blind Man’s Bluff reads like a war epic, as the narrative follows sailors from their antics at their favored stateside watering holes to the deadly serious execution of their missions on the opposite side of the world. Essentially, the book is a war epic, chronicling the covert undersea operations carried out by the U.S. Navy- primarily the submarine force- against the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Although the official version of these operations remains classified, the authors have gathered extensive data from open sources, including the personal recollections of some of the participants, several of whom were former sailors of the Soviet Fleet.

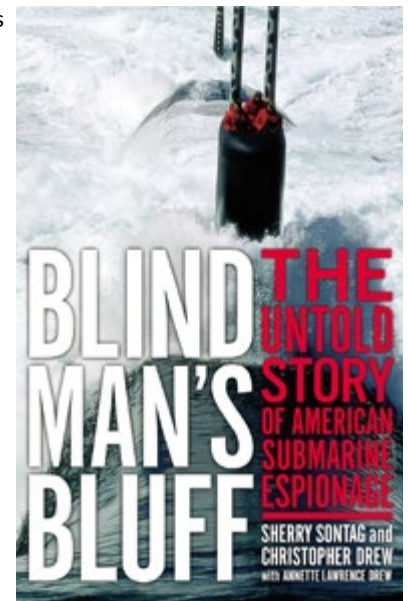
Spanning the era from the late 1940s to the early 1990s, the authors document trailing operations between submarines of the opposing nations, the partial recovery of a sunken Soviet submarine from the depths of the mid-Pacific, and electronic taps on undersea military communication cables.

Also covered are the losses suffered by the U.S. and the Soviets, most notably 99 crewmen aboard the USS Scorpion (SSN-589) which sank mysteriously in the mid-Atlantic in May 1968.

The only issue of note to this reviewer is how the authors minimize the greater context of the Cold War, treating it in a detached fashion, as if this conflict was simply a match between two chess grandmasters - impressive but of little impact beyond the playing surface. The reality is that the Cold War was a half-century struggle between a flawed system of government (Democracy) and a terribly toxic one (Communism) with profound consequences for humanity.

This book is recommended for anyone interested in discovering a little-known aspect of the Cold War. Given the recent increase in tension between the United States and the Russian Federation, this topic may be more relevant than ever.

Blind Man’s Bluff is found in the VMC library as “Navy-297.”



# Their Voice Their Hope

## By Dorothy Walsh

We at Their Voice of Hope have been so busy and thankfully we have many volunteers who are stepping up to help out. The great news is that our Equine Health & Wellness program will be restarting on Friday November 8 at 8AM. We have a new location in Cocoa which should make it a lot easier for everyone. In order to participate women veterans have to register.

We have had 1 session with our Healing through Art Expression program. Due to the weather we had to cancel our October meet up. Our next one will be on Tuesday, November 5 at 11AM - 4411 Ponds Drive Cocoa FL 32927 - registration is strongly encouraged.

Along with our peer support and outreach events these ladies have been keeping busy with meet ups such as lunch bunch, beach cleanup day, and bowling. It has been a great way for these women to get out of the house and meet other likeminded women.

A new program we are working on and looking forward to rolling out at the beginning of the year is a Veteran Mentor Program.

During our outreach event in St Cloud, we met a 24-year-old female who just separated from the military. She expressed how lonely and lost she has been since now she has all these hours and nothing to do. I bet you're thinking - she can get a job, go to school, etc. However, after being told what and how to live her life for 4 years she was a little lost. After speaking with several women

veterans, they agreed that a mentor program to help women veterans transition from military to civilian life is something that is needed. So, if there are any women veterans who are interested in being a mentor, please send me an email. I and several retired officers are creating a very detailed program along with parameters for mentors and mentees. We expect to roll this out at the beginning of 2025.

Last but not least our ladies had a very special treat during October - thanks to Bob Boswell and Marvin Juhl, Tico's new leadership, a group of our women veterans received a guided tour of the Tico Warbird Museum, free of charge. A very special thank you to Bob and Marvin for making this happen. They loved it!!! And they loved their guide as well!!!

Please reach out to Dorothy Walsh, [dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com](mailto:dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com) for more information and or to register for any of our programs.



TICO Warbird Museum Outing

# Park and Plaza Report

## by Donn Weaver

October saw huge progress and many changes to our programs involving the Park, Plaza, Benches, Trees and Bricks.

First, thanks so much to Shaun McKinney and Gareth McKimmie for many months of work on Bricks and Plaza support. They both have new plans and have passed the torch. Thanks also to Doug Bisset who returns Nov-May each year who has supported our Memorial Bench and Tree program over seven years and will continue to help these growing endeavors. Also, as you may know, for over 16 months, Wayne Fried has entered hundreds of bricks into our computer tracking program and has now stepped up to support the entire Plaza and Park Mission. So, under the ExComm, and expanding to include Park Projects as well as the Plaza, will be our new Park and Plaza Committee: Donn Weaver, Wayne Fried, Dave Clayton and Doug Bisset.

Of course, the HUGE news of October 2024 was the 29 Oct Groundbreaking Ceremony for the \$8.2M Amphitheater and other Phase III Park upgrades. The new Park will finally give our 17 Memorial Benches and 27 Memorial Trees a place to be



positioned and planted.

During the Committee transition Sep-Oct we processed 11 brick orders, five new benches and three new trees. In addition, CSpray (Chad and Kitty Stoudt) did great work on their quarterly Plaza upgrades which included repainting service seals and selected bricks, a new color scheme for the Central Monument, power washing and much more. They will soon add the name of SFC Melvin Morris, USA Ret, Brevard's only living Medal of Honor Recipient, to the Central Monument North Face. Thanks CSpray !!!

If you have not done so, check out the new Missing Man Chair Monument by Rolling Thunder FL-1 dedicated late last month located along the sidewalk around the plaza.

# AUSA Space Coast Chapter Updates



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

Dear AUSA Space Coast Chapter and VMC Members,

We had our General Membership Meeting and Dinner on Friday, 25 October 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, 400 S Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, FL. This event was free for all AUSA Space Coast Chapter Members and guests.

Twenty-nine attendees had a chance to go through the amazing Brevard Veteran Memorial Center’s museum.

Kip Mathias and Jerome Williams attended the National AUSA Conference October 15-17th. They shared their experiences, the Chapter’s recognition, streamers, and AUSA’s focus for 2025. We cover our Chapter’s activity plans for the year through June 30, 2025, to include the Army’s 250 the Birthday Celebration.

SGT Joshua Arocho of the Rockledge Florida Army Recruiting Station and a guest Edward Ecuatoriano presented details the challenges of recruiting when potential recruits have difficulty passing the AVSAB entrance exam. They also presented a tutoring methodology to assist students all pass the ASVAB.

The AUSA – Space Coast Chapter will be developing a plan of action to assess this training methodology over the next three to six months.

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National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS): If you have not heard of this organization, we encourage you to check out their website at [www.nvhs.org](http://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 in 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.

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The Army Navy Football Game is on Saturday, December 14, at 3:00 pm. Join us for some great football and interservice rivalry at the Broken Barrel Restaurant, 4700 Babcock St, Palm Bay, FL.

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 input and receive your feedback at [pressc@ausa.org](mailto: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!

**“Bowling for Heroes”**  
a Charity Event benefiting  
**Heroes United to Heal Foundation**

**GRAND PRIZE**  
**Offshore Fishing Trip**  
with First up Fishing Charters  
Sponsored by Droe, Looe Distilling

Where: Merritt Island  
Shore Lanes Bowling Center  
600 N. Courtneyway Plany  
Merritt Island, FL 32953

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

**Tournament Rules**

- Team Registration Fee is \$120 due upon registration.
- Grand Prize awarded to the team that raises the largest donation by the day of the event.
- Team Categories.
  - League 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 >

Register by November 1, 2024  
by using the QR Code or  
by email: [Register@hu2h.org](mailto:Register@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 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



With winter coming, Kris Nutter donated many hand knitted sock caps for veterans. Thanks!



# FROM THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 513

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

As we approach the month of November, the veteran community in general anticipates the celebration of Veterans Day as the major military recognition holiday for the month. But more specifically, for the United States Marine Corps, there are two events that highlight the traditions and “esprit de corps” of our beloved service. First, the United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) conducts their annual “Toys for Tots” campaign, collecting, sorting, and delivering toys of all kinds to children through out the nation. Joining the USMCR in this mission are active duty Marine Corps units, the Marine Corps League, and veterans and civilian groups through-out the community.


You will see collection barrels, commercials on TV, and advertisements all around the county urging your support. Buy a toy, find a collection point, (BVMC Lobby) and donate to make a child’s Christmas (and the world) just a little bit better. For ALL Marines, young, old, past and present, November 10th holds a significant highlight in history. November 10th, 1775 is noted as the “birth of the Marine Corps”, for on that day our nation authorized the founding of a Corps of Marines to support the U.S. Navy. Later, one of our founding Commandants declared that all Marines would observe this date with a Birthday Ball to commemorate and honor the glorious men, women, and traditions of our Corps.

In celebration of the 249th year of our Corps, Marine Corps League Detachment 513 is hosting a local Marine Corps Ball open to the public as well as all members of every service. Advanced registration is required. Join us and celebrate the camaraderie and history of our Corps and country. If you have never attended an event like this, you can look forward to the presentation of Colors by our color guard, a guest speaker, honoring our departed brothers and sisters, a pre- recorded message from our current U. S Marine Corps Commandant, an excellent dinner with your choice of entrees, birthday cake for dessert with next year. Please see the attached flyer and use the QR code to register.

And, if you are feeling lucky, we will be holding a drawing for a Black Aces Bullpup tactical 12 gauge semi-automatic shotgun. The chances of winning are very high as only 200 tickets are available at \$10.00 per ticket, available from any member of our detachment and at the door, if not sold out prior to the festivities. I can promise you a night to remember! All proceeds go to Marine Corps League Detachment 513 and are used to support veterans right here in Brevard County.


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

## 249th MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Hosted by Brevard County Detachment 513  
Marine Corps League  
Friday 15 November 2024, 6:00-10:00 PM  
Space Coast Convention Center  
301 Tucker Lane, Cocoa FL

\$50.00 Per Person  
Advance reservations only. Cut-off date: 8 Nov 2024  
(Cash, check or PayPal®)  
For more information contact  
MCLBrevard513@gmail.com






## Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and the Brevard Veterans Council Presents Veterans Day 2024



**Monday November 11 th**  
**9:30 A.M.**  
400 S. Sykes Creek Parkway,  
Merritt Island

# A Milestone USMC Birthday

By Vinnie Howard, Brevard County Detachment 513 Sergeant at Arms

Gary Corbett came by Legion Post 163 to extend birthday wishes for a 100-year-old Marine, Corporal George Andrew Frank on Saturday 12 October.

Detachment Junior Vice Commandant John Kayda and I marched up, saluted and began presenting the gifts: 5 different challenge coins, the card we all signed, a few gifts from the Rockledge Marine Recruiters, a 1945 issue of Leatherneck and lastly, the Honorary Membership Certificate and Detachment shirt. We then had the entire group of 50-70 guests go on their phones and Google the lyrics to the Marines' Hymn. Everyone sang it as George did too with tears running down his cheeks!

Since his birthday was today 12 October 2024 and, with November 10th and 11th coming fast, he was also presented the official 249th USMC Birthday coin and a USMC Veterans Day card with a picture of the band on it. The Birthday traditions were explained, and the cake was cut with my NCO Sword. He was the Guest of Honor and Oldest Marine and I was the Youngest!

Special thanks to Detachment 513 for all your support in honoring our Brother Marine!



# Women's Outreach

By Dorothy Walsh

Our October events were wonderful. On Tuesday, October 15, Dena Armstrong held her monthly yoga class except this month she made it a chair yoga session. Dena went out and took a special class to learn chair yoga so she can accommodate those of us with mobility issues. It was a great class, and all the women loved it. Just a reminder that our monthly yoga sessions are open to women veterans as well as female spouses of veterans and female first responders. Our next class will be Tuesday, November 19.

The women also want to express their appreciation to the Brevard Veterans Council for purchasing new props for the class. The women truly loved them!!! Thank you!!!

Our October luncheon was also a big hit. We had a special tribute to thank our supporters over the past year. As I like to say "It Takes a Village" no one can do it alone! Certificates of Appreciation were presented to 17 community supporters. Unfortunately, several were not there but will receive theirs at another time. Special thanks were given to BVC Chairman Don Pearsall, VMC President Dean Schaaf, and Good Deeds Foundation President Donn Weaver for all their support over the past 5 years of the program.

Donn and Dean agreed, "Everyone enjoyed a review of past and future planned events during a catered Italian lunch full of camaraderie and gratitude."

Our next luncheon will be our holiday celebration in December, date will be announced.



(L-R) Receiving certificates of appreciation were Council Chair Don Pearsall (Dorothy Walsh) VMC Pres Dean Schaaf and MOAACC GDF Pres Donn Weaver (1)

# Tribute to Veterans

concert \* fundraiser \* benefit

TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 12TH, 2024  
7 PM TIL 9 PM  
DOORS OPEN @ 6 PM



UNITY CHURCH OF  
MERRITT ISLAND  
210 N. TROPICAL TRAIL  
MERRITT ISLAND, FL  
32953

**Color Guard**  
PRESENTATION BY THE  
"VETERAN'S MEMORIAL  
CENTER  
(LED BY DON PEARSALL)

**Prayer & Poem By:**  
REVEREND  
DEE DEE WILCHECK

**Speech By:**  
DON PEARSALL  
(BREVARD VETERAN'S  
CENTER CHAIRMAN)

**MUSIC BY:**  
• STEVE KIRSNER  
• THE JOY BAND (JAN  
SALMON, KIM KOSLOSKY,  
& SUZANNE BAKER)  
• ART EDWARDS

**Also accepting DONATIONS OF:**  
• NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD ITEMS  
• NEW/ GENTLY  
USED  
CLOTHING  
ITEMS  
\*\*BOXES WILL BE ON  
THE PATIO\*\*

**food**

**silent auction**

**Sing-along!**

**\$10 suggested love offering**

ALL proceeds benefit various Veteran organizations below:

for more info: Contact Chris Boyle @ 321-453-4253 or  
Ailene Pacheco @ 321-652-0680

**FREE to attend!**  
Calling all Active-Duty  
Military, Spouses, Dependents,  
and Veterans!

## MILITARY TRANSITIONCON

### SPACE COAST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 8:30AM - 4:00 PM  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM

SPACE COAST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS  
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  - SkillBridge Panel Discussions
  - Thursday Night On-Site  
Vendor/Attendee Reception

\*All monetary contributions to the Space Coast Military TransitionCon are tax-deductible, as the funds support Ascend Brevard, Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.\*\*

For more information, or to register as an attendee, vendor, or sponsor, scan the QR Code or call (321) 453-2200



**PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT  
HU2H'S BIG SKY RETREAT  
SUMMER 2025  
YELLOWSTONE/PARADISE VALLEY, MONTANA**

This retreat aids veterans and first responders in recovering from service related trauma, guiding them toward a brighter future.

Please donate and support HU2H's mission of ending "hero suicide". With your help, we can provide veterans and first responders with the tools necessary to heal from the invisible wounds they sustain while serving their country and communities. Help us help them find their new purpose. Together, we can make a difference.

This retreat is a combination of camaraderie, training and therapy.

<p><b>Retreat Includes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All meals and beverages</li> <li>Lodging</li> <li>Outdoor activities</li> <li>Fun Therapy Activities</li> <li>Memorable Souvenir</li> </ul>	<p><b>How to Donate</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.HU2H.org">www.HU2H.org</a></p>	<p><b>Ways to Donate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Donations</li> <li>Sponsor a Hero</li> <li>Host a Fundraiser</li> <li>Mail checks to: Heroes United to Heal 3000 Murrell Rd. #560325 Rockledge, FL 32956</li> </ul>
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**Contact Us**  
321-228-8435 | [www.HU2H.org](http://www.HU2H.org) | [contact@hu2h.org](mailto:contact@hu2h.org)

## Free Veterans Day Open House

Sunday, November 3, 2024 1-4 PM

Please join us in celebrating our Veterans and Active Duty Military. Our FREE Open House is for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families.

The 501(c)3 museum includes over 450 vehicles in a 90,000 sq ft vehicle display area, an 18,000 sq ft showroom, and an adjacent 24,000 sq ft maintenance and restoration facility for the collection. It is not open to the public but hosts numerous non-profit fundraisers, community appreciation events, car-related activities, and educational tours.

\*Family is defined as Active Duty Military, Veterans and their Spouses, Children, Parents, and Significant Others. This event is NOT OPEN to the General Public.

3500 Sarno Road Melbourne, FL 32904  
[www.AmericanMuscleCarMuseum.com](http://www.AmericanMuscleCarMuseum.com)

# Storms Change Schedules but Not Focus – JROTC Raider Challenge Meets in 2024

Two Hurricanes, Helene and Milton, forced changes and the cancellation of one Raider Challenge Meet in Brevard at the Veterans Memorial Center Park this Fall, but the cadets never lost spirit.

More than 250 JROTC cadets from 11 High Schools (including two from other counties) competed in the once postponed Raider Challenge event on 5 October. The event saw over 400 parents and siblings watch the five grueling events, which include a 2K run, Big Tire Flip, Rope Bridge crossing, Drag and Carry relay, and Litter Carry competition with 10 person teams fighting time and skill requirements. 29 Male, female and mixed teams did their best, with Merritt Island and Cocoa Beach High School teams winning the most trophies, but all giving their best and using teamwork, leadership, motivation and athleticism and much more to high levels – unusual actions for most high school students on a Saturday morning.

A second Raider Challenge for later in October had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Milton and scheduling conflicts. The final District Championship is all set for 02 November at the VMC Park, from 0900 -1200. VMC members are encouraged to come out and support the JRIOTC cadets and help present dozens of medals, ribbons and trophies to the winners, many of whom hope to qualify for the State Raider Challenge Championships on 16 Nov. The awards are funded by MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation.



Receiving the awards



The two mile run begins.



Maj Steve Celeste, USA, RET and Rockledge JROTC Instructor briefs everyone.



Opening Ceremony.

# Advertise in the Courier

### RATES

Business Card: \$50 per year  
Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year  
Half Page Color: \$250 per year

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

Ads are in support of the VMC, a 501(c)3 organization, and may be tax deductible. Funds will be used to improve the Courier and expand circulation in 2023 and beyond.



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Seniors all around town are talking about their FREE magazine that has it all! We know how to reach them with what they want to read most, in places they frequent. That's why advertising in Senior Scene works, and why our distribution has rapidly grown to now include the Space Coast.

Also read it at [www.seniorscenemag.com](http://www.seniorscenemag.com)

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# Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center



## *Brevard County's*

***“Newest”***

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***Please call for times – 321-212-9726***

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**2475 Jen Drive #5, Melbourne, FL.**

**vietnamwarexhibit.com – Fb: Vietnam War Exhibit**



## ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

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

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## ATTENTION!

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

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



**321-507-0873**

1365 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Unit C,  
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## TOYS FOR TOTS



**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

For more information go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)



## Fall Bake Sale



**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 AM until all goodies are gone  
**Where:** Veterans Memorial Center  
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, MI



All proceeds will benefit our  
Veteran and Children & Youth  
Programs



# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar November 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/>

## 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. Top Teams will go on to State level competition.

**03 Nov - Free Open House at the American Muscle Car Museum for Veterans, Active Duty and their families.** 1300-1400/ The 501(c)3 museum includes over 450 vehicles in a 90,000 sq ft vehicle display area, an 18,000 sq ft showroom, and an adjacent 24,000 sq ft maintenance and restoration facility for the collection. It is not open to the public but hosts numerous non-profit fundraisers, community appreciation events, car-related activities, and educational tours. 3500 Sarno Road Melbourne, FL 32904, [www.AmericanMuscleCarMuseum.com](http://www.AmericanMuscleCarMuseum.com)

**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](http://nvhs.org)

**09 Nov. St Francis Reflections Lifestage Care Veterans Day 5K** at VMC Park. 0800-1030. To register see SFR web site. Come out and support the runners as SFR raises funds for it all year long Veteran support programs throughout Brevard.

**09 Nov – First Annual City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade and BBQ** 1111- 1300. Starts and ends at Nancy Hanson Recreational Complex. There will be many parade entrants and much food and drinks at the Complex. Live Music, games for kids of all ages. Enjoy a great time with the community. Contact Jose: [S76Pilot@aol.com](mailto:S76Pilot@aol.com) 321-961-3262 for more info and to sign up parade entrants.

**09-10 Nov– Veterans Open House 2024 at Valiant Air Command War Birds Museum** at TICO Airport, Titusville 1000-1700 both days. Veterans get in free with lots of food, special events and more. Check the War Bird Museum web site for more information.

### 11 Nov– Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Center

behind Merritt Square Mall Plaza 0930 - 1030. Honoring our Veterans with a celebration of what it means to be a veteran. Music, tables and info from many veteran organizations and free Museum. Contact the VMC for more information. 321-453-1776 ext 1. All vet organizations and supporters' tables are welcome.

**12 Nov – Tribute to Veterans** (Concert, Fundraiser, Benefit), 1900-2100 (doors open at 1800). Music by Steve Kirchner Joy Band and silent auction. Sponsored by and held at Unity Church of Merritt Island to benefit the BVMC, American Legion, Wreaths Across America and the Space Coast Honor Flight. Suggested donation is \$10 and also accepts non-perishable food and new or gently used clothing. Contact Chris Boyle, 321-453-4253, or Ailene Picheco, 321-652-0680.

**15 Nov –249th Marine Corps Birthday Celebration** at Space Coast Convention Center , 301 Tucker Lane, Cocoa 1800-2000. Hosted by Brevard County Marine Corps League Detachment 513. \$50.00 per person with reservations required by 09 Nov. Payment by cash, check or PayPal. Reservations and questions at [MCLBrevard513@gmail.com](mailto:MCLBrevard513@gmail.com)

**16 Nov – Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser** at the Indian River Colony Club 0800-1300. Looking for more golfers. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576. Sign up at [moaacc.org](http://moaacc.org) web site.

**16 Nov – Annual Dinner and Fund Raiser** by the Support Committee of the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (SC/CCNC) 1730- 2000 at American Legion Post 1, US 1 in Titusville. 50/50 raffles, silent auction, Music by Dave Johnson, great food and more all to support the SC/CCNC during the year. They organize ceremonies and events at CCNC; support the CCNC Director and her team, as well as through the Cape Canaveral Ladies, who make sure no veteran is ever buried alone. Reservations required by 01 Nov to Priscilla Southworth ([saavik31324@yahoo.com](mailto:saavik31324@yahoo.com)). Dinner costs \$20 with checks made out to SC/CCNC. Priscilla has all the details.

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



BECOME A BOOSTER TODAY and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.  
Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



# Boosters

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

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2025

Carleton, Jim March, 2025

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2026

Ericson, Robert & Robin Mar 2026

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2024

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2026

Florida State University College of Social  
Work, August, 2025

Garcia, Jackie & Danny June, 2025

Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 2024

Kanis, Jussara & Michael Nov, 2027

Kappes, Bea (RIP) & Mickey July, 2025

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2028

McKinney, Shaun & Adora Sept, 2025

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rowe, Wayne June, 2025

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2025

Taylor, Skip Aug, 2025

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2025

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

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

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

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