



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

Space Coast Honors Non-Profit of the Year 2024

NOVEMBER 2025



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



## WHAT'S INSIDE

### **Melbourne Launch of Space Coast Honor Flight**

SCHF has offered 84 trips from Brevard for veterans to visit their Wash DC monuments since Oct 2010. This flight made the total taken on that mission 2,255 Veterans.

– page 10

### **Some Gold Star Families Share Their Stories**

On 28 Sep, members of ten such families gathered for a dinner, candlelight ceremony and time of remembrance at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island.

– page 11

### **Clearwave Fiber and Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Launch Little Free Library**

This milestone marks the Coalition's first Little Free Library in Merritt Island and the 11th installation across Brevard County since 2023.

– page 12

## **“JROTC Raider Challenge Meet Sets Record”**



*On 27 September at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park over 335 JROTC cadets from 11 high schools competed with determination and grit in five grueling events.*

*Read more on page 13*

NOVEMBER 2025

# COURIER CONTENTS

President's Report • Page 3

Chaplain's Report • Page 5

Secretary Report • Page 5

Library Report • Page 6

Book Report • Page 6

Park and Plaza Report • Page 7

Event Calendar • Page 17

Boosters • Page 18



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 1 June 2025:**  
[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 Memorial Center, Inc.**  
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Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547  
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DAV Service Office 321-452-1774



# VMC President's Report

## LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret)

I am honored that you have chosen me to lead this great organization for another year and look forward to being sworn in with all of the other volunteers who have stepped up to fill vital positions in our Veterans Center. It takes all of us to keep the Center running smoothly.

I hope you didn't get too spooked on Halloween. Maybe we should start a rumor that the new Amphitheater is haunted! Speaking of the amphitheater and the rest of the project, everything is coming along nicely. If the rain ever stops, we should see the new road into the park paved. The curbs are in place. In a few days, we will see the workers parking on the grass outside our entrance while the paving is underway. The park restrooms are back open for the runners and other visitors.

We had a ribbon cutting in the park for the "Little Free Library" for the kids visiting the playground and park. Note the pictures in this edition. It was well attended with twenty five 3 to 5 year olds assisting in the dedication.

The Library hosted the Marine Corps League Det 513 last night in their monthly speaker's series. They celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Corps and shared some chilling stories of their boot camp and what they go through to be called a "Marine".

Some of us were honored to be included in the celebration of the 100th birthday of George Rosenfeld. He has been in attendance and honored at many of our events at the BVMC over the years. George served in WWII and the Korean War, proudly serving in the legendary 10th Mountain Division. We also celebrated Eleanor Fadok's 99th birthday in the Gray Hall. What a wonderful tribute to Eleanor and her family. We have her 100th birthday already on our calendar for next year!

Lee Washington, Manatee County Government Relations, and three others visited us to check out our park, see how we are organized and how we manage to get so much done in the park. Their interest was how the Center works with the County and State officials and other organizations such as the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) to end up with such a great Veterans Center. All of our hard work does not go unnoticed, and we should be proud of what has been accomplished.

Veterans Day planning is coming together, and we are looking forward to having a great program to highlight our nation's 250th birthday, a yearlong celebration of the United States semi quincentennial, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 2026.

The Marine Corps will be 250 years old on November 10th, but they are celebrating with a Birthday Ball on November 15th, hope to see you there.

God bless the USA, our fallen heroes, MIAs, and POWs and God bless our armed forces.

Dean  
Go Navy beat Army!

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# 250 YEARS OF VETERAN SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

THIS YEAR WE WILL REFLECT ON THE 250TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THESE UNITED STATES AND  
WHAT VETERANS HAVE DONE TO CREATE AND  
PRESERVE OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

IN THE PLAZA  
AREA  
PARKING AT UHAUL  
AND MALL

STARTS AT  
**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

**PROGRAM:**

**COLOR GUARD OF TODAY: BVMC COLOR GUARD**

**PARADE OF HISTORICAL AMERICAN FLAGS - COURAGEOUS  
DIVISION SEA CADETS**

**THE BEGINNING — SONS, DAUGHTERS AND CHILDREN OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN PERIOD DRESS**

**TODAY'S SOLDIERS AND CADETS: KEYNOTE SPEAKER MAJ  
LONNIE SPANGLER, USA (RET) AND MIHS JROTC SENIOR  
INSTRUCTOR.**





## Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Chip Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)**

Now that October and Halloween are over, the holiday season has begun. On Tuesday November 11 we have Veterans Day, and Thursday November 27 is Thanksgiving Day.

Although this is supposed to be a happy time of the year, there are many folks who are serving overseas, many away from their families for the first time, our seniors who are alone or forgotten living in nursing homes or worse. Our Military Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The United States has 22 Veterans a Day who commit suicide, or 8,030 annually.

Let's do what we can to bring a little joy to these wonderful folks, who served our country, are growing old or for those of us who are combat Veterans living with memories from a war.

All of us have our own way of trying to bring some light into life. I think sometimes just a hug, and a few words of love and encouragement is all it takes.

Finally, let's acknowledge the recent peace achieved in the middle east.

HAPPY 250 BIRTHDAY MARINES

SEMPER FI



## Secretary's Report

**Kristi Blanchard  
USA (Fmr)**

### BVMC Officially Launches with Strong Member Support!

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center is proud to announce the successful launch of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) – a major milestone in strengthening our Center's mission and community leadership.

At the inaugural BVMC election on October 8, 2025, more than 40 dedicated members turned out to cast their votes for the twelve members running for office. Governance Chairman Jim Carleton announced the following results to the members at the monthly General Membership meeting following the vote count:

- President: Dean Schaaf
- Vice President: Don Pearsall
- Secretary: Kristi Blanchard
- Treasurer: Dave Clayton
- Board of Directors: Ed Pingston, Paul Julian, and Harry Beaver

Congratulations to our newly elected BVMC team! Their leadership will help guide the Veterans Memorial Center into an exciting new era of collaboration, transparency, and growth.

A special thank you goes to our Teller Committee – Dennis Herring, Ailene Pichoco, and Karen Croft – for ensuring a smooth and fair election process, and to Membership Chair Jill Rippon for her hard work in managing member participation.

Together, we celebrate this new chapter for the VMC and the continued strength of the veterans' community that makes it all possible.

Please join us for the BOD swearing in at the BVMC on November 12 at 9:30 am.

Happy Thanksgiving all!



# VMC Librarian Report

Hank Rhodes  
USN (Fmr)

In September 2025 (the most recent month for which data is available), the library hosted 145 visitors.

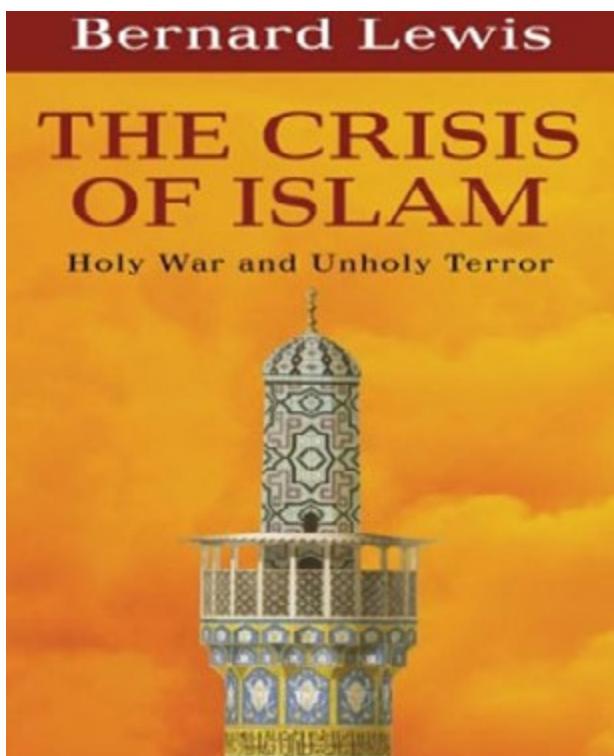
Our Veterans History Project (VHP) team conducted one interview. Post-production is complete. We are in touch with several prospects for future VHP interviews.

The Tuesday night discussion series is in hiatus for the Thanksgiving and Christmas/ New Year holidays. We expect to start up again in January 2026.

With the welcome return of our snow birds, we are better able to cover all time slots. We could, however, use more people in the library.

Recently, we hosted a delegation from Manatee County who are developing county property into a Veterans Memorial Park and Center. Along with members of the Executive Committee, we were able to pass along some of our library practices and lessons learned. The fact that we are considered as a model for other agencies to follow is a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of each and every member of the library team.

But being better is still our collective goal.



## Book of the Month: *The Crisis of Islam* by Bernard Lewis

Reviewed by H.V. Rhodes

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, a professor at Princeton University authored this book, as an effort to explain Islam and Islamic issues to an American audience.

Initially, Professor Lewis presents the concept of the Caliphate, an aspiration of Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. This is a global religious-political entity last approximated by the Ottoman Empire, which passed out of existence at the end of the first World War.

There follows a discussion of the usual grievances against the United States. The reasons and validity (or lack thereof) for each grievance is then addressed. Suffice it to say that American efforts intended to contain the Soviet threat and to support democratic institutions in the Middle East are not perceived as benevolent by many people in the Islamic world.

Professor Lewis underscores the point that the actions of the terrorists are based on questionable interpretations of Islamic teaching, and in some cases, are in direct conflict.

For an introductory text, however, there are some weaknesses. The basic tenants of Islam are not explained. The common roots of Islam and the Judeo-Christian belief system are only touched upon superficially. There are quotations from the Islamic Holy Book, the Qur'an, but no further information provided as to its history or organization. Nor is the schism between the Sunni and Shiite Branches of Islam ever addressed, although this division plays a key role in the politics of the Middle East.

While this book originated as a magazine article and brevity is therefore a priority, these important omissions should have been incorporated, if not in the text, then at least as appendices.

Nonetheless, this top-level and succinct book (169 pages, plus end matter) is useful for one who seeks the truth rather than accepting the misleading headlines and the false narratives of ignorant politicians who attempt to portray Muslims in the worst possible way.

The Crisis of Islam is found in the BVMC Library as "WarOnTerror-90."

# Park and Plaza Report

## By Donn Weaver

With the new BVMC Board being sworn in on 12 Nov, we are also focusing on more effectively working with the County as they begin managing the soon to be fantastic new Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater and Events Center.

### VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

While they tried their best, too many rainy days and problems with electrical hook up with FPL prevented the completion by Ivey's Construction and turnover to the County on Veterans Day this year - as we hoped one year ago when this huge project began. Ribbon Cutting and the Grand Opening of the Amphitheater and the total of \$8.2M upgrades to the VMP will likely happen in January, but we may have a "soft opening" in time for the CAMI sponsored Holiday Illumination. The County is working to hire an Events Management Team and is finalizing the phases of planting and construction. Meanwhile work goes on with over 50 employees per day doing dozens of projects related to the new VMP. Check out a couple of recent photos:

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** While the 'really special' and paying events will have to await until after the January Grand Opening, our usable portions of the park are busy. Hundreds visit every day from the West side. Check out the article about the new kids' library and play area installed in October. The old Park Restrooms finally are back in service after being closed for four months due to construction. We will also see in November and December several major events on the VMP west side and/or Plaza:

- 01 Nov: At least 200 JROTC Cadets to Hold District Championship of Raider Challenge
- 08 Nov: Saint Francis Hospice 5K in Plaza, Mall and Park
- 11 Nov: BVMC Veterans Day Ceremony in the Plaza
- 13 Dec: CAMI Merritt Island Illumination Plaza and Perhaps some in Park

### BRICKS, BENCHES and MEMORIAL TREES

Starting in November, the 40 Memorial Trees planned should be planted with Dedication near the Ribbon Cutting in January. We have 28 Memorial Trees already funded during this long-awaited program which started in 2019. Many benches will be placed near Trees honoring the same people, only when the VMP is completed and after Ribbon Cutting.

We have had orders for 7 benches in the past five weeks as the Park nears completion. Benches are also being placed in the Plaza area vice the Park, depending on BVMC, County and donor decisions. Benches now total 29.

There have been fewer brick sales than usual in the past two months, but plans are already underway to include pavers around the Amphitheater Flagpole and Live Gold Star Family Christmas and Holiday Tree in the VMP.

An Eagle Scout project for the flagpole area, and the marker and pavers near the live Christmas tree are now fully funded with help from donations from seven veteran organizations. Some VMP projects require such support since public funds cannot be used. Next up for early 2026 will likely be military themed murals on the outside walls of the Amphitheater.

BVMC is looking for a few more volunteers for our new Department of Park, Events and Plaza to start the new year. Donn Weaver will be the Coordinator/Department Chair, so please contact him if interested, or if you have any questions on the above and the reorganization. His number is 757-871-6576 and email: donnweaver2020@gmail.com.



The Concessions and Restroom Building with extensive interior work underway in mid- October.



Painting and Grading near completion 22 Oct.

# AUSA Space Coast Chapter Updates



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

Hi Everyone!

It is a wrap on the AUSA 2025 Annual Meeting and Exposition! We had a good time making connections and discovering new things to support our Army. I hope you have a chance to look up the Opening Ceremony and hear the Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll's presentation – it is available on You Tube.

We are looking forward to events in early 2026! We are currently planning a Community Partner Networking Event on 28 January 2026 here in Melbourne and a General Membership Meeting at Dunn's Attic in Ormond Beach tentatively scheduled for 25 February 2026. Please routinely follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn or check our website for updates on these events. Just a reminder that National Veterans Homeless Support ([www.nvhs.org](http://www.nvhs.org)) will be holding their Annual Homestretch 5K: Run for Veterans, Save Lives in Melbourne on Sunday, 9 November 2025 at 8:00 a.m. Runners, joggers, and walkers are invited, but even if you don't run, jog, or walk, volunteers are needed. You can check out more on their website at: <https://nvhs.org/events-list/8th-annual-homestretch-5k-for-brevards-at-risk-and-homeless-veterans/>.

I wanted to share with you an article from Breaking Defense about Brigadier General Donald Brooks (Deputy Commander Army Space and Missile Defense Command) standing up the Army's Space Branch and Colonel Pete Atkinson speaking on how the Army budget now includes prioritizing counterspace capabilities. The Army's [2024 Space Vision](#) sets two main thrusts for its space activities: integrating space support capabilities across the service and "interdiction" of adversary space capabilities. You can read the article [here](#).

If anyone would like to reach out to us to learn more about AUSA and how you can support, please contact me at [pressc@ausa.org](mailto:pressc@ausa.org) or call 321-591-9826 and leave a message with your name and phone number and I will return your call. Thank you for your support of our Army!

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



You're invited to a  
Life Line Screening  
event!



Where: Veterans Memorial Center

When: Tuesday December 2, 2025

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

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

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

**Who should attend:** Anyone over the age of 40

**Special Pricing for \$159**

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- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
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- Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

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These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.



## CHAMPION SALUTES OUR VETERANS

We honor the bravery, sacrifice, and dedication of the individuals who have served our country. Veterans deserve the highest level of respect and care, and our team is committed to supporting them in every season of life.

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## Celebrating Eleanor Fadok's 99th Birthday

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret)

On October 25th, the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center family gathered to celebrate an incredible milestone — Eleanor Fadok's 99th birthday! While it wasn't her exact birthday, friends, volunteers, and BVMC leadership came together to honor Eleanor's many years of devoted service.

A beloved fixture in the Library every Sunday, Eleanor has welcomed countless visitors, shared her knowledge, and inspired others with her dedication and cheerful spirit. During the celebration, she was presented with a special plaque and Volunteer Service Certificate recognizing her remarkable contributions to the Center and the veteran community.

Please join us in wishing Eleanor a very happy 99th birthday and in thanking her for her unwavering commitment to preserving the stories and spirit of our nation's veterans.



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Saturday: 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET

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UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE EARNED AND DESERVE

GET CONNECTED WITH LOCAL VA SERVICES



**Kay Rathke, U.S. Army (Retired) Master Sgt. & Women Veterans Call Center Representative**

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WOMEN VETERANS  
CALL CENTER

For more info or to chat online:  
[womenshealth.va.gov](http://womenshealth.va.gov)

**VA**

U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Melbourne Launch of Space Coast Honor Flight: Something Special

By Donn Weaver

The 11 October 2025 Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) was just the second from Melbourne Orlando International Airport but was an amazing success. SCHF has offered 84 trips from Brevard for veterans to visit their Wash DC monuments since Oct 2010. This flight made the total taken on that mission 2,255 Veterans!!

The group that Saturday assembled between 4-5am in the main lobby of the Airport and headed upstairs to board the aircraft right on schedule. There were 49 veterans on board who were honored, each had a guardian to assist. Two were Korean War Vets, 41 were Vietnam Era veterans and 6 served after Vietnam. The largest number of women veterans (six) were included this flight while 10 of the veterans were retired with 20 or more years of military service. Two were over 90 years of age and one commanded three nuclear submarines during the Cold War.

Rep Mike Haridopolos led the group of dignitaries and sponsors on hand to welcome and honor the veterans heading out as SCHF CEO ADM Jim Hart led the Ceremony from Roll Call to departure with many SCHF volunteers helping. Several major sponsors were recognized, including MOAAC's Good Deeds Foundation which provided SCHF \$3,200 to support 8 Guardians travel in 2026 from Florida Tech's ROTC and VA Psych PhD programs.

To learn more about this amazing 501c3 organization and mission, or to register for the flight as an honoree or guardian, contact [schf.org](http://schf.org).



ADM Jim Hart (l) accepts MOAAC GDF Check from Jay Welch, Donn Weaver and Mike Kahana.



# Never Forget: Some Gold Star Families Share Their Stories

The last Sunday in September every year has been declared by the US Government to be Gold Star Mother and Family Day. On 28 Sep, members of ten such families gathered for a dinner, candlelight ceremony and time of remembrance at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island.

The event was hosted by BVMC and fully funded by the Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC. Olive Garden catered for a great meal as the family members shared the stories of how they lost their loved ones with only others who had travelled that tough journey. The stories ran from WWII to just a couple years ago. Pictures brought in helped all to focus on the life lost in, or as a result of, military service to our country.

Each guest received a special Gold and Blue Star Information card (see picture) which defines the Gold Star concept started after WWI. Families were given photos from the evening and provided details about the BVMC Gold Star Family Christmas and Holiday Tree that will be set up again for one month on 7 December 2025 in the BVMC Museum, and the new outdoor Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Tree that will be planted this fall and illuminated for the first time, with many years to follow, on 13 December at 1900.

Thanks to Gold Star Mom Jeanne Weaver for organizing and decorating the event. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more information.



The Gold Star lapel pin is issued to family members who lost a service member serving in a conflict zone during war or periods of armed hostilities, as a result of an international terrorist attack or while serving in a military operation outside the U.S. as part of a peacekeeping force.



The Next of Kin lapel pin is issued to the family of a service member who lost his or her life while on active duty or while assigned in the National Guard or Reserve in a drill status.



# Clearwave Fiber and Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Launch Little Free Library to Promote Literacy in Merritt Island



MERRITT ISLAND, Fla. – Clearwave Fiber and The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard (ELC Brevard), held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new Little Free Library on Oct. 20 at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. This milestone marks the Coalition's first Little Free Library in Merritt Island and the 11th installation across Brevard County since 2023.

Representatives from Accelerate Brevard, Clearwave Fiber, Launch Learning Preschool, Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County cut the ribbon on the new Little Free Library.

"At Clearwave Fiber, we believe that strong communities are built on both connection and knowledge. By donating a Little Free Library to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, we're supporting literacy and lifelong learning," said Clearwave Fiber CEO David Armistead. "Just as our Fiber Internet empowers people with access to information, we hope this library inspires curiosity, reading and community engagement for generations to come."

Clearwave Fiber's commitment to literacy stems from its broader mission to bridge the digital divide and empower communities. The company recognizes that access to high-speed Internet alone is not enough—people also need the skills and resources to use that access meaningfully. By supporting literacy initiatives, Clearwave Fiber helps ensure that individuals, especially children, are equipped to thrive in a digital world.

This project is part of ELC Brevard's Soar By Four initiative, a community based/family focused multi-faceted approach to provide educational programming and resources, encouraging

community involvement and building awareness to increase Brevard County's Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) enrollment.

Children from Launch Learning Preschool stocked the library with books signed by attendees to the event.

"Early and easy access to books builds the foundation for a lifetime of learning and helps us move closer to our vision that every Brevard child starts school prepared to succeed," said ELC Brevard Communications Specialist Aubree Williams. "Little Free Libraries make it easy for families to discover the joy of reading together and ensure that every child has access to books – no matter where they live – thanks to the generous support of our sponsor, Clearwave Fiber." Children from Launch Learning Preschool participated in the event, placing the first books – signed by attendees – into the library. They each received a book and Clearwave Fiber bookmark to take home, plus a certificate of participation.

"We believe that when young people are given the opportunity to learn and explore, and they have access to the tools and information they need to support them in those endeavors, they unlock the doors to their future," said Clearwave Fiber Senior Vice President of Marketing Shelley Hallier, who officially cut the ribbon. "Literacy is foundational to education, economic opportunity and civic participation."

The Little Free Library allows users to "take a book, leave a book."

With 11 Little Free Libraries now established throughout Brevard County, ELC Brevard continues to advance its mission of promoting literacy and school readiness by removing barriers to access in "book desert areas." The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center was an ideal site to choose for the new library.

The Honor Guard presents the flags at the event.

"We were excited when approached by the Early Learning Coalition and learned about their Soar By Four goals for the children in our community. The goals align with our mission of maintaining a first-class Military History Museum and Library to teach the public of our historical past. We entertain many field trips to our museum from the public and private schools and do our best to educate our youth," said President of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Dean Schaff. "The Little Free Library is a perfect fit for our park with its location near the pavilion and the playground and aligns with our goals of reaching out to the youth of our community." Families and individuals visiting the center or nearby recreational areas now can borrow, exchange and share books at no cost – both inside in the museum library and at the new Little Free Library outside, adjacent to the children's playground. For a full listing of Little Free Libraries, visit the Soar By Four landing page by clicking [here](#). The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. is a multi-service agency dedicated to helping children develop skills that they will need to be successful in school and life. The agency's focus is on high-quality school readiness opportunities for all children and their families, understanding that it is in the first years of life that a child's future educational success is determined and the critical role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

View all photos at:

<https://clevelphoto.passgallery.com/-clearwavefiber/gallery>

## HOA Meeting

From time-to-time BVMC is asked to update the community on our facilities and our Park expansion. While Dean Schaaf was at a Navy Ball on 14 Oct, Donn Weaver briefed about 40 members of a large Merritt Island HOA on the history and plans of our great facility. They all promised to attend the 13 December grand illumination and many future events.



## Marine JROTC from Another County Visits BVMC Museum and Plaza

By Donn Weaver

On Saturday morning 25 October, 22 Marine JROTC cadets from Edgewater High School (Orlando) had a great time at our Military Museum and Plaza doing scavenger hunts and taking lots of pictures. They even bought almost \$200 worth of items in our Store. So, just like Cocoa HS JROTC visit the day before, the event was a great hit and supports one of our missions. Each cadet left with a BVMC pen to help them remember us.



© R SCRUGGS

## Cocoa Army JROTC on the Move

By Donn Weaver

On 24 October, 35 cadets from the Cocoa HS Tiger Battalion visited the BVMC Museum, Plaza and Library. Most of the cadets were freshmen and sophomores as they learned a lot and asked some good questions. Their field trip finished with pizza on the waterside and a gift photo. Cocoa HS became the first high school in Brevard County, and likely Florida, to fly the official America 250 Flag. The Color Guard also received the flag in a project designed to focus our youth and all who see the flag about the importance of this year to our country. The flags are being provided by the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution and MOAAC's Good Deeds Foundation to all JROTC programs, other Brevard High Schools, FIT ROTC. One is flying at the BVMC from now until July 4th, 2026. BVMC, SAR and MOAAC Mission Statements all include supporting and teaching our youth. That day was a good one for that purpose. (Photo: Courtesy of BVMC with Cocoa JROTC Instructor SFC Freddy Moreno far right).



# JROTC Raider Challenge Meet Sets Record

On a muggy, but clear morning of 27 September at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park (location not impacted by construction) over 335 JROTC cadets from 11 high schools competed with determination and grit in five grueling events. With over 600 parents, siblings and friends also cheering the cadets along, it was a record setting event. Two more Raider Meets will take place on 11 October and on 1 November when the winners will advance to State competition before Thanksgiving.

Rockledge High School, led by JROTC Instructor MAJ Steven Celeste, USA, Ret, led this event which included an opening 3 KM run followed by the Rope Bridge, Stretcher Carry, Pull and Drag and a new combat simulated track with six different movements and equipment to negotiate. Trophies are provided by MOAAC's Good Deeds Foundation which also funded Porta Johns, when water was not available due to the Amphitheater Construction Project, and the Coastal/Merritt Island EMT support. The first meeting usually has some minor injuries, as eight cadets were treated, but none had to be moved to the hospital.

The event included three high schools from other counties!! While mostly Army JROTC programs were involved, the Space Force (Space Coast Jr/Sr HS), Marines (Palm Bay Magnet School) and Air Force (Satellite HS) also worked hard pulling in a number of trophies. The Formation to award trophies began with a knockout push-up contest despite all the efforts by all cadets during the five-hour event. All left tired, but content they did their best to begin the new school year of JROTC Competitions.



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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.



## THE CLUB for Active Seniors

All men & women are welcome to join us for fun, fellowship, & coffee

**WEEKLY ON  
MONDAYS  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Invite your friends, make new friends, & learn a new game

The Club membership is just \$10 a year!

### GAMES INCLUDE:

#### Card Games:

- Hand & Foot
- Hearts
- Bridge
- Spades
- Poker
- Mahjong
- Rummikub
- Mexican Train
- Dominos

#### Other Games of Your Choice



321.339.0551  
 8085 Spyglass Hill Road  
 Viera, Florida 32940

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

**Seniors  
Helping  
Seniors<sup>®</sup>**  
...A WAY TO GIVE AND TO RECEIVE!

**VETERAN  
TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Veterans have gone above and beyond in their service, and we believe it's our turn to reciprocate. While we typically offer weekly services, we have developed special packages to offer greater flexibility for our veterans.

Whether it's attending a doctor's appointment, grocery shopping, completing errands, or simply enjoying social activities, we are here to provide the support you need!

★★★★★

**YOU CHOOSE!**

- 6 Hours - \$190.00
- 10 Hours - \$300.00
- 20 Hours - \$580.00

- No additional mileage charge.
- Package must be used within 90 days.
- 2 Hour minimum each transport.
- 48 Hour notice required

**WE HIRE VETERANS!**

[seniorshelpingseniors.com/brevard](http://seniorshelpingseniors.com/brevard)

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR POST & AUXILIARY,  
 THE US AMERICAN LEGION POST & AUXILIARY, AND  
 THE CITY OF CAPE CANAVERAL PRESENTS:

## VETERANS DAY PARADE & BBQ

Celebrate & Honor Our Veterans!

Bring your family and friends to commemorate our brave veterans and enjoy a day of celebration!

#### Featuring:

- Food available for purchase
- Live music
- Fun games for all ages
- A great time with your community



Date: Saturday, Nov 8, 2025

Time: 11:11 AM

Staging: Cape View Elementary School

Ending: Taylor Road

Festivities: Nancy Hanson Complex  
 Sheriff's Taylor Avenue Parking Lot

#### For info please contact:

E-mail: [VFWPost10131@gmail.com](mailto:VFWPost10131@gmail.com)

To Volunteer to help set up or help with activities:

E-mail: [VFW10131auxdistrict8@gmail.com](mailto:VFW10131auxdistrict8@gmail.com)

Applications available at the VFW, American Legion, and City Hall



**Heroes United to Heal**  
is excited to announce,  
Tickets are on Sale Now

# Designer Bag BINGO



Sunday, November 16, 2025  
3pm - 6pm

Merritt Island Moose Lodge #2073  
3150 N Courtenay Pkwy,  
Merritt Island, FL 32953

Admission - \$40 per person or \$200 for a table of 6

Your admission includes 15 exciting bingo games with the chance to win gorgeous designer handbags, all while giving back to those who serve our country and community. Reserve a table of 6 for a discounted rate and enjoy the fun together! Seats are limited - grab yours early and help us celebrate heroes, one bag at a time!

Hero & Handbag - \$300

Be a hero with high style! As a Hero & Handbag Sponsor, your \$300 contribution provides a stunning designer handbag for our Designer Bag Bingo giveaway. You'll enjoy admission for two and receive special recognition during the event as a valued supporter helping us make a difference - one bag at a time!

Valor & Vogue Sponsor - \$650

Where bravery meets elegance - as a Valor & Vogue Sponsor, your contribution covers the cost of a designer handbag and premier seating for 10 in addition to being prominently recognized as one of our top sponsors throughout the event and promotional materials.

For more information visit [www.hu2h.org](http://www.hu2h.org)  
email [contact@hu2h.org](mailto:contact@hu2h.org)  
or call (850) 919-4824

All proceeds benefit Heroes United to Heal Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit that supports veterans and first responders

**Holiday Illumination 5K**

**PRESENTED BY**  
**TRINITY FITNESS**  
**MERRITT ISLAND**

**REGISTER NOW**

**\$30**

**Run or Walk!**

**In partnership**  
**RUNNING ZONE**  **CA MI**

**Veteran's Memorial Park**

**December 13th**  
**8:00am**

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 420

## BIG BASH BBQ & CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025  
11AM - 5PM

PULLED PORK OR PULLED CHICKEN & SIDES  
\$10

MUSIC BY: JIM DAVIDSON

RAFFLE BASKETS  
50/50

LOCATION:  
BOY SCOUT FACILITY  
2401 POST RD  
MELBOURNE, FL 32935

CRAFTERS, RESERVE YOUR SLOT TODAY FOR \$10.  
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TABLE. DEADLINE NOV 3RD.

POC: COMMANDER ROSE YEARY  
321-266-5115

ALL FUNDS GO TOWARD BUILDING FUND FOR POST 420.



# Bake Sale

Wednesday, November 12

at Brevard Veterans Center  
400 South Sykes Creek Parkway  
Merritt Island  
Sponsored by the  
American Legion Auxiliary,  
Unit 344, Merritt Island

From 8:30-11:30 am

Cakes, Pies, Cookies & more!





# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar November 2025 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

### 01 Nov – District Championship JROTC Raider Challenge

Invitational Meet at BVMC Park. 0630-1300. Veteran organizations pass out trophies and are welcome to support our youth. Most action including awards ceremony takes place 1030-1300. Contact Donn Weaver of BVMC on 757-871-6576 for any questions. Final JROTC Park event of 2025.

**07 Nov – Boomer Bash Senior Expo 0900-1300** at the WarBird Museum on Titusville Airport. Exhibits, Museum Tours, Activities, food, music and much more. Sponsored by Senior Life Magazine with themes from the 1940's and 50's. Contact 321-242-1235 for more information and register a booth.

**07 Nov – Annual Veterans Day – Honoring All Who Served** – Cocoa Beach JROTC in the Theater of the Jr/Sr Hugh School 0945- 1030 am. Point of Contact LTC Robert Rick, USA, Ret, 321-783-1776 ext 23076.

**08 Nov – Space Coast Honor Flight** Send Off 0400 -0530 hrs at Melbourne Airport Terminal. Honors 20 plus veterans and guardians with travel to Wash DC to visit their monuments and memorials. Please join the welcome home at Melbourne Airport main terminal 2030 -2130!!!! Check out SCHF.org for more info.

**08 Nov – Annual St Francis Hospice Foundation Dash 5K** In Life Fundraiser at VMC Plaza and Park. 0800 - 1200 Includes veteran recognition and pinning. Focused on Devotion, Admiration, Service and Honor for Veterans in support SFH We Honor Veterans Program. sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/MerrittIsland/5KDASHHonoringVeterans>

**08 Nov – Veterans Day Recognition VyStar Dinner** at Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center 1715-2030. Sponsored by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation. To honor and express our gratitude to individuals, associations and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. Sponsors at levels from \$10K, to \$5K to Tables of 10 at \$1250. Seats are \$125 and are now available. To register and get more information go to GDFD.

ORG or contact event chair Larry Jackson at 321-242-1331 or [larryj59@gmail.com](mailto:larryj59@gmail.com).

**08 Nov – Annual VFW Post 10131 and City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade 1000-1130.** Entry and other Details thru [vfwpost1-131@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost1-131@gmail.com). This year VFW Post in Cape Canaveral is hosting and managing the event. Food and music at the Post after the parade.

**08 Nov – The Support Committee at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery** will hold their annual Fall Fundraiser at the American Legion Post 1 in Titusville on 1281 N. Washington St. 1730- 2100. Includes a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, music and fellowship. Funds from the event will help build a storage shed to house Flags For Fallen Veterans which are placed on individual graves at CCNC around every Memorial Day every year. Contact SC/CCNC for more information and to sign up through the Secretary Priscilla Southworth: [saavik31324@yahoo.com](mailto:saavik31324@yahoo.com) or 321-543-4563. Tax deductible donations are welcomed if you cannot attend the event.

**09 Nov – 8th Annual Homestretch 5K for Veterans by NVHS** for Homeless and at-Risk Veterans. 0800-1100. Eau Gallie Arts District at the Square Park. Sponsors, Volunteers, Runners needed. SEE: [runsignup.com/Homestretch5K](https://runsignup.com/Homestretch5K)

**11 Nov – BVMC Veterans Day Ceremony** 0930 - 1030 VMC Plaza. Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of America and our Veterans with a Parade of Colonial Era Flags by the Sea Cadets Courageous division. LTC Lonnie Spangler, USA Ret, Merritt Island HS JROTC Senior Instructor and GWOT combat veteran is our keynote speaker to talk about today's veterans and military. Also, a Missing Man Table Remembrance Ceremony by Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1. NOTE: While the Amphitheater and Park will not be completed by this Veterans Day, wait until next year with possible Parade of Colors that afternoon in the new Amphitheater/Park.

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 Aug, 2027

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2026

Carleton, Jim March, 2026

Clark, Garrett Nov, 2026

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2026

Ericson, Robert & Robin Mar 2026

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2025

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2026

Florida State University College of Social  
Work, August, 2025

Herring, Dennis & Betty October, 2030

Huffman, Kenneth & Lois Jan, 2026

Kanis, Jussara & Michael Nov, 2027

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2028

McKinney, Shaun & Adora Sept, 2026

Muckler, Bill, CAPT. USMC May, 2028

Norm & Sharyn Desmarais Mar, 2026

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rowe, Wayne June, 2026

Rozek, Tom & Anne Marie May, 2026

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2026

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2026

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) \_\_\_\_\_