



# VETERANS BULLETIN

A Monthly Publication of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center



## ON THE COVER: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2025 AT CCNC

For the eighth year, Wreaths Across America (WAA) placed 11,000 wreaths at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Read more on page 11



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JANUARY 2026

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## ADVERTISE IN THE VETERANS BULLETIN

Business Card: \$50 per year

Quarter Page Color: \$100 per year

Half Page Color: \$200 per year

The Veterans Bulletin is a monthly publication prepared and distributed in both print and electronic forms by the BVMC. 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 December 2025:

[List of Board 2025-2026](#)

As of 31 December 2025:

[BVMC Committee Departments 2025-2026](#)

As of 1 December 2025:

[BVMC Org Chart 2025-2026](#)


## Mission Statement

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. BVMC'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. 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.

Brevard 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

**Dean Schaaf, LCDR, USN (Ret)**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years Holidays and some well-deserved time off from the Center.

As we begin 2026, we are faced with a number of uncertainties as to our relationship with the County Parks and Recreation Department. The Amphitheater is still unfinished, mainly because of a delay by Florida Power and Light to run power to the park and the new facilities. The county and Ivey's construction are working on this issue and we are standing by. As I have said in previous updates, we will see some changes in how the Park is managed.

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) will only have responsibility for the main building and the Plaza; we will have oversight for everything until entering the Park. A new gate will be positioned next to the jeep shed leading into the Park. Another gate will be placed at the Fortenberry entrance to the Park. What has changed is that we will no longer be the organization that is responsible for renting out the park which includes the pavilion, playground, adult workout area, Boy Scout campouts, car shows in the park, etc. This will all be managed by Parks and Recreation Central Area.

We have yet to complete our new lease agreement with Parks and Recreation to cover the Amphitheater and the rest of the park improvements. We expect this to be completed by the end of January. The county has not selected a Management Company responsible for managing the Amphitheater, we expect this to happen soon.

With all of that being said, we are looking forward to some big events to take place in the park such as the Key Lime Festival. This event is scheduled for January 17 and is in work with Parks and Recreation. We are also working with the County to continue the JROTC events during February and March. On March 14 we are planning a 5K run and a special event to recognize National Medal of Honor Day. There will be several Medal of Honor recipients expected to attend. Our annual Last Naval Battle of the Revolution will be celebrated on March 21. All of these events and more will be covered in this edition of the Veterans Bulletin.

The December 13 Illumination event sponsored by the Community Advocacy Merritt Island was a success with around three hundred in attendance. We once again erected our Christmas tree in the plaza to open the season for Merritt Island. I would like to give a big thank you to all who volunteered and helped pull it off, especially Charles Schaaf, Bill Pollock and Leslie Sims of CAMI who helped erect the Christmas tree and kept it lit during the holidays.

Another momentous event happened on December 13, 2025. The Navy Midshipmen, near the end of the game and on a 4th and goal scored a touchdown to beat the West Point Black Knights 17-16. With over six minutes left to play the mighty Navy defense held on to deny Army a score and secure a victory. Navy leads the historic series 65-55-7.

I hope you enjoy the fresh look and title of our newsletter, replacing the Council Courier with the Veterans Bulletin. Thanks to Kristi and Sascha Lee for all of their work getting it published.

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

Dean  
Go Navy beat Army!

## BVMC CONTACTS

### President

Dean Schaaf  
dschaaf@brevard.net  
321-794-4371

### Vice President

Don Pearsall  
djp32927@gmail.com  
321-313-2444

### Secretary

Kristi Blanchard  
brevardvmc@gmail.com  
321-453-1776 ext. 1

### Treasurer

Dave Clayton  
bvmctreasurer@gmail.com  
321-453-1776 ext. 5

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## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)

Fifty- eight years ago, this very month, I arrived in Vietnam as a combat Marine. For the next thirteen months, I and a lot of other very young Americans were subjected to things that most folks don't see in a lifetime. We came home and many of us got married and had children. When our children matured, they were sent to the Middle East to be subjected to many of the same horrors that my generation was subjected to. Now, my Grandson has just completed six years in the Marine Corps, he also went overseas and was put in harm's way.

In the 1940s all of my uncles served in the Army and fought in WWII, my aunt was a Major stationed in North Africa as a combat nurse. My Father was a civilian who was one of the original team to produce a working atomic bomb. (He died 20 years after the war ended, after a long-term bout with cancer.)

Every generation since the Revolutionary War has stood up for what was right for America. Freedom of religion, going to Church without threats, owning a gun for recreation and personal protection, and freedom to express an opinion without being shunned or threatened by society.

Today there are certain parts of our country where businesses, Churches and Synagogue, cannot stay open for fear of being robbed, protested or killed. In some cities, one cannot walk down the street without the threat of being harmed.

I wonder what our forefathers would think. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and so many other Americans. I remember when we would defend the right of others and have a difference of opinion with mutual respect. We must continue to work to understand and tolerate one another.

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." ~ Proverbs 17:22

GOD BLESS AMERICA

CHAPLAIN CHIP HANSON



## A Passing to Commemorate: SFC (Ret.) Juan Santiago



It is with a very heavy heart that the BVMC shares the passing of SFC (Ret.) Juan Santiago, a Soldier for Life and inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, who entered eternal rest in early December.

Visitation and Funeral Services will both be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

### Visitation

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Beckman-Williamson Funeral Home  
5400 Village Drive  
Viera, FL 32955  
321-635-1973

### Funeral Mass

1:00 PM

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
5655 Stadium Parkway  
Viera, FL 32940  
321-637-9650

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the BVMC, a Veterans Support Group or to the charity of your choice. If you still choose to send flowers, they must arrive on the 9th of January.

The family and membership thank you all for your prayers, love, and support during this difficult time.





## VMC Librarian Report

Hank Rhodes  
USN (Fmr)

In January, in keeping with the theme of new beginnings, we commemorate the American Revolution.

We should be mindful that from the opening shots at Lexington Green to the British surrender at Yorktown, six and a half long years of struggle occurred, with the outcome always in doubt. Indeed, during this span, the patriot cause was never more than one crisis away from total defeat. These facts are noted to pay tribute to the courage and vision of those who took up the patriot cause at great personnel risk and remained faithful until the issue was finally decided.

Indeed, even after Yorktown, two more years passed before the final treaty was settled and American independence from the British Empire was formally recognized.

Yet another five years would ensue before the United States as we now know it came into existence, with the ratification of the Constitution. Previously, America was a loose alliance of thirteen tiny countries, which in the absence of a common enemy, fell into constant conflict with one another.

We can count ourselves fortunate that unlike most revolutions, ours never failed but rather left a legacy of progress, sometimes halting and erratic, but progress nonetheless. Even so, it took four years of bloodshed in the Civil War before the evil of slavery and the permanence of the union became settled questions.

As we enter the 250th calendar year of our nation's existence, we the people must continually strive to match our reality to our ideals.

This photograph was taken during an international Rim of the Pacific exercise in the late 1980s. As a result of America's effort to establish a just and lasting peace, our battlegroup included sailors and ships of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.



Wreaths Across America Commemoration of Medal of Honor Recipient, PFC Emory Bennett.

## Book of the Month: *Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington Cemetery* by Senator Tom Cotton

Reviewed by Bill Ellis

This book takes the reader on an extraordinary journey behind the scenes of Arlington Cemetery in an inspiring portrait of "The Old Guard," the revered U.S. Army unit whose mission is to honor our country's fallen heroes on the most hallowed ground in America.

The narrative covers various honor ceremonies performed for the country by the U.S. Army. The history of the Old Guard is presented. This unit, officially designated the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment, is based at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (formerly Fort Myer) at Arlington Cemetery. Its soldiers are specially selected and highly trained, as described in the book.

Several myths are addressed and refuted. Also discussed are the cemetery's origins as the estate of Robert E. Lee and how it became the final resting place of America's heroes.

Of interest, the first soldier interred at Arlington was Private William Christman of the 67th Pennsylvania. His burial occurred on May 13, 1864.

The last part of the book covers the selection, uniforms, and training of the "Sentinels" or walking guards of the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The author, currently a U.S. Senator representing the state of Arkansas, is a combat veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and served with the Old Guard.

*Sacred Duty* is an inspiring book. It is designated as MiscM-07 in the Miscellaneous-Monuments Section of the BVMC library.



Jeanne Weaver addresses the audience for Wreaths Across America.

# Park and Plaza Report

## By Donn Weaver

### Getting Close to Grand Opening of the BVMC Park after Improvements Completed

Thirteen months ago, Brevard County Parks and Recreation held the ground breaking ceremony for the fantastic \$8.2M additions to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Park. Prime contractor Ivey Construction, along with many subs, have been doing a great job, just as they did in 2015 and 2016 to build our museum and first phase on the new park. Sadly, FPL is now several weeks behind electric build out and linking into the power grid so the grand opening is temporarily delayed.

To recap, the upgrades include the \$2.4 M Amphitheater, the \$1.3 M Concessions and Restroom Building, creating a major new entrance directly from Fortenberry, 100 new parking spaces, substantial lighting and irrigation, as well as dozens of trees, including the Memorial Live Oaks, and much more. Check out the photos taken on 19 December below. Donors have also purchased 25 weather resistant benches which will go into the park after completion in coordination with the County.

Once the turnover is complete, we expect Brevard County Parks and Recreation will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, a new management and event booking team will be contracted for, and we can then work with them to also support more than 20 veteran related events including JROTC, Enlistment Ceremony, etc. expected in 2026, just as major acts, concerts, programs, etc. begin to take place by February. The BVMC President Dean Schaaf reframed the mission of the Park Committee to focus on that transition which will meet early in 2026 to begin BVMC's side of the work. Thanks to all on that committee: Donn Weaver (Chair), Jim DesJardins, Billy VanDorn, Doug Bisset, Wayne Freid, Paul Julian, Karen Croft and the supportive BVMC Executive Committee.

BVMC ExComm Note: The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center can no longer book the pavilion or the Veterans Memorial Park. Please send your request to Terry Lane [terry.lane@brevardparks.com](mailto:terry.lane@brevardparks.com) and/or call Central Area Parks and Recreation, 321-633-1874.



# Honoring a Rosie the Riveter: Mildred "Midge" Stingley

On December 10, the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center was proud to host a special ceremony honoring Mildred "Midge" Stingley, a true member of the Greatest Generation and a World War II "Rosie the Riveter."

During the ceremony, we recognized Midge's vital contribution to the war effort as she worked at the Alcoa Aluminum Plant in Lafayette, Indiana, from April through August of 1945, helping to produce critical materials that supported American troops overseas. Her service represents the strength, determination, and patriotism of the millions of women who stepped forward on the home front when the nation needed them most.

Pastor Monty Trammel of NorthPoint Baptist Church, along with many members of his congregation, joined us for this meaningful occasion. Pastor Monty shared Midge's historical background, bringing her story to life and reminding all in attendance of the sacrifices made by everyday Americans during wartime.

Following the presentation, BVMC President Dean Schaaf presented Midge with a commemorative plaque in front of the BVMC membership in attendance, marking the moment with heartfelt appreciation and applause.

We were also honored to have Fox 35 News attend the ceremony and help share Midge's inspiring story with the wider community.

The event concluded with holiday refreshments, providing time for fellowship, reflection, and celebration as members and guests gathered to honor Midge's legacy, the volunteers and partners that make the BVMC thrive, and enjoy the spirit of the season together.

BVMC is proud to recognize and preserve stories like Mildred "Midge" Stingley's—stories that remind us that service to our country takes many forms, and every contribution matters.





## VETERANS RESOURCE ROUNDTABLE

Connecting Veterans with Local Programs, Services, and Support

**Featuring Discussion with:**

- Don Pearsall – Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
- Ted Suzor – Space Coast Honor Flight
- Greg Bowman – National Veterans Homeless Support
- Dan Holmes – Enlisted Kidney Foundation
- Ryan Trandell – Military Affairs Council
- Carlos Cuesta – SYNERGY HomeCare

**Coffee and donuts provided.**  
All Veterans welcome.

 Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM  
 The Resource Center (Helping Seniors of Brevard)  
 1344 S. Apollo Blvd Ste 2C, Melbourne, FL 32901  
 **Please RSVP** to Carlos Cuesta by 12/31/2025  
 at 321-340-3828 ext. 101  
 or email at [carloscuesta@synergyhomecare.com](mailto:carloscuesta@synergyhomecare.com)









## JANUARY 30, 2026

## DINNER 5-7 PM

**at AMERICAN LEGION  
CHALLENGER 7 POST 348  
105 LINCOLN AVE  
CAPE CANAVERAL, FL 32920**

## Tour of Italy

### Lasagna, Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Italian Bread, and dessert!!

\$10  
**DINE IN OR  
TAKE OUT**

LIVE MUSIC  
6-9 PM

**50/50 RAFFLE**

**Dinner and Raffle to benefit  
ALA Unit #344 VMC Merritt Island, FL**



## Rolling Thunder Pays Visit to Joe's Club

Veterans Day, November 11th, 2025, members of Rolling Thunder® Florida Chapter 1 paid a visit to Joe's Club adult day care center in Melbourne, FL to greet and honor the Veteran residents.

Rolling Thunder members were introduced to the residents. Members in attendance (photo L-R were President Dr. Lance Armstrong, Director Joe Jeppi, Director Ira Weinstock, Director Walt Marshall, members Don Marn, Grace Bowers, Mike Bowers, Thresa Camp, Eric Mellert, Steve Kress, and Ken Hill.

Following the RT introductions, American flags were handed to all residents. Then RTFL1 led the residents in the Pledge of Allegiance, and all joined in singing America the Beautiful.

After the pledge and singing, all Veterans were acknowledged by having their names and branches of service called out.

Before Rolling Thunder departed from Joe's Club, we gathered at their flagpole and raised the Prisoner of War – Missing in Action Flag.



## Joint SAR/GDF Mission Completed – America 250 Flags in All High Schools

As of mid-December, all public and private high schools in Brevard County were provided America 250 Flags, with many already flying. As best is known, this is the first county in Florida and perhaps the continental US to have done such a project. Hawaii gave such flags to all JROTC programs earlier this year, sparking us to take action here.

The project involved purchasing 44 flags for about \$1,700 by two organizations - the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation. Home based at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, where the flag also flies, the project is designed to encourage youth to understand more about our country. The Capstone of the effort was a flag raising at Brevard Public Schools in Viera on 9 December when Superintendent Dr. Mark Rendell was presented a flag and helped raise it there. In addition to the schools, all 14 JROTC programs in the county received their own flag.



L-r, Hans Hunt (SAR), Donn Weaver (SAR, BVMC) Dr Rendell, also a veteran, and Doug Bisset (SAR, BVMC) Prepare for the event.



# Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Receives Special Award from VA/NCA

As the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery continues to add veterans and eligible dependents to services giving honored rest (over 11,900 total through this year), veterans and many organizations like MOAACC Good Deeds and the BVMC do what we can to support the special programs there. Many of our former members now rest there as well. We wanted to pass along some good news from the VA:

The NCA Organizational Excellence Award is presented to NCA National Cemeteries and Service Offices that meet superior performance in maintaining operations and facilities in an excellent manner, providing esteemed customer service and an exceptional final resting place to honor Veterans and their families. To achieve this recognition, sites undergo a rigorous, independent review by a team of subject matter experts trained in evaluation methods. In April 2025, Cape Canaveral National Cemetery went through a rigorous review and was determined to exceed standards in management and operational areas, exemplifying VA's core values and providing Veterans and their families with a final resting place in national shrines that honor and preserve their legacies, service, and sacrifice to our nation.

On December 3, 2025, Southeast District Executive Director Stephan Frank visited the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery to present Director Cindy Van Bibber and the entire CCNC team with the NCA Organizational Excellence Award on behalf of the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

Thank you to our CCNC team for providing outstanding service, achieving organizational excellence and maintaining



Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC)



Monthly Discussion: Operation Urgent Fury – The US Invasion of Grenada

Speaker: Chief Warrant Officer Four Jose Prieto (Retired)

- o Grenada's history that led to the invasion will be discussed
- o Operation Urgent Fury was the first major combat since the Vietnam War
- o CW4 Prieto is a Retired US Army Helicopter Pilot
  - Listen to the firsthand insight into the operation
  - Visualize the first combat use of the Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk
  - Learn how the four branches of the US military participated
- o Lessons learned

When: January 27, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Library  
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy  
Merritt Island, FL 32952

For more information, please contact the BVMC at (321) 453-1776


Partners with Brevard Public Schools  
& Museums of Brevard (BACB)


## Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition (ECAC) of the Space Coast

Providing opportunities from  
Kindergarten to Career across  
Brevard County

**ECAC Goals**

- Expose students to Brevard Museums
- Engage veteran & civic groups
- Expand STEAM opportunities





**Brevard Education, Civic & Funding Opportunities**  
Find & finance your future  
[www.becfo.org](http://www.becfo.org)

**Tammy Dennis**  
ECAC Coordinator  
[tdennis@brevard.org](mailto:tdennis@brevard.org)

## Store Updates & Military Dog Tags

By Jalaine Spears

So, do you know the real story about Military Dog Tags? They are not for your dogs as, unfortunately, I have had children say when they are given complimentary ones after visiting the museum.

During the Civil War, soldiers created unofficial tags by pinning paper notes to uniforms, stenciling knapsacks or wearing engraved metal discs purchased from traveling vendors. Approximately 42% of Union soldiers that died were unidentified.

In 1906, the US Army issued a general order requiring an aluminum half dollar size circular tag to be worn by all soldiers. In 1916 regulations changed to require two tags. One was to remain with the fallen soldier's body and the other collected for records and burial. By 1917 all US combat troops were required to wear tags which now include unique serial numbers. The Navy used a sailor's etched fingerprint on the back.

In 1940 the shape was changed to the current one. Most WWII tags had a notch at one end and were believed to be for jamming into a fallen soldier's teeth. But that was false and its true purpose was to align the tag into a machine to imprint on medical forms. Tags began to include blood types and Tetanus shot dates. During the Vietnam era the tag was placed on boot laces as a backup in case of severe trauma.

After using social security numbers for 45 years, the military transitioned to using a 10-digit Department of Defense number to protect against identity theft. Draftees in WWII and earlier may have coined the term for the tags as a cynical term, as being treated "like dogs".

Please consider sharing this information with your young ones. Thanks, and have a great month! Check out our gift store and the current sale we have on our military items.



## BVMC Museum Staff Help Make Surprise Anniversary Special

By Ed Pingston, Museum Curator, USA (Ret.)



Jannette Martin wanted to make their 41st anniversary with her husband Chris a special one. She took him on a road trip to Conneaut, Ohio where the annual D-Day historical reenactment takes place. In addition to the military aircraft fly-by's, Allied soldiers storming the beach, landing craft, French partisans, Allied paratroopers, and German soldiers there was also a USO dance with a big band playing 40's music.

After the D-Day reenactment, Jannette wanted to surprise Chris by dressing up in WWII Navy uniforms for the USO dance. Janette contacted the BVMC museum staff on guidance in preparing an authentic WWII US Navy uniform for her husband and a Navy WAVE uniform for herself.

The collaboration was a huge success. Chris was delighted as he had served in the Navy and doubly delighted to see Jannette dressed as a WAVE. Chris noted there were only two "sailors" at the D-Day USO dance wearing the correct headgear, with himself being one. After the surprise Anniversary D-Day event and USO dance, the happy couple travelled to a nearby airshow where Chris fulfilled his dream of flying aboard a real WWII C-47 cargo aircraft.

Best wishes from the BVMC Museum Staff to the Jannette and Chris Martin on their anniversary. We're pleased to have assisted in making it special.



# Wreaths Across America 2025: Honor, Remember and Teach Rises to New Heights at CCNC

On a beautiful December Saturday Morning, for the eighth year since it opened, Wreaths Across America (WAA) led a moving ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. WAA also made sure a record 11,000 wreaths were available to cover every in-ground grave site.

WAA/CCNC was led this year by a new volunteer, Marine Veteran Ruth Osborne as location coordinator with Katie Beauseigneur, a longtime CCNC WAA Section lead as Assistant and Army Veteran CPT Donn Weaver as Deputy. This year plans were made to have the wreaths arrive the day before and thus create more than 5 hours when family and friends could personally place wreaths on their loved ones' graves. Over the two days an estimated 2,800 people visited including more than 400 volunteers, who placed wreaths one by one on all the other graves before the 1100 am Ceremony. Over 800 attended the moving Ceremony which included :

- Stuart Smith, Army Vet and Former FAVOB CEO (MC)
- Chaplain Chip Hanson, USMC Vet for Invocation
- Patrick Composite Civil Air Patrol as Color Guard
- LTC Cynthia Watkins-Pishdad USA, Ret National Anthem
- North Brevard Honor Guard for Rifle Salute Col Phil Rogers, USA CO
- Caisson for Service Wreaths - Tom Fitzgerald USMC
- Linda Clark USAF Vet, TAPS

Wreath Layers for Each Service with CPT Donn Weaver, USA Former, Handing Out and LTC Hans Hunt, USA, Ret in Revolutionary War Military Uniform escorting:

- Army - LTC Tim Thomas, USA, Ret
- Marines - PFC Jim Carlton, Ret, Purple Heart
- Navy— CDR Ken Lowe, USN Ret Helo Pilot
- Air Force — MSgt Emily Darnell, USAF, Active Duty
- Space Force - Maj Michael Waters - USSF, Active Duty

Coast Guard: CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCG Ret, also presenting in memory of RADM Wayne Justice USCG, Ret who passed away in November and was buried at CCNC on 16 Dec.

- Merchant Marines — Joe Bishop, Senior machinist USMM, former
- POW/MIA — Ed Bineman, Rolling Thunder FL-1

Special thanks to the great CCNC staff led by Director Cindy Van Bibber; to Walmart and Ashley Furniture which provided three trucks for the delivery and two dozen Walmart volunteers; Waste Pro of Titusville which is providing five recovery bins for the 03 January wreath pick up at no cost; Space Coast Daily TV for filming and downloading to YouTube; Roger Scruggs for still photos; and the hundreds of WAA volunteers who worked many hours over the two days.





THE PREMIER SPACE COAST Magazine ESPECIALLY FOR ADULTS 50+

# SENIOR SCENE®

DECEMBER 2025 FREE



**We Talk To**  
**Marilu Henner**



**Brevard's Gold Star Holiday Tree**  
**Managing Holiday Stress**  
**Beneficiary Death Consequences**

**Cover Artist:**  
**Jeanne Harris Weaver**

*Helping*  
**SENIORS**  
*of Brevard*

**FINANCE | HEALTH | ENTERTAINMENT | CALENDARS | NEWS**

The new issue of Senior Scene Magazine is now available to pick up at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. You can also read the entire issue on our website [www.seniorscenemag.com](http://www.seniorscenemag.com).



# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar January 2026 and Beyond

Contact BVMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some events change in between our monthly mailing of the BVMC Calendar. Keep up to date with those changes using our web link: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

**PLEASE NOTE:** As of December, 2025, The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center can no longer book the pavilion or the Veterans Memorial Park. Please send your request to Terry Lane at [terry.lane@brevardparks.com](mailto:terry.lane@brevardparks.com) and/or call Central Area Parks and Recreation, 321-633-1874.

## JANUARY

**08 Jan — Veterans Resource Roundtable** at the Resource Center, 1344 S. Apollo Rd, Suite 2C, Melbourne 11-1230. Sponsored by Synergy Home Care with speakers on Honor flight, BVMC, NVHS, MAC and motor. Coffee and donuts provided. RSVP to Carlos Questa by 31 Dec. 321-340-3828 ext 101.

**17 Jan — Original Brevard Key Lime Pie Festival** — BVMC Park. Again, pending completion and Parks and Rec Approval. 1000-2100. Arranged by the Cocoa Beach Based Key Lime Pie Company, this event returns after three happenings before the current construction. See details in social media. Military and BCSO displays planned.

**27 Jan — BVMC Library Discussion Series** 1800-1930. Topic: The US Invasion of Grenada. The presentation will include a "first-hand" account and perspective by Army Officer Jose Prieto. The lecture in the BVMC Library will begin at 6pm and conclude no later than 7pm. Jose will take questions and lead a discussion from 7pm until 7:30pm. Bottled water and cookies will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Library volunteer Paul Julian or Librarian Hank Rhodes.

## FEBRUARY

**02 Feb — Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony** BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall. 1400- 1530. Supported by the Marine Corps League, Brevard Detachment 513.

**07 Feb — JROTC Run and Shoot**, BVMC Park 0700-1200. Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they combine running with air rifle rifle marksmanship. Best

time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

**07 Feb — 14th Annual Pioneer Day** at Luke's Episcopal Church and Sam's House/Pine Island 1000-1500. History exhibits, guided tours, food, pioneer parade and much more. Check out [mipioneerday.com](http://mipioneerday.com)

**13 Feb — Third Annual Valentine's Day Senior Expo** 0915-1300 Party at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge of the Brevard Zoo. Free Parking and admittance excluding Zoo. Exhibits, prizes, music and surprises plus flowers for the ladies. Call 321-242-1235 for more info and to register exhibits or info tables.

**14 Feb— JROTC Drill Meet #1**, BVMC Park 0630- 1230. Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon Drills as well as Rifle Demonstration. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

**27 Feb — Every Day is Veterans Day** presented by One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Rd, Viera. 1000-1330 . Vendors with tents in outdoor layout, door prizes, food and lots of valuable information for veterans who are senior. Call 321-751-6771 for more information and to register as a vendor.

**28 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet #2**. BVMC Park 0630-1230 Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon Drills as well as Rifle Demonstration. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn

For more events, [visit our website!](https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/)



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

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2026

Florida State University College of Social  
Work, August, 2026

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

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

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

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