



VETERANS BULLETIN

A Monthly Publication of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center



ON THE COVER: Palm Bay JROTC Takes Home National Championship

Marine JROTC Cadets of Palm Bay Jr/Sr Magnet High School went all the way to Utah for the National Title.

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MARCH 2026

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 Business Card: \$50 per year
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 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 13 February 2026:
[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)

The Amphitheater is finished now that Florida Power and Light finally ran power to the Park. Once they complete the "punch list" to ensure everything is working, the county will accept the job as complete. They will probably hold a ribbon cutting sometime in late March or April. The county still has to hire a management company to run and manage the Amphitheater which may take a few months. We have yet to complete our new lease agreement with Parks and Recreation to cover the Amphitheater and the rest of the park improvements.

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 is already in place 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.

With all of that being said, the park did host the "Original Key Pie Festival" in part of the park, which was a successful event, drawing around 6000 attendees. The Amphitheater and restroom/concession stand were fenced off from the rest of the park.

On March 14 we be hosting a 5K run and a Car Show, both of which are fundraisers and to recognize National Medal of Honor Day. There will be four Medal of Honor recipients attending a dinner held in the Gray Hall followed by all the activities on Saturday, March 14. Our annual Last Naval Battle of the Revolution will be celebrated on March 21, hopefully at the amphitheater. As a back-up we are prepared to hold it in our parking lot as we have before.

Senior Life hosted a Senior Expo and Valentines Party at the Brevard Zoo Nyami River Lodge on February 13th. Twenty couples renewed their vows as part of the program. I am proud to say that my wife Susan and I were part of the program, celebrating 44 years of marriage. A before and after picture is in the bulletin.

The BVMC also participated in Pioneer Days at Sam's House and St Luke's church on north Merritt Island. Sam's house is the oldest residence on the island. Photos included. Our Courageous Division Sea Cadets had their annual inspection on Saturday the 21st and received 100% on their personal and records inspection. Bravo Zulu to our Sea Cadets. I also had the honor of presenting a Sailor of the YEAR to a petty officer on board the USCG cutter Alert. He is obviously one "squared away" and motivated shipmate! Finally, the Marine Corps League Det 513 conducted the annual Immortal Four Chaplains of the USS Dorchester tragedy on February 8 and did an outstanding job. Thank you Det 513!

We have several events coming up in March and April, check out our calendar of events in the Bulletin.

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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VMC President's Report Cont.



Vice President's Report By Don Pearsall USA (Fmr)



USCGC Alert Sailor of the Year Petty Officer Ford.

A new month is here and just around the corner an awesome fundraising event is in the planning stages. The Medal of Honor Tribute weekend is planned for March 13th and 14th.

Festivities begin on Friday evening, when a Sherriff's Office will escort our Medal of Honor recipients from their undisclosed hotel to the Veterans Memorial Center for the Medal of Honor tribute dinner. The dinner will commence with the playing of the National Anthem by trumpeter for the BVMC Color Guard Monica Key and a welcome from our BVMC President Dean Schaaf.

Grace will then be recited by CMS Willie Holmes Ret U.S. Air Force. Incidentally, Willie was also a torch bearer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. This will be the first time four MOH recipients' will be at the same place at the same time in the state of Florida.

Generals, admirals and other dignitaries from around the United States will gather to honor these recipients of our nation's highest military award as they dine on a catered dinner. Volunteers from the Women's advocacy group "Their Voice of Hope" will serve the meal to the almost 100 guests. After serving the meal, the agency's founder Dorothy Walsh and her team will make a special presentation to our honored guests. Keynote speakers include once and always a U.S. Marine and current Palm Bay Mayor Rob Media and Denise Hinton the U.S. Assistant Surgeon General from the U.S. Navy. In addition, there will be a silent auction of gift baskets donated by the business community of Brevard County.

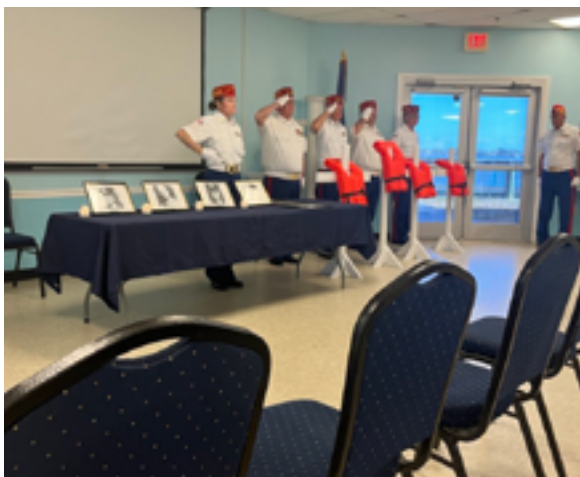
The following morning the park will be super busy hosting the drill meet from the JROTC and the Medal of Honor 5K Run. At the same time, there will be the first custom car show on the new amphitheater grounds. Food trucks will be on hand to make the event more enjoyable for everyone attending. We wish to thank Karen Croft and Paul Julian for their efforts in securing that feature.

The 5K run / walk is being planned by a team, who themselves are runners, Paul Julian, our BVMC secretary, Kristi Blanchard, and Maurice Morris, son of Melvin Morris a medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam war. The proceeds from this event will benefit the homeless and on the edge veterans in Brevard County. Donations are always accepted and appreciated. If you care to donate, call me at (321) 313-2444 or Maurice at (321) 417-9270

Every aspect of this fundraising event was without a doubt, a classic example of what the right team with the right motivation can accomplish in just a few short weeks. As a BVMC officer I wish to thank the many volunteers, some members, some not, who put their hearts and minds into this historic project. Like Maurice Morris says, "Team Work Makes The Dream Work" Go Army Beat Navy



Dean & Susan, Married 1981, Vows Renewed at 44 years.



Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony put on by USMC Det. 513.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

Two hundred fifty years ago, our forefathers started an experiment in Democracy. Where a group of folks selected by the legal population, got together, and made decisions to improve life for all Americans. When we evolved into a two-party system, we still got together, and after a civil debate and discussion, made decisions, that benefitted all Americans.

Last year we had a peaceful transition of leadership at different levels of our government. As citizens of the greatest Nation in the world we must accept without violence this change. In November, we can again cast our votes for the candidates of our choice, in 2028 we can again cast our vote for the President of the United States. Until then we can let our needs be known by contacting our Representatives and making our voices heard thru social media, letters to the newspapers, TV stations, and radio. This is the way to present your argument for the change that you feel is needed in our country, not through threats and violence.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson

AMERICA 250
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CAR
243rd Commemoration of
*The Last Naval Battle of
the Revolutionary War*

Saturday, March 21, 2026
Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL
1000-1100 a.m.

Event will include a Parade, Music, Speakers and Naval Ceremonial Salute

America's Semiquincentennial



Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard
USA (Fmr)

Celebrating Service — In Every Form

This past month has been a wonderful example of how small acts of generosity create a big impact in the lives of others.

I am proud to report that 26 phones and tablets were donated to the Cell Phones for Soldiers program in the last two months. These devices will be recycled to help provide free communication services to active-duty military members and veterans, keeping them connected with the families and loved ones who mean so much to them.

In addition, we received several eyeglass donations, helping restore sight and improve quality of life for individuals in need. Clear vision can mean independence, safety, and renewed confidence. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important outreach effort.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we pause to recognize the courage, strength, and dedication of the many women who have served our nation in uniform.

From the trailblazers who opened doors in generations past to the women veterans serving and leading today, their contributions have shaped our military and strengthened our country. Women have served with honor in every branch, in every capacity — often overcoming barriers while setting new standards of excellence.

This month, we proudly celebrate the women veterans within our own membership and throughout our community. Your service, sacrifice, and leadership inspire us all. Thank you for paving the way and continuing to make history.

Together, through service projects and remembrance, we continue to fulfill our mission — honoring the past while making a difference today.

Join Florida's fight to END
Veteran suicide!
Support our Veteran Community
Become a Watch Stander Today!

VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
STATES OF SERVICE

FW
THE FIRE WATCH



VMC Librarian Report

Hank Rhodes
USN (Fmr)

In January 2026 (the most recent month for which data is available), the library hosted 157 visitors.

On Tuesday March 31, Army Ranger veteran Steve Koski is scheduled to present “The Last Responder” in the BVMC Library. He will discuss what most people don’t know about the September 11, 2001 attacks and their aftermath.

The Veterans History Project team is in contact with several prospects.

In March, we honor the contributions of American Women. The spotlight is on computer pioneer Grace Hopper (1906-1992), who entered the Navy during World War II and served at the Bureau of Ordnance, before going on to play a leading role in the digital revolution. Periodically recalled to active duty, her final grade was Rear Admiral.



Lieutenant Junior Grade Grace Hopper
USNR (Later Rear Admiral)
1906-1992

Book of the Month: *State of War* by Dr. Anthony Atwood

Reviewed by Dean Schaff

This book uniquely shares the entire history of Florida’s involvement in World War II and how it played such an important part in ensuring victory. “State of War” explores how the war transformed the state into a major hub of military industry and an important training base for ground, naval, and air forces.

Drawing on historic photographs, military archival data, and civilian reporting in newspapers of the time, the author explores Florida’s military history and geography.

The state offered strategic potential in both its available space and its location near critical sea lanes. This unique combination made Florida the site of over 250 military installations and a launching pad for US military power around the globe. Florida was even a seat of war, serving as headquarters for the Battle of the Gulf-Sea Frontier against Nazi U-boats. The U-boat part of the book was of especial of interest to this reviewer because his 26-year career in the Navy was all in the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) community.

Dr. Atwood also uses census data to show how the demographics of Florida were changed by the war.

World War II accelerated the state’s relationship with the military, and this book details the war’s lasting impacts. In addition to the airports and other infrastructure built during wartime, Florida remains an important part of the military operations and is home to the third largest population of veterans in the nation.

The author of *State of War*, Dr. Anthony D. Atwood, is the founder and executive director of the Miami-Dade Military Museum and Memorial. He is a resident military historian at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University. Dr. Atwood is a third-generation Floridian and a retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer 3.

A copy of *State of War* has been donated to the library and will eventually be cataloged in the WWII section.

Park and Plaza Report

By Donn Weaver

The fantastic \$8.2 M upgrades to the Veterans Memorial Park are almost ready to be enjoyed by thousands for the rest of 2026 and beyond. Florida Power and Light completed their grid connection mission over Presidents Day Weekend. Now, inspections, punch lists, final acceptance by the County from Ivey's and a Ribbon Cutting are all that remain to lift the Amphitheater and many other event curtains.

Meanwhile, some highlights:

- More than a dozen BVMC supported tours in the past month.
- Raising the Vet sponsored Flag Pole and installing the pavers at the base via an Eagle Scout Project (Check out details in another article).
- Two major JROTC Drill Meets in the West Park.
- Completion of all planting including Memorial Trees.
- Working with County Parks and Rec for new event approval requirements.
- Initial planning for patriotic murals on the sides of the Amphitheater. Awaiting opening for design selection and approvals by County.

Thanks to our BVMC Parks Committee for two major meetings, a tour and getting ready for high gear work in the transition to support the county, MIRA and our event partners like Medal of Honor 5K and Classic Car Show, Last Naval Battle and Enlistment Ceremony coming up in March and April.

Special thanks to Doug Bisset who joined me in the survey of the new Memorial Trees including creating a map and numbering them for assignment after the opening when we will invite the donors. We are also working on plans to relocate the 25 Memorial benches bound for the park getting input from the donors and the county. They will make a huge difference in the Park in terms of not just resting, but remembering and reflecting.

Hope many of our members will attend the Grand Opening and many events in the future. There are few parks supporting veterans and the community in Florida or the country that can measure up when you calculate: Museum, Library, Plaza, Support Center, Meeting venues and now the Amphitheater in the Veterans Memorial Park.



Store Updates & Star Spangled Banner

By Jalaine Spears

The 15 stripe American flag is also known as the Star-Spangled banner or the Great Garrison Flag. It was the official national flag of the United States from 1795 to 1818. It is the only official US flag to ever feature more than 13 stripes. The specific design was created following the Flag Act of 1794, signed by President George Washington.

The 15 stars and 15 stripes represent the original 13 colonies plus the addition of Vermont, the 14th state and Kentucky, the 15th state to the Union. A massive version of this flag, 30 by 42 flew over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. Its sight on the morning of September 14, 1814 inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lyrics that became The Star-Spangled Banner.

As more states joined, Congress realized that adding a new stripe for every state would make the flag too large or cluttered. The Flag Act of 1818 returned the number of stripes to 13 to honor the original colonies, while establishing that a new star would be added for each new state. Since no American flag ever becomes obsolete, the 15-stripe flag remains a legal flag that can be flown today. Historical replicas are available from several manufacturers. We have one of these unique flags in our museum.

While you come to view it, come and check out the remodeled gift shop.

We have many new items for you to choose. We have polo shirts with the new Brevard Veterans Museum logo on it. We also have military ducks for our Jeep friends and microwave bowl cozies to prevent you from burning your fingers getting your food out of the microwave, and potato bags or veggies for use in the microwave. Come and check out our new Brevard logo hats also.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



SAVE THE DATE
**ENLISTMENT CEREMONY
 OF THE SPACE COAST**

JOIN US IN HONORING AND CELEBRATING
 THE MEN AND WOMEN ENLISTING THIS YEAR
 IN OUR ARMED FORCES

VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 AMPHITHEATER

FRIDAY APRIL 17
 5:00PM



SPECIAL EVENT
MARCH 10, 2026 12:30 TO 2:00 PM



**Meet and Greet some of our local
 Women Veterans who are
 going to Washington DC on a
 Flight to Honor all Women Veterans!
 Let's give them a Special Send off**



BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 400 SOUTH SYKES CREEK PKWY
 MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32952



Sponsored by: Their Voice of Hope,
 American Legion Unit #344,
 Brevard Veterans Memorial Center

National Rifle JROTC Championship to Palm Bay

For many years the Marine JROTC Cadets of Palm Bay Jr/Sr Magnet High School have been a major player in Florida State and Regional Marine JROTC Championships.

This year took them all the way to Utah for the National Title. Like all 14 JROTC programs in Brevard, Palm Bay receives considerable support from MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (including two new rifle lanes and weapons two years ago), BVMC and other veteran organizations. Under the outstanding leadership of SgtMaj Roy DeYoung, USMC Ret, and with hundreds of hours of practice and determination five outstanding cadets captured the national title for the first time in Brevard JROTC history.

With photos courtesy of Palm Bay, the story is told by SgtMaj DeYoung in a BPS Press Release after their return from Utah on 09 Feb.



Apply for BVMC Scholarships Now

By Jay Longway (USMC Fmr.)

The [BVMC 2026 Educational Scholarship Program](#) application is now available for graduating Brevard County seniors who plan to continue their education at a college, university, or technical/trade school. We are proud to support the next generation as they pursue their academic and career goals. Students may download the application directly from the BVMC website or pick up a printed copy in the BVMC Library or Museum. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who meet all stated requirements and demonstrate strong academic achievement, complete documentation, and financial need.

To be eligible, applicants must graduate from high school by August 1. Completed applications must be received in the BVMC Library no later than Friday, June 26. Each submission will be carefully reviewed by the Scholarship Committee for compliance, evaluation, and ranking.

This year's Scholarship Committee includes BVMC members Garet McKimmie, Mary Ann Tucker, Vic Rogers, Ray Norman, Doug Bisset, Dean Schafer, and Jay Longway. They are committed to ensuring a fair and thoughtful review process. If applicants have questions about completing the application successfully, they are encouraged to contact the individuals listed on Page 1 of the application.

We strongly encourage students to carefully follow all instructions and ensure that their application fully satisfies every requirement. Attention to detail is essential for a compliant and successful submission.

BVMC is honored to invest in the future of our community and looks forward to recognizing outstanding students who exemplify dedication, achievement, and promise.



*243rd Commemoration of
The Last Naval Battle of
the Revolutionary War*



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Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL
1000-1100 a.m.**

Event will include a Parade, Music, Speakers and Naval Ceremonial Salute



*America's
Semiquincentennial*

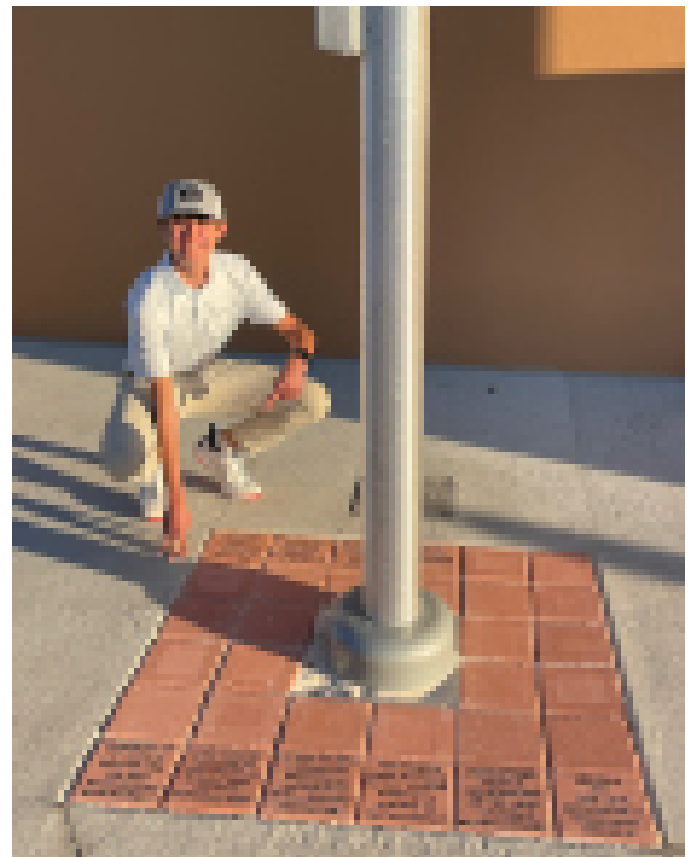


Veteran Groups and Eagle Scout Come Together to Create a Special Flag Pole

With the \$8.2 Million project to build an amphitheater and other huge improvements to the Veterans Memorial Center Park on Merritt Island nearly complete, there was a special item not in the contract won by Ivey's Construction. In 2024 Because the BVMC already had a Flagpole by the older buildings, no provision for one outside the amphitheater could be made. So, the veterans of the county came together to raise over \$3000 for the pole and related pavers while working closely with Eagle Scout candidate Justin Gregoire of Troop 343 on Merritt Island to also make it part of his project.

On 08 February the pavers surrounding the flag pole, many already engraved were placed by 15 Scouts led by Justin to have the great addition in place before the expected grand opening of the new Park in March. Funds, including for the the pavers, were provided by the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, VFW Post 10131 of Cape Canaveral, Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 453, Association of there United States Army Space Coast Chapter, Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Eagle Scout Project.

Many thanks to Bob Meyer and the Ivey's Constriction Team for the pole installation and precise measuring for the paver space and to Chad and Kitty Stoudt of CSpray who trained the Scouts and engraved the pavers as they have done for hundreds at the BVMC plaza since 2011. When the expanded VMP officially opens and the flag pole has lights, a large American Flag will fly atop followed by the POW/MIA Flag and, for the rest of this year, an America 250 Flag. No matter the event, the project will remind thousands who visit in the coming months and years (Capacity is over 3000 for concerts) that they are in Brevard's Veterans Memorial Park !!



AUSA Space Coast Chapter Updates



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

Hi Everyone!

I apologize that I haven't been able to send out a message since before the holidays – just a lot going on and we're an all-volunteer Chapter and Army! Let's get going on with what the AUSA Space Coast Chapter is doing.

We're heading into JROTC Awards season and we're very excited that we continue to support by providing AUSA JROTC Leadership Medals and Certificates to about 14 high school Army JROTC programs in our area. The ceremonies to present these awards starts in March and runs until early May. If you would like to represent the AUSA Space Coast Chapter at an event near you, please let us know! Current announced events are:

Port St Lucie High School Port St Lucie, FL 25 March 6:00 p.m.

Cocoa High School Cocoa, FL 10 April 10:15 a.m.

South Fork High School Stuart, FL 10 April 5:30 p.m.

Fort Pierce Central High School Fort Pierce, FL 16 April 6:00 p.m.

Spruce Creek High School Port Orange, FL 15 April 5:30 p.m.

Okeechobee High School Okeechobee, FL 18 April 6:00 p.m.

Staying on the topic of education, the AUSA National Scholarship portal will open for applications on February 20. Soldiers, family members (to include spouses, children, and grandchildren) are eligible to apply at www.ausa.org/scholarships. For questions, please contact our Scholarships Team at scholarships@ausa.org.

AUSA National Awards will open in March 2026 to recognize individuals and organizations who have served the Army and Association with distinction. Members, partners, and supporters are invited to submit nominations for whom they believe would be the best representative or each of these awards. Please think about the members and organizations who have positively impacted our Space Coast Chapter and the U.S. Army and contact us with your questions about nominations.

We're having our elections later in the spring. I will be on the ballot for one more term as Chapter President. Mr. Thomas McMahon will be on the ballot as our Executive Vice President. Tom served

in the Army and lives down in Martin County which gives our Chapter great representation in our southern region. He is actively involved in many organizations including serving on the Board of Directors for Do You Give a Ruck, a veteran nonprofit organization based on Florida's Treasure Coast and is the JROTC Coordinator, where he designs and manages competitions, awards, and scholarship programs for motivated JROTC cadets throughout the state of Florida. He has a long Army family history going back

to World War I, through all major wars and engagements, and others still serving today. We appreciate Tom stepping forward and he has many great ideas for Space Coast Chapter activities in our southern counties.

Kip Mathias, Sergeant Major, USA (Retired)

President, AUSA Space Coast Chapter

321-591-9826

pressc@ausa.org

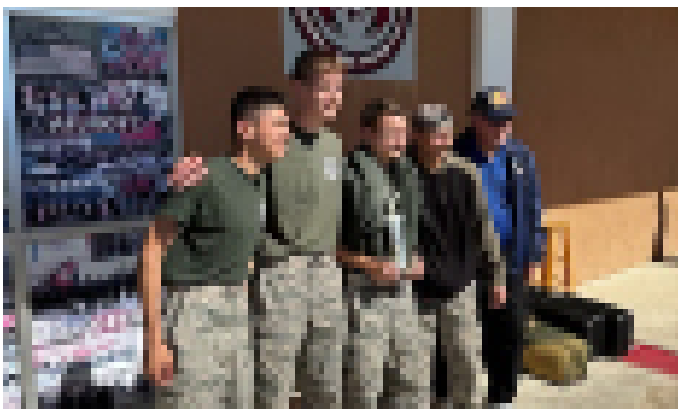


Satellite JROTC hosts Annual Run and Shoot Competition

Although the event does not count in formal JROTC Competitions, for more than 20 years Brevard JROTC units have participated in a demanding "Run and Shoot" Event. This year it was on 7 Feb at Satellite High School. MOAACC Good Deeds provided the trophies as five high schools competed including Satellite, Cocoa, Melbourne, Titusville and Eau Gallie with two four member teams each. The cadets have to run a mile, shoot accurately and run another mile, all while being timed and evaluated for target accuracy. For many years the event was held at BVMC Park and will return there in 2027 with the air rifle shooting on the Amphitheater Stage. GDF Board and BVMC volunteers Doug Bisset and Donn Weaver, attended the meet and presented trophies. Photos thanks to JROTC cadets.



Doug Bisset Awards Second Place to Satellite AFJROTC Team



Weaver with the Melbourne AFJROTC First Place Team

JROTC Drill Season Off to Good Start

On a beautiful 70-degree day with no humidity, the west side of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Park was the scene of the first JROTC drill meet for the 2025-26 school year. The event included all seven US Army JROTC programs, more than 200 cadets and several hundred family members. Hopefully there will only be one more JROTC event - the 28 Feb Second Drill Meet -- that will have to be staged without full use of the new Park and amphitheater. Fingers are crossed for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the \$8.2M project this month. Nine JROTC events have been held at BVMC Park west side since construction began in Nov 2024.

The first meet included 10 Color Guard Teams, unharmed squad drills and individual and pair rifle demonstrations competing for trophies and medals provided by MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation. The meet was organized by the Rockledge Raider JROTC program led by Maj Steve Celeste, USA Ret. Celeste, was careful to recognize his wife, who spent the morning at the meet on that Valentine's Day. Their daughter is a West Point cadet!!

Thanks to the BVMC for sponsoring the event and coordinating Brevard Park and Rec approvals for all JROTC events for 2026. Ivey's Construction was kind enough to approve transit thru the nearly complete building area for cadre to bring in tents and heavy gear and the Mall allowed parking of 500 cars in another community effort. Grading cadre included several volunteers from Patrick Space Force Base.

Rosa Reich, Capt USAF, Fmr, joined Mike Gautreaux, Col USMC, Ret, and BVMC Park Committee Chairman Donn Weaver, CPT USA, Fmr, in providing trophies to the winning teams and supporting the program and cadets.



THE PREMIER SPACE COAST MAGAZINE ESPECIALLY FOR ADULTS 50+

SENIOR SCENE®

FEBRUARY 2026 FREE



Cover Artist:
Lori Hlavsa

We Remember
Jack Benny 

Are Heart Attacks Preventable?

What Is Probate?

The Highway Men

Helping SENIORS of Brevard

FINANCE | HEALTH | ENTERTAINMENT | CALENDARS | NEWS

“The new issue of Senior Scene Magazine is now available to pick up at locations around the Space Coast, including the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. Enjoy the many informative and entertaining articles and challenging puzzles, including the BVMC calendar and patriotic article. You can also read the entire issue on our website www.seniorscenemag.com.

DETACHMENT 513 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Have you ever thought about the term “Memorial” as in Veterans Memorial Center, Memorial Garden, or the multiple Memorials in Washington, D.C.? We, as humans, place significant importance on certain events or times in our lives that we want to remember and historically ensure that future generations are aware of the happenings of this particular incident. “Remember the Maine,” “A day that will live in Infamy,” the horrific act on 9-11, and many other substantial moments in history are those moments which we need to commit to posterity. Many of our memoirs from WWII need to be recorded and remembered by those not present at their time of occurrence.

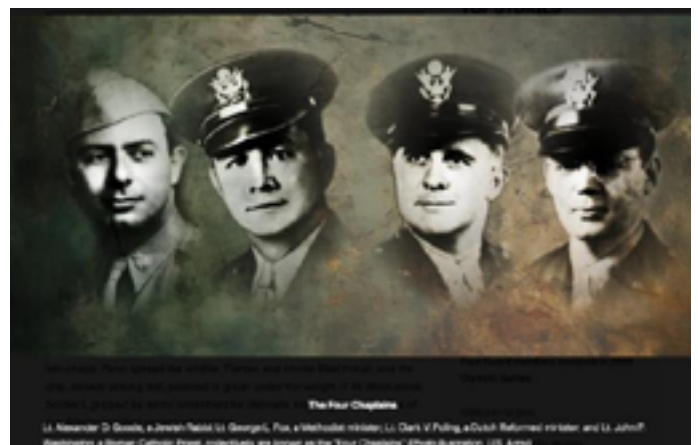
This year on February 8th, and every past February, the Marine Corps League Detachment 513 has paid tribute to the “Immortal Four Chaplains” in a ceremony depicting the return of the life vests to those Chaplains who perished at sea aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester after giving up their survival equipment knowing they were sealing their own fate in the service to others. After presentation of the colors, the ceremony, hosted by Marine Vietnam veteran and BVMC Chaplain, Chip Hanson, tells the story of these unsung heroes of the U. S. Army’s Chaplain Corps and brings to light the true meaning of selfless service and paying the ultimate price for your beliefs.

These men of God, one Catholic Priest, one Jewish Rabbi and two Protestant Ministers came together thru Divine intervention to show the true meaning of sacrificial giving. These four, although from different faith communities, knowing their fate, locked arms, prayed in unity as the crippled ship sank beneath the icy waters, showing those who survived unity of a common spirit. During the ceremony an individual candle is lit for each of the Chaplains as a brief epitaph tells the narrative of that fateful day and a life vest is placed on the Cross and the Star of David symbolizing their inter-faith connection and affiliation.

A bell is rung two times, just as it was on that fate-filled night when the transport ship U.S.A.T. Dorchester slipped beneath the waves. In his famous speech at the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA, during the civil war, President Abraham Lincoln spoke these overwhelming words “from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.” The President continued with “It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.” And so, we honor these four gallant men of God for their commitment to God and Country.

Today, the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia, PA lives on in memory of the event. Dedicated by President Harry S. Truman in 1951, their mission is “to honor the memory of four extraordinary men and their act of supreme sacrifice during WWII.” The foundation “strives to promote the ideals of

interfaith cooperation, selfless service, and unity in diversity. Through commemoration, education, and community outreach, we seek to ensure that their story lives on as a beacon of hope and inspiration for people of all faiths and backgrounds.”





You Are Invited To the Most Prestigious Car Show of 2026



**At The New
Amphitheater**

This Fundraising effort is being hosted by The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, Park and Military Museum

Meet and Greet Those Who Received Our Nation's Highest Military Award..

The Medal Of Honor

Proceeds from this one of a kind event benefits Brevard Veteran and Family Support Organizations

REGISTER ONLINE:
<http://brevardveteransmemorialcenter.org>
Information call/text (321) 313-2444

- Food Trucks
- Raffles

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

Drive and Park
Starts 9:00 A.M.

Veterans Memorial Center
400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy,
Merritt Island

Registration	\$ 20.00
At Gate:	\$ 30.00

DAV Disabled American Veterans

J.L. GOLIGHTLY - CHAPTER No. 32

National Vietnam War Veterans Day Honoring Their Service & Legacy

Thursday, March 26, 2026
Eau Gallie Civic Center
1551 Highland Ave, Melbourne

Event Schedule

- 4:30 PM - Dinner

Food Sponsors: Grill's Seafood, Harvest Thyme Kitchen, Two Chicks & a Pot, Cerrate's Italian Deli, and East Coast Shuckers

- 5:15 PM - "Special Event Auction"
- 5:45 PM - Program

Guest Speakers

- Colonel Michael Christopher Lane (RET) POW Infamous Hanoi Hilton (6.5 Years)

Special Guests & Auctioneer


- DAV Cmdr Andrew H. Marshall (60 yrs of Service) Combat Wounded Vietnam Veteran
- National Commander Coleman Nee
- Sheriff Wayne Ivey, Auctioneer

All proceeds go to Non-Profit DAV Chapter 32 for (free) Veteran Services.

Event Highlights

- Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center
- Missing Man Table - M.I.A. • Purple Heart Exhibit

Please RSVP at ndalgi@dav32.org



FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR VETERANS

Provided by AARP
Foundation Tax-Aide

Orlando VA Medical Center
13900 Veterans Way
Orlando, Florida 32827
Crescent Room



FEBRUARY 18

MARCH 9

APRIL 6

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
By appointment only

What to Bring:

- Photo ID
- IRS letters & all Tax Documents
- Bank routing and account numbers
- Social Security cards for everyone on the return



Scan to Schedule an appointment

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 513



**Brevard County
Marine Corps League
Detachment 513**

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

Benefiting Local Veterans' Organizations, scholarships, & other
Community Causes

**21 March 2026
Duran Golf Club**

7032 Stadium Parkway, Viera, FL

Shotgun Scramble/Best Ball Format

Start Time: 8:00 am

\$150 per Player / \$600 per Foursome, includes
Green Fees/Cart Rental, a light breakfast,
a Buffet Lunch, and Prizes for
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Teams,
Longest Drive, & Closest to the Pin

**Hole
Sponsorships
Available!**

Contact us at MCLBrevard513@gmail.com to register!

The Marine Corps League is the only Congressionally chartered
US Marine Corps related veterans' organization in the United States.
The Brevard County Det. has served veterans and the community since 1963,
supporting trips for vets, local schools, scholarships, Eagle Scout recognition,
color Guards for local patriotic events, Honor Guards for veteran funerals, and more.



**SEE THE BVMC
MANAGER ON DUTY
FOR
REGISTRATION FORMS**

**OR CALL
HEATHER BETZ
AT
330-808-0913**

JOIN THE FUN !



**Brevard County Marine Corps League
Detachment 513
Golf Tournament
Team Registration Form**

Date: 21 March 2026

Location: Duran Golf Club, 7032 Stadium Pkwy, Viera FL

Entry Fee:

- \$600 per team (4 players)
- \$150 per person (if signing up individually)

Team Name (if applicable): _____

Players:

Name: _____	Email: _____
Name: _____	Email: _____
Name: _____	Email: _____
Name: _____	Email: _____

Payment Information

Check Enclosed (Payable to Brevard County Detachment 513)
Mail this form to: **Rob Seiffert - 5296 Clubhouse Dr, Rockledge FL 32955**

PayPal @MCLBrevard513, or via this QR code:
email this form to MCLBrevard513@gmail.com, or mail to
address above



Additional Information

- Registration Deadline: 7 March 2026
- Shotgun Scramble Start: 8:00 am
- Best Ball Format
- Includes: Green fees, cart rental, breakfast/lunch, and prizes.

For questions, contact Heather Betz at hbetzand@gmail.com (330) 808-0913.



*Rufus Fairbanks
Red, White and Blue Ball*

*Come and join the Rufus Fairbanks Chapter, NSDAR in celebrating
America's Bicentennial*

*Tides Collocated Club
Patrick Space Force Base
1001 North Hwy. A1A
June 18, 2026
5:00 - 10:00
Formal/Demi-Formal*

*Price: \$95 per person
Includes: Champagne toast, appetizers, surf and turf dinner,
dessert, music, dancing, cash bar
His and Hers Gift Baskets
50/50 drawing
Tickets @ for \$30*

*For tickets contact Deb Regan-Smith
321-431-7807 or debr23@mindspring.com*

*Special guests
George and Martha Washington*




Celebrating America 250!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

GRAND Opening

MARCH

FRIDAY 20 12PM-2PM

2026

**BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
400 S SYKES CREEK PKWY, MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32952**

RSVP
• FACEBOOK EVENT
• CRYSTALMERZ@2NDFAMILY.COM
• CALL/TEXT: 321-489-1555

OWNER
CASPER JONES,
FACHE




CO-HOSTS






SPONSORED BY





MEDAL OF HONOR 5K RUN & WALK

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND
BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 | 8AM

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

CLASSIC CAR SHOW AFTER RACE



MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS: MELVIN MORRIS, EARL PLUMLEE, & PARIS DAVIS
SPECIAL GUESTS: REAR ADMIRAL DENISE HINTON & ROB MEDINA

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A MEDAL. \$25 BEFORE FEBRUARY 26 - \$35 ENTRY

REGISTER AT VETERANSMEMORIALCENTER.ORG/MEDAL-OF-HONOR-5K/



Veterans Suicide Prevention Training for Florida's Veterans Service Professionals

December 5, 2025

Dear Veteran Service Professional:

In October 2025, The Fire Watch contracted with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) to provide enhanced Veterans suicide prevention training to all Veteran Claims Examiners (VCEs) and County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) across the State. Entitled the Florida Veteran Overwatch Program, The Fire Watch and its partners - Florida LEADS Zero Suicide Project, PsychArmor Institute, and the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic - will hold in-person training sessions at 6 locations across Florida in 2026. Participants will learn to recognize suicidal behavior, demonstrate crisis situations, and direct at-risk Veterans to care and support.

Every VCE and CVSO is asked to attend one of the sessions listed below. Except for a session to be held concurrently with the County Veteran Service Officers Association (CVSOA) of Florida conference in May, each is scheduled for a Friday, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. The training is free. Breakfast, lunch, and training materials are provided. Travel and other costs will be the responsibility of your State or County office.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. St. Augustine: | January 30, 2026 |
| 2. Melbourne: | February 20, 2026 |
| 3. Ocala: | March 6, 2026 |
| 4. Bradenton/Palmetto: | April 10, 2026 |
| 5. Destin: | April 24, 2026 |
| 6. Orlando (CVSOA): | May 6, 2026 |



Please scan or click on the QR code to the right to register for the session most convenient for you. Please contact firewatch@fbefirewatch.org with questions.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the Florida Veteran Overwatch Program. Florida has lost 17,000 U.S. military Veterans to suicide since 2000. With your commitment - and through programs such as these - we are well on our way toward ending this tragedy and reinforcing Florida as the most military and Veteran friendly state in the nation.

Nick Howard
 Navy Veteran and Executive Director

The FireWatch Project, LLC - A 501(c)(3) Organization
 5420 Everglades Drive North, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32216
www.firewatch.org

Women Veterans Health Care

5 REASONS TO CONSIDER VA

Your VA benefits include personalized, comprehensive health care such as routine check-ups, cancer screenings, birth control, mammograms, maternity care, and more. VA also offers mental health care tailored to women Veterans. You are welcome at VA and will be treated with the respect you deserve.

1 YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR VA BENEFITS

Did you ever honorably or active duty on the National Guard/Reserve? You may be eligible for VA health care benefits. You do not have to be disabled, have service-connected injury or have experienced combat.

If you experienced sexual assault/harassment during your time in the service, VA can help. You can receive care for free even if you:

- ✓ Are not enrolled in health care
- ✓ Are not eligible for other care at VA
- ✓ Have no documentation or proof of the incident

2 MORE AND MORE WOMEN ARE CHOOSING VA

We saw an 18% faster growth between groups at VA.



Today, women make up about 38% of all new VA patients.

60% of VA employees are women, and of that 60%, over a third are Veterans.

3 VA HAS SPECIALLY TRAINED STAFF TO CARE FOR YOU

At VA, you will see providers and staff who have an advanced training in working with women Veterans. You have access to:

- Women's health providers for your general health and women-specific care. They understand how military service impacts your health.
- People designated to help you navigate VA and assist you with appointments. Call your health care and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.
- Mental health professionals and counselors who have specific training and expertise in women Veterans mental health.
- A team of specialists who help you coordinate your care to align with your personal health care programs.

4 YOU HAVE CHOICES AT VA

- You can choose the gender of your provider
- Telehealth or in-person appointments
- Mail or pick-up prescriptions
- An online system for making appointments, managing your care team, and reviewing your records (My Health4U)

5 GETTING STARTED IS ONLY ONE CALL AWAY

The Women Veterans Call Center is your guide to VA. Veteran women representatives can answer questions and connect you with your local Women Veterans Program Manager for appointments, hours, and website. 8:00 am - 10:00 pm CT and Saturday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm CT.

CALL OR TEXT 855-829-6438




8 50 140 PW120 JULY 2025 1/6



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar March 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 and/or call Central Area Parks and Recreation, 321-633-1874.

MARCH

13 Mar – Welcome Dinner for Medal of Honor
Day 5K Sponsors including four special guests who received the Congressional Medal of Honor (1600-2100) BVMC Gray Hall. By Invitation and Ticket Only. Sold Out.

14 Mar – 5K and Car Show to Recognize National Medal of Honor Day. 5K in Park (0800-1000); Car Show also in Park, 1000-1500. Register and pay here: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/medal-of-honor-5k/>

Four Medal of Honor Recipients expected to attend with proceeds going to support local veterans in need, veteran 501c3 projects and cadet youth of Brevard County. Contact BVMC Vice President Don Pearsall for more information or to help sponsor in the meantime on 321-453-1776, ext 1.

14 Mar – JROTC District Championships Drill
Meet, BVMC Park 1000-1300 after Medal of Honor 5K Fundraiser. 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. The JROTC will also support and be engaged in the MOH 5K, including several runners from all 14 JROTC programs. Courageous Division Sea Cadets also to assist MOH 5K. Best time to see all JROTC Action and help award trophies is 1200 - 1330. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for any questions.

14 Mar – Bataan Death March Remembrance
0800-1100 at Space Coast High School All Air Force JROTC Units join Space Force JROTC of Space Coast to walk in commemoration of one of the major tragedies of WWII. MOAACC Good Deeds Sponsoring. Contact Donn Weaver for more information.

20 Mar – Grand Opening Veteran Focused Family Home Care Event at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center 1200-1400. RSVP and more info at 321-489-1555 or CRYSTAL.MERZ@2NDFAMILY.COM.

21 Mar – Last Naval Battle Remembrance 0930-1100 BVMC Park. Presented by the Brevard Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution. Contact SAR and Donn Weaver for any questions.

28 Mar – Am Legion AUX 344 Easter Egg Hunt for Vet Kids. NEW VENUE. Kiwanis Park 0900-1300.

30 Mar – United States Air Force Band in Concert, Main Stage of the King Center in Melbourne 1900-2100. FREE but Tickets suggested at King Center Booking.

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

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 BVMC along with your check.

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

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

Name(s) _____