



VETERANS BULLETIN

A Monthly Publication of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center



ON THE COVER: Memorial Day 2026 Ceremony at BVMC Well Attended

Guest speakers were retired U.S. Army Colonel Tim Thomas and U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran Jim Carleton.
Read more on page 9

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 9 24th Annual Maritime Day
- Page 10 Their Voice of Hope Updates
- Page 11 Hero Fest 2026



CHECK OUT CALENDAR
EVENTS ON PAGE 14

JUNE 2026

BULLETIN CONTENTS

- President's Report • Page 3
- Vice President's Report • Page 4
- Chaplain's Report • Page 4
- Secretary's Report • Page 5
- Library Report • Page 6
- Book Report • Page 6
- Event Calendar • Page 14
- Boosters • Page 15

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 30 April 2026:
[List of Board 2025-2026](#)

As of 30 April 2026:
[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



President's Report

Dean Schaaf, LCDR, USN (Ret)

May was an extremely busy month as it should be with preparations for Memorial Day honoring our fallen veterans. Several programs were held around the county. One was held at the National Cemetery in Mims, Liberty Bell Museum, Cocoa Village (with parade), and our program at the Veterans Center. Thanks to Don Pearsall for coordinating the event with speakers Tim Thomas, Col USA (ret) and Jim Carleton, USMC (ret). We received great comments on the program and approximately 200 were in attendance. Mike Erdman Automotive honored four organizations at a program held at his dealership with the large flagpole on I-95. The BVMC received a \$2000 donation from Erdman Automotive.

I have attended Military Officers Association luncheons this past month that honored all 14 JROTC programs in the county with awards to their top cadets. Another luncheon honored 14 graduating JROTC students with full ride scholarships to universities and military and maritime academies. Our JROTC programs in Brevard county are second to none!

The briefing we received from the American Battle Monuments Commission was lightly attended but greatly appreciated and interesting. The ABMC is responsible for twenty six American cemeteries and thirty one battle monuments in seventeen foreign countries.

The Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter One held the annual Ride for Freedom on the 22nd - 24th of May at the BVMC. Washington DC no longer allows the ride for freedom to be held there because over a million motorcycles participated the last time it was held there, overwhelming security forces. It is now the responsibility of each state and RTF1 sponsored the Florida ride. An all day event was held in the Park on Saturday the 23rd with three bands performing on the Amphitheater stage. The actual ride was on Sunday the 24th and involved around 600 motorcycles departing from the Mall, down SR-3 to Pineda causeway, and north on A1A to Fishlips at the port. You definitely heard the "rolling thunder" along the way. Bravo Zulu RTF1!

June will be a little slower but will entail the planning of our 4th of July celebration. We plan to participate in Sheriff Ivey's 4th of July Merritt Island parade. It will begin at Merritt Island High School and finish at Edgewood Jr/Sr High School. However, all participants will be invited to continue on to the Veterans Park for a program celebrating the 250th anniversary of our great nation. We plan to hold the event at the amphitheater with a short program including a food truck and ice cream truck. Please plan on attending.

It is scholarship time, so do not forget about scholarships available at the BVMC, Civilian Military Foundation (Civ/Mil), MOAACC and many other veteran organizations.

There are several events coming up this summer using the Amphitheater, so stay tuned to our schedule. Check out our calendar of events in this Bulletin.

I want to thank Kristi and Sascha Lee for all they do to keep the monitor in the lobby updated and keeping our website and social media updated. A special thanks to "Sascha the great" for her work on my Maritime Day brochure.

God bless the USA, especially on our 250th celebration as a nation. Bless our fallen heroes, MIAs, POWs, and our armed forces.

Dean

Go Navy beat Army!

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Vice President's Report

Don Pearsall USA(Fmr)

To save space, I am submitting my Vice Presidents Report and a report from my agency Veterans' Connections. The BVMC is steadily growing as expected with the completion of the County Amphitheater. We interviewed four more volunteers of which two are already on the job. When I meet a volunteer, I vet them to be sure they would make a good representative for our organization. Then I describe the different departments, learn their skill sets, and listen to their preferences. Then when they decide, I will pass them off to our department heads for training and scheduling.

For example, a volunteer wishing to work at the store would go to Jalaine, or the Library to Hank. That works well as the department may have different rules and expectations. We are always looking for volunteers depending on the season. In the winter months our seasonal residents help tremendously, but we seem to be picking up attendance year-round.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for a few hours, please contact the EXCOM office or call (321)-453-1776 Extension 1.

On to Veterans' Connections. We are in the process of negotiations with a major Brevard County industry that wishes to support our programs and mission. It takes time because they are a part of a nationwide corporation. Every major sponsorship needs approval by many different departments, and along the way, things may need further clarification, questions answered, opinions offered, approval authorities on vacation etc.

We have submitted comprehensive proposals of our programs, and how to give them the ROI (Return on Investment) they are expecting. It will present many new opportunities and programs for veterans, many of them exist through the VA but will be enhanced by Veterans' Connections.

Go Army- Beat Navy



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Chip Hanson USMC (Fmr)

We are about to celebrate the 250th birthday of our great Republic. Here are some facts on our Countries Flag.

We in America have been through some very tough times over the last couple of years, riots, the cancel culture and a country that is so very divided. Finally, the total disrespect by some groups to the symbol that defines the United States of America. The American Flag. The facts of proper care and respect for or flag was taken from Military .com. Please read, save and pass along the following.

The U.S. Flag Code formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used.

The following is a list of dos and don'ts associated with Old Glory, the U.S. Flag:

Display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

When placed on a single staff or lanyard, place the U.S. Flag above all other flags.

When flags are displayed in a row, the U.S. flag goes to the observer's left. Flags of other nations are flown at the same height. State and local flags are traditionally flown lower.

When used during a marching ceremony or parade with other flags, the U.S. Flag will be to the observer's left.

On special days, the flag may be flown at half-staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.

When flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union (blue field of stars) to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

When placed on a podium the flag should be placed on the speaker's right or the staging area. Other flags should be placed to the left.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall (or other flat surface), the union (blue field of stars) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left.

When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way -- with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

When the flag is displayed on a car, the staff shall be fixed

firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

When saluting the flag DO the following:

All persons present in uniform (military, police, fire, etc.) should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

All other person's present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

When stowing or disposing of the flag, DO the following:

Fold in the traditional triangle for stowage, never wadded up. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.

It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.

Place the flag on the fire.

The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.

After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.

Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

Quick list of Flag Etiquette Don'ts:

- Don't dip the U.S. Flag for any person, flag, or vessel.
- Don't let the flag touch the ground.
- Don't fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.
- Don't carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.
- Don't use the flag as clothing.
- Don't store the flag where it can get dirty.
- Don't use it as a cover.
- Don't fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.
- Don't draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.
- Don't use the flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.

"But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish." -Psalm 9:18

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard
USA (Fmr)

In this 50th year celebrating women entering the service academies, I'm honored to know and have followed our own Ramsey Barrows from here in Brevard County, who graduated from United States Military Academy on Saturday, May 23, and was commissioned as a 2LT in the Aviation Branch. She will begin helicopter pilot training at Fort Rucker. Go Ramsey!



Women Veterans Recognition Day, celebrated yearly on June 12, commemorates the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (pub.L. 80-625, 62 Stat. 356), allowing women the right to permanently serve in the regular armed forces. Please attend some of the local events (see flyers in the Bulletin) or nationally at the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere where they are celebrating the more than 250-year legacy of women's service to our Nation.





VMC Librarian Report

Hank Rhodes
USN (Fmr)

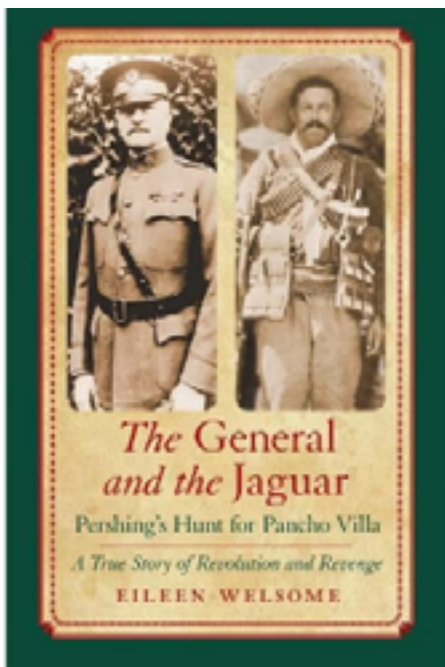
In April, (the last month for which data is available) the library had 126 visitors.

We are starting to reach capacity, especially in our Civil War, World War II and Vietnam sections. As a consequence, the library staff will undertake a process of “weeding” the collection to assure all our books are readily accessible and logically organized, and to allow space for new acquisitions. As an early step, we plan to reduce our fiction section by 80%, shrinking our holdings in this category to “classics” such as “The Red Badge of Courage” and “All Quiet on the Western Front.” We will also retain a few scholarly alternative history books in the fiction section.

In June we commemorate the Battle of Midway (June 4-7, 1942), where the U.S. Navy scored a decisive victory over the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), halting their advance across the Pacific Ocean. This victory came at the cost of over 300 American lives. In an ironic twist, the USS Midway (CV-41) was homeported at the former IJN base in Yokosuka (southwest of Tokyo) from the early 1970s to the early 1990s.

All outstanding Veterans History Project interviews and associated media have been submitted to the Library of Congress. We are in touch with several prospects.

The last Tuesday night discussion series is in hiatus over the summer months. We plan to resume in the fall.



Book of the Month: *The General and The Jaguar* by Eileen Welsome

Reviewed by Hank Rhodes

The “General” is John Pershing. The “Jaguar” is Pancho Villa. How their identities came to be linked is the subject of this very readable book. The story begins with a brief sketch of four centuries of Mexico’s history, culminating in the overthrow of President Porfirio Diaz after a 30-year dictatorship in 1911. Mexico entered a period of instability in what is commonly known as the Mexican Revolution. Various factions vied for control of the nation. This trouble on the southern border drew the United States into the conflict.

Among the contending factions was the Division of the North, led by a charismatic man known as Pancho Villa. Initially, a friend of the United States, he frequently crossed the border to confer with American Army officers, including John Pershing. But when our government recognized a rival commander as the de facto leader of Mexico, Villa took this as a personal betrayal.

In March 1916, Villa led his Army across the border and attacked the town of Columbus New Mexico, killing 23 Americans. Less than a week afterwards, Pershing led a response force south in a mission to capture or kill Villa. This campaign is known as the Punitive Expedition.

The Punitive Expedition lasted nearly eleven months and penetrated deep into Mexico. Villa, however, seemed to always be one step ahead of the Americans. Among other notable aspects of the Punitive Expedition, it represented the first American use of motorized vehicles to supply troops in combat (highly effective) and the first American use of military aircraft (less effective). Another interesting factor is the distinguished service of Lieutenant George Patton.

Although Villa was never captured, he was unable to again threaten the United States, so the campaign may be regarded as a qualified success. Rightly or wrongly, Villa has become an icon of rebellion against unjust authority and is counted by many as a national hero of Mexico. Pershing went on to command the American Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War One.

The story offers insight into the difficulty of fighting an insurgency in hostile country with a volatile political landscape. In the early 20th century, the United States fought several limited-scale “dirty” wars. This pattern of conflict seems to have returned in our own time. Unfortunately, some of our political and military leaders need to learn the same lessons over and over.

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Last Day to Submit Sponsorship: October 9th, 2026

#HomeStretch5K



CAPE CANAVERAL COUNCIL NLUS
Coast Guard 236th Birthday Celebration Dinner

Saturday, August 08, 2026
Indian River Colony Club
1936 Freedom Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Check-In / Social
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Event Program

Guest Speaker
CAPT Jason Aleksak, USCG
Commander, Sector Jacksonville

Plated Menu Options
Beef Tips / Hawaiian Chicken / Pasta Primavera
Meals include: Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans and Cake
Non-Alcoholic Beverages (Coffee, Tea, Water)
Cash Bar

Civilian Dress: Business
Military Dress: Tropical Blue (TBSS w/garrison cover) / Service Equivalent

Non-Members: \$60 per person / Members: \$55 per person
Officers / Auxiliary and their guests: \$50 per person
CPOs / E6: \$30 per person
E5 and junior / Students: No Charge
Enlisted guests: \$30 per person

RSVP: Email nlcce@live.com – Call 757-390-7033
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Make checks payable to: "Cape Canaveral Council NLUS" and mail to:
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8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Beachside Hotel & Suites
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What an incredible celebration!

★

Thank you for joining us to honor my dad on his **104th** birthday.

Your support and warm wishes mean everything to our family.

★

Thank you for celebrating life, liberty, and a true American hero with us!





Space Coast Chapter Updates

By Jim "JC" Carleton

USMC (Ret.)

Thank you to DAV 109 of Titusville for their Armed Services/ Veteran Appreciation Day working in coordination with Titusville Mayor Andrew Connors as he presented the City of Titusville's proclamation in becoming the second official Purple Heart City in Brevard County, signed May 16, 2026.

Mayor Connors was easy to work with on this task from the Space Coast Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 453 . Our Chapters Adjutant General, James Carleton gave the acceptance speech since he is a resident of Titusville and was instrumental in seeing this through completion.

DAV 109 Titusville honored the service of all veterans in attendance and provided good food, and great atmosphere. Thank you all for the fellowship amongst veterans and families.

Thank you to Mayor Andrew Connors and Vice Mayor Herman Cole of Titusville and Mayor Rob Medina of Palm Bay, first Purple Heart City in Brevard, for supporting the chapter on this quest and advocating for us beyond your city lines. A large thank you Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris for his support.



Color Guard Updates

By Don Pearsall

The BVMC Color Guard recently had an honor bestowed on them by their appearance at the 104th birthday celebration of Cocoa resident Dove Holmes. The celebration was held at the Brevard County Stone Street Recreation Building.

Being he was a veteran of the US Navy and the US Marine Corps. Our color guard offered a flag salute to Mr. Holmes. I, as Captain of the Color guard, presented him with a honors Certificate signed by BVMC President Dean Schaaf and myself.

I rendered a proper respectful hand salute and despite his age, he feebly returned my salute. The he did something that really touched me. He looked at the certificate and kissed it. I noticed a little tear in his eye when I thanked him for his outstanding service to our country. Those 15 minutes we spent with this extraordinary hero were some of the best I have ever spent and it meant so much to him. It felt rewarding to do something so meaningful for a fellow veteran from the "Greatest Generation"

Women's Veterans Day

By Jalaine Spears

Women s Veterans Day or Women's Recognition Day is celebrated annually on 12 June to honor the service and sacrifice of women in the US Military. It commemorates the signing of the Women's ArmedService Integration Act on June 12 1948, which allowed women to serve as a permanent regular member of the armed forces The 1948 act enabled women to enlist and hold commissioned officer roles, crucial for integrating women into the military. The day was recognized by New York in 2008 and was officially established in Texas by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2017. Many other states have since adopted this recognition.

The Military Women's Memorial hosts an annual event on June 12 to honor the nearly three million women who have served. I'm proud to include my Mother-in-Law who was a Navy Pharmacist Mate 3rd class in 1944/45. My daughter graduated from boot camp in Orlando and served as a Respiratory Therapist at Great Lakes Naval Hospital for 4 years. I am very proud of the women and also all of the men who sacrificed to serve in our military. Women have served in every American conflict from the Civil War to now, with over 35,000 serving in World War I and 350,000 in World War II. Unlike Veterans Daly on November 11, June 12 is not a federal holiday but a day of special recognition, often observed by state-level proclamations.

Thank you all, Women and Men for your Service!

Memorial Day 2026

By Don Pearsall

The Somber Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Center was very well attended despite the warm temperatures. President Dean Schaaf welcomed the guests under sunny skies and spoke about the sacrifices of our military.

Guest speakers were retired U.S. Army Colonel Tim Thomas and U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran Jim Carleton. It was well covered by the media with Senior Life, Florida Today, Space Coast Daily and one independent news agency. The theme “We Mourn our losses” was the body of the main message, which was given by Don Pearsall, Vice President of the BVMC. Music was provided by Lonnie & Delinda, and there was a large attendance (183 people) that moved through the museum looking at our exhibits and artifacts.

There are many exciting events planned in and around the park and newly christened amphitheater. July 4th, in a joint program and parade with Sheriff Ivey, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation down at our new county facility. Then, a big event in October for the Medal of Honor Annual Fund Raiser. In addition to the JROTC event, we will also have a large Arts and Crafts Show and “BBQ Battle” featuring many local backyard enthusiasts competing for the coveted Golden Pig Award. We are still looking for volunteers in the store, museum, library and grounds keepers, and help with our major events.



24th Annual Maritime Day

By Dean Schaaf

In 1933, the U.S. Congress designated May 22nd of each year as National Maritime Day. The President issues an annual proclamation to call upon the people of the United States to observe National Maritime Day. The Navy League of Cape Canaveral and the Propeller Club of Port Canaveral celebrate the event on the weekend nearest Memorial Day. We just held the 24th Annual Maritime Day at Rusty’s Seafood and Oyster Bar on Saturday, May 23rd. Prior to our program, two Tugboats from the port paid tribute to our program with water cannons and swift circles in the water off Rusty’s.

A short program was held on the deck outside Rusty’s and was emceed by Dean Schaaf. This year’s guest speaker was Willie Barriere representing the American Maritime Officers. Part of the program is to remember those lost at sea and loved ones who have “crossed the bar.” This year we remembered RADM Wayne Justice and Congressman Bill Posey. Mike Gautreaux represented Wayne Justices’ family, sharing highlights of his USCG career and his contributions to the Port of Cape Canaveral during his three terms as Port Commissioner. Remarks were followed by the playing of Taps and the singing of the Navy Hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save.”

The program was followed by a boat tour of the Port led by Bill Crowe, VP of the Propeller Club and VP of Engineering and Construction, Canaveral Port Authority. A wreath was laid at the entrance to the port and Taps were played. Everyone enjoyed the port tour, and we returned to Rusty’s for Lunch.

This year we were joined by the Constitution Truck from Rockledge, celebrating the Semi quincentennial. The truck is a 1947 Ford COE (cab over engine) painted by a local artist. The truck was also on display at the Memorial Day celebration held at the Veterans Center.



Their Voice of Hope Updates

By Dorothy Walsh

Their Voice of Hope has had a busy month of May and will have an even busier June. TVOH has partnered with Safe Project, “a national 501(c)(3) committed to overcoming the addiction epidemic in the United States”. Their groundbreaking wellness programs have been recognized nationwide, including by the VA. They received a grant from the Wounded Warrior Project to create a wellness program specifically for women Veterans. TVOH was a pilot project for this program, and we held a 2-half-day program with 20 women Veterans in attendance. It was wonderful.

In fact, TVOH and Safe Project will be working together to bring the programs to Brevard County. Not only will we work together, but we will be working with other Brevard County organizations, such as Wellspring Brain Care, to employ alternative treatments for PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues experienced by Veterans, first responders, as well as their family members.

We will be holding a Veteran Wellness program for male and female Veterans in the Fall. So, stay tuned – lots happening!!!!

June 12 is Women Veterans Recognition Day. Their Voice of Hope has partnered with Sonata Viera to hold a special program at the Viera VA, and we invite all women Veterans to join us for refreshments, games, and camaraderie starting at 9 AM. We will also have a crafts table available for women Veterans to create their picture collage for the Women in the Military Display at the Liberty Bell Museum.

As I've announced before, TVOH has partnered with the Liberty Bell Museum to upgrade its Women in the Military display. The Board of the Museum has opened up an entire corner in the museum to showcase the history of our women in the Military. So, if anyone has something they would like to donate, please get in touch with me – we want to fill that museum corner with wonderful artifacts of our historical women. We are also looking for pictures to include in the collage. Also on June 12, TVOH will be supporting AVET Project's women in the military annual luncheon by setting up our display table and joining in on honoring and celebrating our women Veterans.

On June 19th, we will have our monthly luncheon, to be held at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. The luncheon is from 11:30 to 1:30, with our special guests, BCSO Deputy Timothy Wallschlagler and USAF Veteran Terri Erlich, of the BCSO Paws and Stripes College, to talk about this wonderful BCSO program. This will be our last luncheon before we break for Summer – our next luncheon will be in September.

We will continue to hold our monthly health & wellness class with

the Red Cross, our yoga programs in Cocoa Beach and Palm Bay, as well as crocheting twice a month at Sonata East, and walking groups every Saturday. Please check out our website or Facebook for details and sign up.

The big event we have been working on, upgrading the Women in the Military display at the Liberty Bell Museum, will be unveiled at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony following the July 4th Parade in Melbourne. This will include a tremendous Happy 250th Birthday party for the greatest country in the world. Details to follow.

Yours in Service
Dorothy Walsh
President/Founder



First Responders Enjoy a Very Special Day : Hero Fest 2026

By Donn Weaver, President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Plaza was the scene for Hero Fest 2026 when more than 300 first responders and their families came to enjoy a unique day which celebrates their service to our community all year long. Back Brevard Heroes (BBH) , led this year by Vice President Kimberley Tucker, brought together more than 120 volunteers , including those cooking and serving a free BBQ meal, where over 700 were served during the five hour event on 03 May 2026. Total attendance for the event likely topped 800.

There was something for everyone to learn and enjoy a great day and to meet many BCSO, police, fire, emt and other first responders to both thank and show support. This year set records for the most vendors, sponsors and special events ranging from a petting zoo and acrobatic team; to fire and police demonstrations of the jaws of life, search dogs, foam fire retardant display (where dozens of kids shared amazing fun). There was truly something for everyone, even including free ice cream and drinks.

Thanks to all who supported the event, especially Back Brevard Heroes and the BVMC as well as sponsors including the Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC. BBH raises funds all year for this event which is open to the public as well. This was the 7th annual Hero Fest at BVMC and among the best. To learn more about the event and all that BBH does year round to supplier First Responders and their families, visit www.backbrevardheroes.org



HELP WANTED

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Brevard Veterans Memorial Center

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- BEING A VETERAN NOT REQUIRED**
Must be a minimum of 18 years old.
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- UNIFORMS & TRAINING PROVIDED**
We provide everything you need to succeed.

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- SERVICE**
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- COMMUNITY**
Make a lasting impact in Brevard County.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
400 S. Sykes Creek Parkway
Merritt Island, FL 32952
BREVARDVETS.COM

CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION FUNRAISER

4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026
5:00 to 7:00pm

RISING TIDE TAP & TABLE
828 Glen Cheek Dr. Port Canaveral, FL
restaurant closed to the public

EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE RAFFLE PARTY
RAFFLE DONATION MINIMUM \$100.
EACH RAFFLE TICKET ADMITS 2 PEOPLE
5 VIP TABLES AVAILABLE \$1000. each
1/250 CHANCE TO WIN \$5000. 1st Prize
1/250 CHANCE TO WIN \$1000. 2nd Prize

INCLUDES: silent & live auctions, heavy appetizers, fun games, cash bar & Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Membership.
Must be present to win 2nd prize, but not 1st.
Wristbands will be given to ticket holders on entry.

Ticket Purchase Options
CCLF Board Member
info@canaveralLight.org
www.CanaveralLight.org
321.351.5052 | Scan QR Code







Their Voice of Hope





YOU ARE INVITED

To the monthly Women Veteran Luncheon
At the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
Sponsored by
Their Voice of Hope

Friday, June 19, 2026
11:30-1:30
Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy
Merritt Island, FL

Guest Speakers
Timothy Wallschlager, BCSO Sheriff's Deputy
Terry Erlich, USAF Veteran




Lunch will be served
No cost

Please RSVP
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/june-monthly-luncheon>



Brevard County Supervisor of Elections Vote in Honor of a Veteran Program

The **Vote in Honor of a Veteran** program honors the sacrifices made by members of the United States Armed Forces to protect Americans' right to vote. The objective of the program is to encourage voter participation among young voters by sharing the biographies and words of encouragement from Brevard County veterans.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to participate in this program to help stress the importance of registering to vote by making it a more personal experience. By exercising our right to register and vote, we show our veterans the respect they deserve for defending our great nation.

To participate in the program any veteran or their family can complete a Veteran biography form and submit a DD-214 or a DD-215. We ask that submissions come from registered voters who are residents of Brevard County and served our country, whether in peacetime or wartime, past or present. Forms can be submitted online, via email, mail, or dropped off at any of the 4 Election Administrative offices. If possible, please include a photo (preferably in uniform) of your veteran. We ask that you do not mail in original photos, but we are happy to scan them for you if you visit one of the 4 offices.

Visit VoteBrevard.gov or one of the 4 Election Administrative Offices for a Biography form. Pictures can be scanned and sent via email or brought to one of the offices to be scanned and returned to you.

Please return the Veteran biography form and a copy of a DD-214 or a DD-215:

Mailing Address:

PO Box 410819
Melbourne, FL 32941-0819

Email:

SOE@VoteBrevard.gov

In Person:

Supervisor of Elections - Titusville
400 South Street
Suite 1F
Titusville, FL 32780-7610

Supervisor of Elections - Viera
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Suite 105
Viera, FL 32940-6605

Supervisor of Elections - Melbourne
1515 Sarno Road, Building A
Melbourne, FL 32935-5293

Supervisor of Elections - Palm Bay
450 Cogan Drive SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909-6869



Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

June 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/>

JUNE

06-07 Jun – Merritt Island FEST at the BVMC Park (1500-2200) with food trucks, music and much more. Paid admission, Sponsored by Space Coast Daily. Open to all in the Public.

10 Jun – Small Business Service Center Workshop, 08:30-1000 at Beachside Hotel & Suites, 3901 N Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach. Excellence in AI Workshop: Putting AI to work in your business. Turn AI into a machine for business in partnership with Veterans Florida. Free to Military, Veterans, and Military Spouses. <https://acceleratebrevard.org/>

12 Jun – Celebration and Lunch for our Military Women at the Avenues in Viera 1130 -1300. Contact www.avet-project.org

13 Jun – Space Coast Honor Flight #3 of 5 2026 visits by veterans to see their monuments and memorials in Wash DC. Starts at 0400 hours at Melbourne International Airport Main Terminal with Welcome home set 2030 hours same evening. Come out and honor these veterans, some from the Korean War era and their Guardians that will travel with them. Many veteran organizations and community groups support this amazing program. MOAACC Good Deeds funds FIT ROTC Cadets and Veterans in the VA sponsored FIT Psych PhD program to serve as guardians throughout the year. Contact schf.org for more information and sign up on the waiting list for both honorees and guardians.

13 Jun – Celebrating America 250!! Red, White and Blue Ball – Tides Club PSFB 1700-2200. Formal/Semi Formal Dress- \$95 per person Special Guests– George and Martha Washington!!!
19-21 Jun – American Space Museum in Titusville - Shuttle Fest – More info in early June.
20 Jun – Memorial 5K Run honoring Christian Bellmore, MIHS Graduate who served in the USAF,

Veterans Memorial Park – 0700-1100. Contact Donn Weaver for more info.

JULY

04 – Jul BCSO/BVMC Independence Day Parade and America 250 Celebration. (1000 - 1300). Check BCSO web site to register in the parade in late May. Parade starts at Merritt Island High School (1000- with set up (0830-1000) and continues to Edgewood JR/SR High School and the BVMC Plaza where we plan food trucks and music to celebrate 250 years of America and Veterans who created, protected and continued America as we know and love it.

04 Jul – Palm Bay Independence Day 250th America Festival and Fireworks at Eastern Florida State College Palm Bay with music, food trucks and fireworks. 1700- 2100 with Fireworks at 2100.
11 Jul – Veterans Appreciation Day at DAV Chapter 109 in Titusville 1500-1800 at 435 N. Singleton Ave. Food, Drinks, games, movies and camaraderie!!!

14 Jul – Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Fun'Raiser, 4th Annual Christmas in July, 1700-1900, Rising Tide Tap & Table, 523 Glen Cheek Dr, Port Canaveral, FL. Exclusive private raffle party, \$100 raffle donation minimum, and VIP Tables available. Silent and live auctions, heavy appetizers, fun swag, cash bar and Cape Canaveral Lighthouse membership. 321-351-5052 or <https://canaverallight.org/>

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, 2027

Clark, Garrett Nov, 2026

Clayton, David & Anne July, 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, 2027

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rowe, Wayne June, 2027

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) _____