



Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach FL 32964-4047

ircmoaa.org

The Buccaneer

December 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Get ready for the December Chapter Meeting! The 2025 Holiday Dinner and General Business Meeting will be the culminating celebration of a wonderful year. Join in the camaraderie and good cheer. Our members and friends have reason to be pleased.

Consider the fact we have aided in numerous occasions the welfare of our local veteran family. November was indicative of our contributions. We provided the venue for the Submarine Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony, the prelude to November. The WWII Tribute was a perfect spot. The Gold Star Mothers Walk-A-Thon included our sponsorship, donations, and participation. The Indian River Veterans Forum fostered the collaboration of more than 20 veteran advocates which are the heart of this veteran-centric community.

Be proud of our Veterans in the Classroom Team. They dazzled the Rosewood Elementary kids with Air Force, Navy, and Army tales of service. This was followed by our enthusiastic USMC Birthday Ball representation. That flowed directly into an IRC MOAA-led Sanctuary Island Veterans Day Ceremony. All of these were collaborative efforts with our partners, veteran and civic.

Then, of course, you had a November Chapter luncheon and meeting. The USMC Chapter members and guests were a glorious culminating cacophony of

patriotic exuberance. Their gleeful voices bellowed the USMC anthem! Ooah!

A reminder: Please RSVP for the Holiday Dinner by 4 December, invite a neighbor, and bring a gift for the Toys for Tots campaign. We should savor our role in sustaining the Indian River County spirit of military service with dining, dancing, and grateful hearts.

Tony Young



**Dale and Dawn Content
at Gold Star Mothers
Walk-A-Thon**

**Michelle Dale welcomes
the walkers.**



RECENT HAPPENINGS

Veterans in the Classroom Kicks Off the School Year

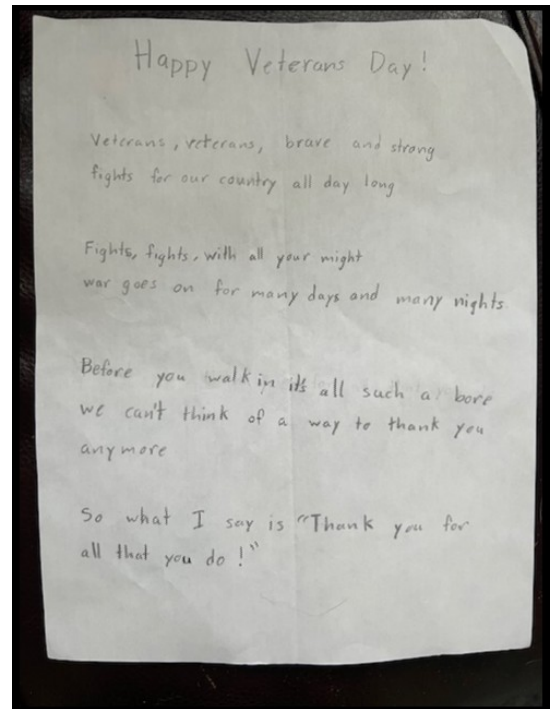
Your Vets in the Classroom Team in Action! On November 7 the IRC MOAA team presented our Veterans Day program to 135 5th and 6th graders at Rosewood Magnet School. The kids were very attentive and well mannered, and asked a lot of interesting questions. In a show-of-hands survey, in response to the question "Who has a family member who is currently serving or has served in our armed forces?" at least 75% of the students enthusiastically raised their hands! That's impressive for a community that has no nearby military installation.

Terry Treat, Team Leader



Jessica Carrillo,
Terry Treat,
Dale Content,
Randy Guthrie, John
Palazzolo

These youngsters are no strangers to veterans!



Red, White, and Blue Concert



Bill Keegan;
Bethany
Fortunato;
Barbara and
Al Norton



VETERANS DAY 2025



Dwight Harris and John Michael Matthews



John Palazzolo leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Master of ceremonies CPT Marc Richard speaks. Guest speaker Commissioner Susan Adams is at his left (red jacket).



The color guard



COL Young and Commissioner Flescher with VBHS band members



1LT Jonathan Cordero administers the Oath of Enlistment to 8 local recruits.

LEGISLATION

This month I would like to share with you something that I was not aware of. There is a program called Advocacy In Action, AIA for short. Each spring members of National MOAA go to Washington DC to visit our senators and representatives. They attempt to meet with the folks directly, but sometimes it is a staff member if the principal is not available.

There is a program called Soapbox that was started last year to record and analyze the visits to gauge the effectiveness of our organization. Since last year was

the first year it was used, it is too soon to know how well the visits are working.

I encourage everyone to go to MOAA.quorum.us and send prepared written emails to your reps. Nothing is more effective than hearing directly from their constituents. There are letters for four different subjects currently available on the website. It will only take a few minutes to complete.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope to see you all at our party on December 10!

Dale Content, Legislative Officer



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In November our membership approved 2026 Regular Membership dues of \$35. And we celebrated new member CDR Bissonnette, who is setting the standard with deeds, not words. We are building for the Blue Angels May Air Show. The souvenir booth is ours again!

Thanks to Bob, the MOAA Vacations advertising program and MOAA Insurance postings will be contributing to our income. The 2026 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar-Convention will be **29–31 January** at the Rosen Center Orlando. Two of our leaders will attend. The Chapter is donating a conservative portion to help share the Council of Chapters' cost and contribute to the MOAA Charity. The MOAA Awards window is **1 Dec 2025–31 Jan 2026**. *Tony Young*

Our membership continues to grow steadily, one member at a time. We are proud to welcome our newest member, Peter Bissonnette, CDR, USN (Retired). Most of us know Pete in his role as Professor of Naval Science JNROTC Program at Sebastian River High School. We are happy to have Peter join our chapter as he is a true example of NEVER STOP SERVING.

Do you know a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer, who is not a member of our chapter or MOAA? If so, invite him or her to join. Better yet, extend an invitation to our next monthly luncheon!

Why Join MOAA?

MOAA is the country's leading organization preserving and protecting service-earned benefits for uniformed service members and their families. Our members not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers.

Bob Albrecht, Membership Chairman; 772-257-6678/919-616-3873 (cell); email: ralbrecht1702@comcast.net

FYI

Wreaths Across America now covers all of the Indian River County graveyards and Veterans Memorial Island. Help place wreaths on **Saturday, December 13 at 10 AM**, and also join the Veterans Memorial Island ceremony at 11 AM. This annual effort is a beautiful way to honor family and friends. Rick Lewis and Joseph Crowley are contacts.



Crestlawn Cemetery: Wreath laying 10:30 AM

Gifford Cemetery: Wreath laying 10:30 AM

Winter Beach Cemetery: Ceremony at noon, wreath laying to follow

Sebastian Municipal Cemetery: Wreath Laying 10:30 AM, ceremony to follow at Riverview Park at noon



Honored in December

LtCol Joseph Trane McCloud 4 Dec 2006, Iraq
PVT John Morris 12 Dec 1918, WWI
Seaman Aaron Wilson Kemp 14 Dec 1917, WWI
TSGT James L. Dodson 22 Dec 1944, WWII
TSGT Ernest Sheffield 25 Dec 1944, WWII
SSG John J. Middleton 26 Dec 1944, WWII
SP4 James E. Loudermilk 27 Dec 1967, Vietnam

We also honor those whose dates of death are unknown to us at this time:

Robert E. Palmer, WWII/Korea
Jim Williams, WWII/Korea



Holiday Dinner Details

Remember to bring a child's gift for Toys for Tots!

Timeline and Menu:

6–6:30 PM Butlered hors d'oeuvres, chef's choice, 1 hot, 1 cold
7:20 PM Caesar salad

Entree Choices: Sliced tenderloin/Jumbo lump crab cakes/Chicken Cordon Bleu

Sides: Green asparagus/White wine whipped potatoes/Rolls & butter

Dessert: Holiday parfait with Christmas cookie

— Live music by Touchdown DJ Productions

— Bring your best singing voice, as we will once again have our “12 Days of Christmas” rendition,
led by the inimitable Terry Treat!

TREASURER'S REPORT, INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER MOAA

Thanks to all who donate in time, talent and treasure. Our members contributed to the success of the Walk-A-thon, Forum, Classroom, and Veterans Day Ceremony in a selfless commitment. These occasions are witness to an amazing dedication *Tony Young*

Please remit membership dues (\$35) by the end of December. One can mail a check (hopefully it arrives), pay cash at one of our meetings, or use our website, ircmoaa.org. Surviving spouses' and associate members' dues remain at \$15.

As of November 21, 2025

The special account balance is \$4,501.05, with no transactions. CD deposits are unchanged.

Special Account:

Receipts: None

CD Values: 1) \$25,496.53 and 2) \$10,099.36

Disbursements: None

Business Account

The business account balance is \$9,529.04, with one check outstanding, making checking account balance \$9,379.04, omitting transactions for the November luncheon, which will appear in the December report.

Receipts:

Dues :

ACH	\$ 65.00
Check	\$ 35.00

Disbursements:

GoDaddy Fees	\$ 14.22	
2077 Foremost Accounting	\$150.00	Quarterly charge
2078 Voided		Sent to allow direct deposits by AMBA for an ad
2079 FCOC	\$600.00	Sponsorship for 2026 convention
*2080 H2 Septic	\$150.00	Veterans Day

*Not yet cashed

Roger Grubic, Treasurer



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Schedule of Upcoming Events

LEGEND: Board Meetings, Member Luncheons, Chapter Events, Events of Interest
Historical Events

1 DEC: IRC MOAA BOD Meeting

7 DEC: Pearl Harbor Attack, 1941

10 DEC: 1800 IRC MOAA Annual Holiday Dinner, Vero Beach Yacht Club

13 DEC: Wreaths Across America Cemetery Honors & Ceremonies

13 DEC: 1500 Army-Navy Game

16 DEC–25 JAN: Battle of the Bulge, 1944–45

5 JAN: IRC MOAA BOD Meeting

16 JAN: 1130 IRC MOAA Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

19 JAN: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

30–31 JAN: Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar-Convention, Orlando



**Don't forget to bring a
Toys for Tots
gift!**





The Buccaneer



2025 OFFICERS & BOARD OFFICERS

President	COL Tony Young	772-321-2692
1st Vice President/Programs Chair	CPT Marc Richard	772-532-7599
2nd Vice President/Legislative Affairs	LCDR Dale Content	772-713-4025
Secretary	Kim Palazzolo	954-806-1754
Treasurer	CPT Roger Grubic	386-589-3157
Membership Chair	LTC Bob Albrecht	772-257-6678
Chaplain	1LT John Palazzolo	954-675-7075
Immediate Past President	MAJ Terry Treat	703-304-4935

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LTC Bob Albrecht	772-257-6678
CPT William Duffy	772-532-6523
Bethany Fortunato	941-730-3476
Capt. Maryann Grodin	240-678-9494
Carolyn Riordan	239-272-1502
LtCOL Jay Torres	540-850-5113
LtCOL Jim Rannazzisi	703-303-2672

Indian River County Chapter, in keeping with national and state MOAA bylaws and requirements, is politically nonpartisan. However, our Legislative Affairs Chairperson makes a deliberate effort, per the responsibility of the role, to inform membership of candidates' positions. The Legislative Action Center can be found at moaa.quorum.us.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our chapter, please join us at our monthly luncheon and general business meeting on the third Friday of every month. For more information contact our Membership Chair, Bob Albrecht (ralbrecht1702@comcast.net; 772-257-6678)