



Indian River Chapter MOAA P.O. Box 644047 Vero Beach FL 32964-4047 ircmoaa.org

# The Buccaneer

# April 2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



April showers bring May flowers! Easter is April 5. Spring is here and the days are filled with nature's fresh growth. Thank you for your support in March.

Our chapter continues its principal task of advocating for veterans. Your time and treasure make that mission possible, helping to shape our community in multiple ways.

Never doubt your significance in sustaining the veteran-centric ethos of our haven by the sea. Your voice and participation provide tangible evidence to all of our neighbors that military service truly matters, now more than ever. Unfortunately, too many today are ignorant of the sacrifice and pride of serving the USA, the beacon to the world as a nation of the people.

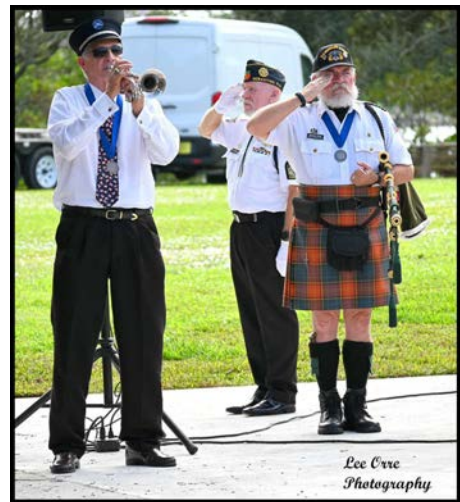
*Tony Young*

By helping students, we are promoting our youth, as they witness our selfless service and commitment and, we hope, aspire to emulate it. We have also affirmed all those who have worn the uniform and defended our liberties in all the branches of service by confronting countless perils through the years.

Our chapter's toil is the oil in the community's social engine; we definitely contribute in keeping the parts moving: from honoring the Junior ROTC cadets, to celebrating our local roster of WWII humble heroes, to planning for the Sanctuary Island's ceremonies. The collaborative effort is a source of inspiration. Our band of patriots is an important reference point—a contingent comprised of those who fully realize the significance of veterans.

This month, we will participate in the high schools' JROTC ceremonies awarding a scholarship and medals to cadets in the Sebastian River and Vero Beach programs. And, as always, the monthly luncheon will be another significant event. April's guest speaker, Joe Coakley, is a steadfast enthusiast of all things Vero Beach and Indian River County. His current duty will benefit our goal to hold a worthy celebration of the USA's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also at the April luncheon, we will recognize our eighth Navy JROTC Cadet of the Month!

April segues into the chapter's spring culmination, with both the Vero Beach Air Show and Memorial Day in May.



**Duke Scales, Michael Hyde**

Often we miss the opportunity to express our gratitude. One unsung hero of our local veteran family is Duke Scales. Duke is an accomplished member of the Bugles Across America. He has been a mainstay for veteran ceremonies for decades. Duke is a stalwart performer for memorials near and far. His extraordinary bugle calls cover the spectrum of official Army bugle calls. The notes of Taps are sounds from the banks of the James River that offer comfort for the family and friends of the fallen. Duke deserves our gratitude. He is one of the humble servants within our ranks.

# RECENT HAPPENINGS

## March Chapter Membership Meeting Presentation 20 March 2026

At our March luncheon, Tammy Bursick, the lead for the City of Vero Beach's Fourth of July 250<sup>th</sup> USA Birthday Celebration, provided an informative presentation. Along with City Councilman Aaron Vos, Tammy shared the day's array of activities, which include a morning parade and antique car display, afternoon Riverside Park food trucks, veteran ceremony and live band, plus the evening fireworks. The anniversary milestone will be preserved with a time capsule. Details are available at covb.org. Scroll down to "City of Vero Beach News" and click on the "USA All Day-250 Years-Pioneers to Paradise" logo for July 4, 2026 information.



Marc Richard, Tammy Bursick, Aaron Vos



## SRHS Navy Junior ROTC March Cadet of the Month

Melissa Trujillo, Cadet Lieutenant Commander, was recognized at the March luncheon for her leadership as the Commander of the Junior ROTC unit. In addition to her myriad of duties, she flawlessly and with minimal oversight organized the 2026 JROTC military ball. It was a resounding success with record attendance. Melissa's exemplary leadership and unfailing kindness reflect the very best of military tradition.



Islemy Garcia, Cadet Melissa Trujillo, CDR Peter Bissonnette, Maryann Grodin



CDR Bissonnette and Cadet Trujillo with MAJ Dean Rasdall and AFJROTC cadets

**WWII 101st Birthday Celebration  
16 March 2026**

This get-together celebrated two March birthday veterans: Harold Granitur and Dallas Stevens. With the assistance of three more WWII heroes—Bill Keegan, Al Norton, and Donald Vanderlaan—it was momentous. Michelle Dale led the festive function at American Legion Post 39. The chance to enjoy these fellas rallied troops from the Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard and Post 39, plus IRC MOAA members. Aaron Vos and Laura Moss lent the special honor of elected officials.



**Family, friends, fellow veterans, and elected officials all contributed to the festive atmosphere as we honored our 101-year-old WWII veterans.**



**Scott Carson and WWII veteran Dallas Stevens**

# FYI

## McIntosh Street Dedication 10 March 2026

The Indian River County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the dedication of 86<sup>th</sup> Lane in honor of Silver Star Vietnam War USMC veteran Sylvester McIntosh. The recommendation was introduced by Commissioner Joe Flescher, and the honor was presented to Sylvester with his family and friends in attendance.

Through the years, Sylvester's leadership has benefited the community in countless ways. He is an advocate for veterans and social justice. As a minister, his help with the Veterans Court and decades of military ceremonies and civic actions has left a legacy of charity and faith. He is a citizen warrior whose courage sets a standard for all.



## Air Show Concession Booth May 16 & 17

We still have some openings on Sunday, May 17 for people to get into the Air Show for the price of a few hours of meeting a public that loves airplanes and good fun. You can split up a morning or afternoon time if you don't want to be there for the four and a half or five hours that constitute a full shift in the booth.

If you can't or don't want to commit to the whole time, you need to notify Dale Content with the name and email address of the other person, so we can get him or her onto the list of concession workers at the front entrance, ensuring that all volunteers will be admitted to the show for no charge. **I promise that you will enjoy the day!**

### Dale Content

Vero Beach is the host of the nation's **best** Blue Angels venue, and helping with our booth is a treat that gives you a front-row seat to their amazing performance. It also provides funds to support our mission. Dale Content is building the bench for the VB Air Show IRC MOAA souvenir tent. As a concession staff, we will participate on Saturday and Sunday, 16 & 17 May, covering four shifts. Please sign up now to participate. We need your help.

Tony

**HOW TO SIGN UP TO BE A CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR SPECIFIC GROUP (IRC MOAA)**

Go to: [www.veroairshow.com](http://www.veroairshow.com)

Click "Partners" in navigation menu bar (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) then Click "Concessions" from the drop down

Scroll screen to "Volunteer Now!" button and click

Fill in name and preferred contact EMAIL; click "SUBMIT"

You will be directed to a form to build your profile, **complete form**; click "COMPLETE APPLICATION" button at end of form

You are now registered; you will receive email confirmation

You will be returned to the schedule selection; scroll to find our group; make selection; return to top of page; click "SUBMIT" again



# The Buccaneer



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As I look over our membership roll for the past year, I see that it remains somewhat stable. Our member count tends to hover around the 95—105 level. Our recruiting efforts are what I would describe as tepid. We need to get better at finding new members. Reaching out to potential members identified by MOAA National as living in our area has produced dismal results at best.

For example, this month I sent an introductory email to 40 potential members residing in Indian River County. I told them about our chapter and our involvement in the community, to include the latest newsletter. I received no feedback. Despite this disappointment, I'm not discouraged. I will reach out again and again.

Additionally, we have made similar efforts by mailing invitations to potential members for our Officer Calls at 21st Amendment Distillery and Walking Tree Brewery.

Now, here's the good news! What I have learned and observed is that most of our new members join as a result of the efforts of our current members bringing in new folks they happened to meet in their neighborhood or at an event of some sort. This is marvelous, and I commend every one of you who helped us bring in new blood. In 2025 we gained nine new members. On the other side of the ledger, we lost 17 former members, 10 of whom relocated from Vero Beach to another city. The remainder failed to renew their membership.

Let's remain committed to recruiting and retaining members. We have a great organization with dedicated chapter officers and board of directors. Remember: Everyone is a recruiter!

**NEVER STOP SERVING!**

*Bob Albrecht*

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### *Help Us Grow*

Do you know someone who is a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer but not a member of our Chapter or MOAA? If so, **ask him or her to join** and contact **Bob Albrecht at 772-257-6678 or 919-616-3873.**

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### **Why Join MOAA?**

The Military Officers Association of America (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.

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## HONORED IN APRIL

SFC Daniel M. **Ferguson**, USA: 2 April 2014

S2C Henry **Morgan**, USN: 12 April 1942

PFC Elbert T. **Blanton**, USA: 14 April 1945

RM3 Ronald K. **Neal**, USN: 21 April 1967

CPT Richard A. **Tharpe**, USA: 27 April 1945

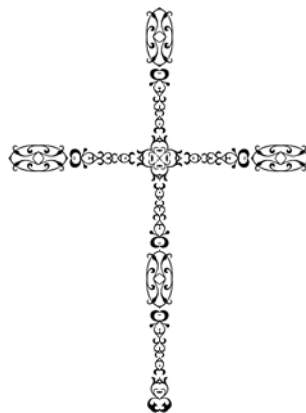
### RIP Korky

Clarence Korker, known to us as Korky, passed on Friday, March 13. He was born on March 9, 1925 in Connecticut. He reached his 101st birthday just four days prior to the end of his earthly journey and just a week before the gathering of his fellow local WWII veterans to celebrate 101st birthdays. But he clearly was there, in his boundless enthusiasm and spirit of friendship with his WWII brothers.

On March 21, Korky was honored at the Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard monthly meeting. Members learned of his incredible life's journey and shared anecdotes of his special influence on their lives. Korky was a herald of Fellsmere and the Navy Armed Guard, along with being a photographer extraordinaire. His celebration of life will take place at Fellsmere City Hall at 1030 on April 11. Strunk Funeral Home is coordinating the services.



**The Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard provided full military honors at Korky's graveside service.**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2026

Reminder again that dues are \$35 for members and \$15 for associates and surviving spouses.

Special bank balance is \$4501.05 with no transactions. A portion of this is being held for future improvements to WWII Memorial.(\$2677.58), thus our chapter balance \$1823.47.

One CD was renewed in December for \$10,192.48 and the other CD was renewed in January for \$25,734.21.

Business Bank balance is \$6978.52, checking account balance is \$6805.05.

## Revenue in February:

Luncheon	\$1475.00 (\$425 ACH)
Dues	\$ 585.00
Donations	\$ 85.00
50/50	\$ 52.00

## Disbursements in February:

2090 Foremost Accounting	\$ 150.00 Bank statement/rpts
2091 Vero Beach Yacht Club	\$1524.76 Luncheon
*2092 Terry Treat	\$ 73.47 250 <sup>th</sup> flag and pole
*2093 Bethany Fortunato	\$ 100.00 Luncheon overpayment

\*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 APR: 0930 Sanctuary Committee Meeting, VB City Hall
- 5 APR: Easter Sunday
- 6 APR: 1300 IRC MOAA BOD Meeting, United Way Bldg. 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- 11 APR: 1030 Korky's Life Celebration, Fellsmere City Hall
- 1-9 APR: Passover
- 13 APR: 1815 VBHS AF JROTC Awards Ceremony, Performing Arts Center
- 17 APR: 1200 IRC MOAA Members Luncheon, VB Yacht Club
- 17 APR: 1700 SRHS NJROTC Awards Ceremony
- 4 MAY: 1300 IRC MOAA BOD Meeting, United Way Bldg. 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- 6 MAY: 0930 Sanctuary Committee Meeting, VB City Hall
- 8 MAY: VE Day
- 15-17 MAY: Vero Beach Air Show
- 17 MAY: Armed Forces Day
- 25 MAY: 0900 Sanctuary Island Memorial Day Ceremony, Vero Beach





## Legislative Action Center Card



TAKE ACTION!

**GROUND ZERO**  
Open your browser and go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**STEP 1**  
Click Log In and enter your MOAA username and password **\*IF this is your first time, you must enter correct address that is displayed in the box that is shown.\***

**STEP 2**  
From the top menu, click Advocacy

**STEP 3**  
Select Legislative Action Center from the dropdown

**STEP 4**  
Browse the list and choose a campaign you support **\*IF responding to a "Take Action" Alert, the campaign will appear on screen.**

**STEP 5**  
Review the pre-written message and personalize if desired

**STEP 6**  
Click Send to submit your message to Congress

**STEP 7**  
Look for the confirmation screen – your action is complete

\*IMPORTANT: Make sure cookies are enabled in your browser or the site may not load properly.

NEVER STOP SERVING



# The Buccaneer



## 2026 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

## 2026 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

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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](http://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](mailto:ralbrecht1702@comcast.net); 772-257-6678)



**MONTHLY CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

IRC-MOAA Luncheon, 3rd Friday of Month  
 3601 Rio Vista Blvd.  
 Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

**April Guest Speaker: Joe Coakley**



Joe Coakley was born in New Haven Connecticut. He attended the state teachers college in Maine and has applied his skills to several careers. In Connecticut, he was in auto sales and management, as well as banking.

In 1988, Joe made the move to Florida. Currently, he is working for Marine Bank. He is also the director of development for the American Security Council.

Family is very important to Joe, and he is extremely proud of his son Warrant Officer 4 Patrick Coakley, who served 20 years flying both Cobra and Apache helicopters and has since retired.

At the April 17 Members Luncheon, Joe will discuss the latest happenings at the American Security Council.

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**Send reservations and payment by 5 PM Wednesday before**

**MENU CHOICES AT \$25 PER PERSON (please check):**

- **Baked Ham with Rum Raisin Sauce** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sauteed Flounder, Vegetable & Starch du Jour** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad** \_\_\_\_\_

*IN ADDITION, PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO OUR CHAPTER*

*Please indicate if you would like it to go to a particular purpose*

\_\_\_\_\_ amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Select your meal(s). Mail the check payable to IRC-MOAA. Roger Grubic collects the checks.  
 Roger Grubic, Treasurer IRC-MOAA, 2460 3<sup>rd</sup> PL SW Vero Beach, FL 32962