



Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach FL 32964-4047

ircmoaa.org

## The Buccaneer

**January 2026**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Here we are at the end of 2025, and we've wrapped up the year with a flurry of activity.

On 8 December, we enjoyed a special Christmas party with our WWII veterans and some of their family members. We are indeed blessed to still have a few members of the Greatest Generation in our community. It affords us the opportunity to

continue to learn from them. They know how it's done!

The December Chapter Meeting and Christmas Party was well attended, and everyone had a good time. As always, we knocked the "12 Days of Christmas" out of the park. We also gathered an impressive pile of presents for Toys for Tots.

On 10 December, we fanned out to Memorial Island and all the major Indian River County cemeteries for Wreaths Across America honors and ceremonies. Hundreds of wreaths were laid on the graves of those who served.

2025 has been a success. We have remained dedicated stewards of our local veteran family. Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies were great. Every month we engaged the organizations, businesses, governments, and citizens who comprise our military band of brothers and sisters. We have represented our priorities to local, state, and national leaders.

2026 will provide more opportunities with the Vero Beach Air Show, featuring the Blue Angels, and the VB USA 250 Celebration.

It is membership renewal time! It is super simple online! Save the stamp.

Our Chapter Leaders Installation will take place at the January 16 Members Luncheon.

The next day, the Purple Heart Cane Ceremony will be held at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce.

Finally, we're gearing up for the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar & Convention in Orlando January 29-31.

Happy New Year to all!

Tony Young

### Honored in January

**SSG Lester Sheffield**  
US Army  
4 Jan 1963  
Okinawa

**LT Gordon Henry**  
US Army Air Forces  
6 Jan 1945  
Great Britain





**Sebastian River High School Navy JROTC parade**



**Navy JROTC students with COL Young USA and CAPT Petrelis USN**



**Peter Bissonnette  
and Tony Young**

## **RECENT HAPPENINGS**

### **SRHS Junior ROTC Area Management Inspection 3 December**

The Navy Junior ROTC Program at Sebastian River High School is phenomenal. After spending the morning with the instructors and students, I was astounded at the operation's professionalism in all areas.

Commander Bissonnette USN is the Senior Naval Science Instructor. His program of over 140 cadets looked sharp, excelled in drill and ceremonies, and maintained spotless facilities. They run a first-rate four-year program. It was a joy to review their parade. The precision and pride was palpable.

The inspection of each individual was incredibly well done. The inspection was meticulous from the proper wear of their uniforms to the shine of their shoes and the trim of their fingernails. The students were vested with the responsibility of making it all work. Based on their hard work, experience, initiative, and performance, they are recommended for increased responsibility.

As a unit they manage a host of volunteer service opportunities. This program prepares students to be leaders. They find their skills and are part of a caring family that generates strong, confident young adults.

**Colonel Tony Young**

## IRC GOLD STAR MOTHERS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR LOCAL WWII VETERANS

The IRC MOAA Chapter joined with the Gold Star Moms at the Vero Beach American Legion to celebrate the fifth annual WWII Veterans Christmas Party. Harold Granitur – US Army, Al Norton – US Navy, Bill Keegan – US Army, and Donald Vanderlaan – US Navy were the veterans of honor.

The Monday meatloaf special with Grinch cupcakes and presents are a holiday staple. The fellas are humble warriors who served honorably as the nation rebounded from Pearl Harbor and the global assault. Each occasion is special as the roster dwindles with the years. The minutes are golden listening to their sacrifice and gratitude to be citizens. Thanks to Mayor Cotugno and Commissioner Moss for highlighting the lunch.



**Front:** Eric Granitur, Harold Granitur, Al Norton, Tony Young, Michelle Dale, Bill Keegan  
**Rear:** Mike Hyde, Donald Vanderlaan, Bob Vanderlaan, Terry Treat, Commissioner Laura Moss, Lloyd Lasenby, Bethany and Michael Fortunato, Mayor John Cotugno



Ross Rowlinson, Donald Vanderlaan, Bob Vanderlaan (son), and Mike Hyde



### Rest in Peace

In this photo, from the 2024 Gold Star Moms Christmas party, Santa (Jason) Claus and Harold Granitur celebrate with Pat Guggino and Robert Cross, both local US Navy WWII veterans who left us in 2025. May they rest in peace.

## CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER



DJ Jason Patzer



3 French hens



10 lords a-leaping take first prize!





# The Buccaneer



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Chapter Regular Membership dues will be \$35 in 2026. The increase is the first in quite some time. It remains an investment providing a tremendous return.

Thanks to Bob for pitching the MOAA Vacations during the October lunch. The MOAA Vacations Advertising Program incentives will reward us for posting their ad in the newsletter and website. MOAA Insurance has a similar incentive. This is a win/win! Look forward to this in coming media.

The 2026 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar-Convention will be 29–31 January at the Rosen Center Orlando. Registration is through the FCOC website. Rosen cannot help with reservations. Our Chapter donation is needed for cost sharing. The MOAA Awards window is 1 Dec 2025–31 Jan 2026. Friends and Family Cruises has a Danube December 2026 itinerary and a Caribbean 2027 itinerary.

Tony Young

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 of MOAA? If so, invite him or her to join. Better yet, extend an invitation to our next weekly luncheon!

### 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.

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

### Regent All-Inclusive Luxury Cruises



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## **TREASURER'S REPORT, INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER MOAA**

Thank you to the members who made my job easier for the December dinner party. Everyone who reserved a dinner showed up, and we had no stragglers that came in at the last minute. That is 100% attendance.

Our secretary is still working on the bugs for payment remittances on our website. We are not supposed to be charged a fee, but we are, and email reports to me are not 100% complete. Hopefully these will be resolved. Due to that, please send dues payments to me directly.

Thus a gentle reminder: Please remit dues of \$35 for members and \$15 for associates and surviving spouses.

**As of December 12, 2025**

Special bank balance is \$4501.05 with no transactions. CD deposits are unchanged, as is the balance for the Veterans Council. Business Bank balance is \$7599.37, but dinner receipts are not yet deposited. This report will be updated at the end of December with revenue and final disbursements.

### Business Account

#### **Disbursements:**

2084	Dale Content	\$ 75.00	Veterans Day flowers
2085	Vero Beach Yacht Club	\$2,999.52	December dinner

*Roger Grubic*, Treasurer

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## **Schedule of Upcoming Events**

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

**5 JAN:** IRC MOAA BOD Meeting

**16 JAN:** 1130 IRC MOAA Members Luncheon, with 2026 Chapter Leaders Installation, VB Yacht Club

**17 JAN:** 1300 Purple Heart Cane Ceremony, Navy SEAL Museum, 3300 N. Hwy. A1A, Fort Pierce

**19 JAN:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**29–31 JAN:** Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar & Convention, Orlando



# 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; 772-257-6678)



### **JANUARY CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**

IRC-MOAA Luncheon, Friday Jan. 16, 2026

Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

3601 Rio Vista Blvd.

#### **Mayor John Cotugno**

Our January speaker will be Mayor John Cotugno, who was elected in November for a third term. He is a dedicated veteran advocate.

Mayor Cotugno is a Rhode Island native who retired to Vero Beach after a career in the electronics industry. He was elected to the City Council in 2021 and has been mayor since 2022.

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**Send reservations and payment by 5 PM Friday, Jan. 9, 2026**

*IN ADDITION, PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FUNDS*

\$  WWII Tribute      \$  Chip Saunders Scholarship      \$  Veteran's Assistance  
\$  Honor Flight      \$  General Fund

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

#### **MENU CHOICES AT \$25 PER PERSON:**

- **Pork Parmesan** pomodora, fresh mozzarella, basil pasta \_\_\_\_\_
- **Grilled Chicken Italian Tossed Salad** balsamic marinade, iceberg, arugula, radicchio, peperoncini, tomato, cucumber, olives, Reggiano \_\_\_\_\_
- **Bruschetta-Style Swordfish** Reggiano, basil, aged balsamic, pasta \_\_\_\_\_

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