



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

The Buccaneer

May 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This is mid-April already! Good grief! It has been a blur. The first half of the Chapter year is almost over. Memorial Day will be here in a flash! Linda Colontrelle was a wonderful speaker in April. Her experiences with the Military Moms Prayer Group reminded me how important those care packages are to the deployed troops. Today we still have members across the world in many spartan locations.

We have an amazing month ahead. The Sanctuary will host the first Memorial Day conducted on the new WWII Tribute stage and monument.

As I write, the City Public Works Crew is placing the crushed stone for the meditation grove flooring. Also, the cement apron is prepared



to hold the USS Howard's ship's bell. This amazing addition brings genuine authenticity honoring the WWII sacrifice. The vestige of Pacific invasions complements one-of-a-kind tile ribbons and cast medallions.

Spring reminds us of new beginnings. You bring the critical veteran experience and values, which are all too scarce. Our population represents only one percent of our nation. Our defense relies upon those willing to serve in uniform, and sharing our legacy nurtures future patriots. Indian River County has a testimony of selfless patriotic spirit. Our Chapter fosters that local commitment. If not us, then who? Being part makes our seaside community an example to follow.

Tony Young



CHANNEL 13 TV SANCTUARY FEATURE

Randy Rauch spent two hours on 3 April 2025 filming a feature covering Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for the series "Florida on a Tankful." The coverage tells the significance of the island's special beauty and role honoring and inspiring selfless service. Go to mynews13.com or click the QR code to enjoy the interview.



TREASURER'S REPORT, INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER MOAA

March 2025

The Special Account balance is \$1,823.47 and there were no disbursements or deposits. The regular bank account balance is \$13,920.18. Checking account balance \$11,920.18. One check lost in the mail (\$25) and one member owes the chapter \$37 (and has promised to reimburse) from January 2025, totaling \$62.00 due to the chapter. Cultural Council expected to make transfer of funds for future activities at WWII Tribute Memorial; will be deposited in Special Account once received. Two \$1000 checks written for JROTC scholarships: recipients Abigail Ortiz from Sebastian and Craig Rigby from Vero Beach.

Disbursements in February 2025

Special Account: None

Business Account

*2049 Abigail Ortiz	\$1000.00	JROTC Scholarship Sebastian
2050 Terry Treat	\$ 35.96	JROTC Certificates/Holders
2051 Vero Beach Yacht Club	\$1024.84	Luncheon
*2052 Craig Rigby	\$1000.00	JROTC Scholarship Vero Beach

*Checks not cashed

Receipt Notes

Outstanding returned check	\$ 37.00	Member promised to reimburse
Check lost in mail	\$ 25.00	Will reimburse

Receipts Business Account

Luncheon	\$1025.00
Dues	\$ 75.00
Donations	\$ 140.00
50/50	\$ 80.00

Roger Grubic, Treasurer

Keegan Nyman, a member of Saint Edward's class of 2025, attended the April IRC MOAA luncheon and enjoyed the company of Terry Treat and Dale Content. This fall, Keegan is West Point bound!





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MEMBERSHIP

MOAA has recently rolled out a new Association Management System (AMS), with a portal for the chapter's use called the Committee Module (CM). The CM is used for maintaining our membership roster and recruiting new members. It's also a way to maintain the history of chapter membership and keep track of trends.

Additional updates will include managing current membership rosters and retrieving reports of former chapter members (called deactivated members). Moreover, it will allow the chapter to retrieve Near Real Time (NRT) reports for recruitment purposes with the ability to go back multiple months or years by using the filter option and applying dates in three-month increments.

Prior to the rollout of the new CM, our chapter had limited visibility and accessibility to the MOAA database. Thus, our chapter membership data was not always available for update. I have spent the past month or so getting this database up to date, as it is the source where we capture dues payment and develop the Social Roster. It primarily serves as the main source for our mailing list.

Bill Duffy is working on compiling an accurate 2025 Social Roster. We are both striving to keep member data current and accurate. I encourage all members to log into the National MOAA website, moaa.org, and verify/update their membership data if required.

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

CHAPTER AWARDS

In April, the 2024 MOAA awards were announced for the Councils and Chapters across the country. Units could apply for recognition for excellence and communication awards. The Indian River Chapter received two awards: the Five-Star Level of Excellence (LOE), which is the top recognition for excellence, and the Four-Star Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for Newsletter and Website.

In addition, we received approval for our request for a grant to continue our assistance to the veterans of Indian River County. The 2025 MOAA Community Outreach Grant will aid local veterans in need of economic assistance. This sustains the veterans helping veterans initiative begun over a decade ago.



JROTC AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Indian River Chapter MOAA board member Capt. Maryann Grodin, JAGC, USNR (Ret) presented two MOAA JROTC Awards and a \$1,000 MOAA Scholarship at the Navy JROTC Unit Sebastian River High School Awards Ceremony April 11.

The NJROTC unit, under Senior Naval Science Instructor Cdr. Peter Bissonnette, USN (Ret), nominated three outstanding cadets for these honors.

Cadet/Petty Officer 3 **Dereck Funez** and Cadet/Petty Officer 3 **Dago Rosales** received the MOAA JROTC Award, accompanied by a ribbon and medal. This award recognizes these cadets for their leadership, service, and academic achievement.

Cadet/LCDR **Abigail Ortiz**, the Cadet Commanding Officer, received the \$1,000 IRC Chapter MOAA Scholarship. An exemplary leader, she successfully completed the Leadership Academy Course and attended the American Legion Girls State Program. She will attend the University of Jacksonville and plans to be commissioned as a Navy Nurse Corps Officer.



Maryann Grodin with Dereck Funez and Dago Rosales

Indian River Chapter MOAA President Col. Tony Young, US Army (Ret), and Capt. Bill Duffy, USAF (Ret), presented two MOAA JROTC Awards and a \$1,000 MOAA Scholarship at the Air Force JROTC FL-043 Vero Beach High School April 1 Awards Ceremony.

The AFJROTC unit, under Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Maj. Dean Rasdall, USAF (Ret), nominated two cadets for these honors. Cadet **Craig Rigby** and Cadet Master Sgt. **Zara Ramirez** each received the MOAA JROTC Award, accompanied by the MOAA ribbon and medal, in recognition of their leadership, service, and academic achievements.

Cadet Rigby also received the \$1,000 IRC Chapter MOAA Scholarship. He earned a 4.123 weighted grade point average and will be studying biochemistry at the University of South Florida.



Craig Rigby with his mother



Tony Young with Zara Ramirez



The Tax Day, 15 April 2025, IRC MOAA gathering at the **Jackie Robinson Celebration Game** was a home run! Twenty complimentary tickets were distributed to veteran advocates in the community, and IRC MOAA members and guests joined in. The game at old Dodgertown was the inaugural event after a six-year pause. It was a United Way fundraiser, with two rows reserved for the Chapter on the west side of home plate.

The evening was clear, cool, and bug-free! Then, after the seventh-inning stretch, fans were amazed with a humorous surprise: an irrigation game delay! Holman Stadium is where the Dodgers began Major League Baseball's civil rights era. And it all began at Vero's WWII Naval Air Station. "Put me in, coach!"

Tony

Honored in May

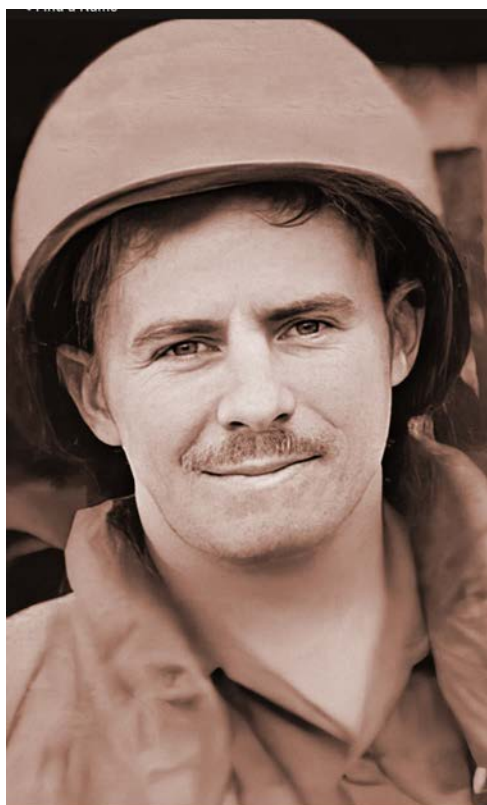
BM1 John Harold Irvin Jr. 7 May 1972

PFC Donald S. Humphrey 12 May 1951

PFC Clifford Barnwell 21 May 1944

S2C John Mixon 27 May 1942

TSGT Charles L. Futch 29 May 1943



The Memorial Day (May 26) ceremony at the Sanctuary will include the presentation of a posthumous Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device to Sgt. Stephan Wiggins, KIA Vietnam 30 March 1968. Sgt. Wiggins' sister will receive the commendation on his behalf.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED

THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

WITH "V" DEVICE

TO
SERGEANT STEPHAN M. WIGGINS
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

FOR valorous actions as an Armored Track Commander, assigned to Troop C, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division while partaking in Phase 1 of Task Force Kilo during Vietnam on 30 March 1968. His valorous actions saved the lives of many by entering the kill zone ahead of the other vehicles and forcing the North Vietnamese Army to prematurely launch their ambush. By doing this, Sergeant Wiggins track absorbed the full brunt of the enemy's firepower which effectively shielded the other five armored vehicles and gave them time to deploy into their combat formation. He not only saved lives but played a major role in the overwhelming victory against the North Vietnamese Army that afternoon. Sergeant Wiggins valorous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the 9th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

THIS 12TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-5408



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

DA FORM 4880-14, SEP 2011

Schedule of Upcoming Events

LEGEND: Board Meetings, Members Luncheons, Chapter Events, Events of Interest, Events Added Since Last Edition

MAY 5: 1300 IRC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting, United Way Conf. Room, 1836 14th St.
MAY 23: 1130 Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club (Harvey Arnold, Vietnam Veteran)
MAY 23: 1800-2100 Centennial Celebration USO Dance, Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave.
MAY 26: 0900 Memorial Day 2025 Ceremony, Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary
JUN 4: 0930 Veterans Sanctuary Committee Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 1053 20th Pl.
JUN 6: D-Day WWII Normandy Invasion Anniversary
JUN 14: Flag Day
JUN 14: US Army 250th Birthday
JUN 14: 0800 Mary Snyder Veterans Golf Tournament, Sandridge Golf Club, 5300 73rd St.
JUN 15: Father's Day
JUN 27: 1800-2100 Indian River County Centennial Parade during Downtown Friday, 14th Avenue
JUN 29: 1400-1700 Indian River County Centennial Fair, Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave.
JUN 30: 1000-1130 Centennial Finale--Time Capsule Ceremony, County Admin. Complex, 1801 27th St.
JUL 2: 0930 Veterans Sanctuary Committee Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 1053 20th Pl.
JUL 4: Independence Day
JUL 27: Korean War Ends, 1953
AUG 2: Invasion of Kuwait, 1990, Operation Desert Shield
AUG 4: 1300 IRC MOAA Board of Directors Meeting, United Way Conf. Room, 1836 14th St.
AUG 4: US Coast Guard 235th Birthday
AUG 7: Purple Heart Day
AUG 14: V-J (Victory over Japan) Day





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	Vacant	
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
CPT 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)



MAY CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

IRC-MOAA Luncheon, Friday May 23, 2025

Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

3601 Rio Vista Blvd.



Vero Beach native Harvey Arnold served as a sergeant in the US Army, including a 1966-67 tour in Vietnam. After earning his master's degree in economics at the University of West Florida, he served a stint as a first lieutenant with the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa. He returned home in 1976 and embarked on a 44-year academic career, also earning his PhD in economics from Florida State University. He taught economics at IRCC/IRSC for many years and later became campus administrator at the college's Pruitt Campus, which led him and his wife, Donna, to settle in St. Lucie West. They are the parents of Sherry Lynne Jackson and grandparents of Sean and Connor.



Send reservations and payment by 5 PM Friday, May 16, 2025

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:

Meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy, and vegetable medley _____

Fried cod with with mashed potatoes, gravy, and vegetable medley _____

Spring tossed salad with chicken _____

Select your meal(s). Mail the check payable to IRC-MOAA. Roger Grubic collects the checks.

Roger Grubic, Treasurer IRC-MOAA 2460 3rd PL SW Vero Beach, FL 32962