



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

The Buccaneer

October 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are off to a good start! When you begin by singing the USAF fight song, the occasion is destined to be a power-packed lunch.

Then we initiated the monthly Sebastian River High School Naval Junior ROTC Cadet of the Month recognition.

Next, we hosted two superb spokeswomen from Judge Menz's Office. Jessica Holberton, Assistant Public Defender, was excellent, sharing the nature of Veterans Court for our district. And Tanya Mazzei, the Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist, helped explain the essential character of aiding veterans by integrating the Veterans Hospital medical connection. Thanks also to Curtis Holden for speaking of the mentor's contribution. Plus, Nicole O'Neil, from the County Veteran Services Office, affirmed the importance of the Veterans Court to our local veteran residents.

In October we will keep up the momentum. Our US Navy veterans will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Department of War's Naval Force. Word is out! The sailors are practicing "Anchors Away!"

We will recognize the second JROTC cadet. And we will be illuminated on the evolution of the Vero Beach WWII Naval Air Station to the now International Airport.

November is around the corner. We are planning to host an IRC Veterans Forum on Tuesday 4 Nov. at 6 PM at the Vero Beach Elks Lodge. Veteran support organizations will be invited. Our intent is to sustain the collaborative passion that makes our home special.

Our Veterans Day Ceremony will host Commissioner Susan Adams as the keynote speaker. Veterans Day on the Sanctuary is glorious with the music and honors.

We are PROUD to be Americans! This is our day to celebrate the honor of serving in the military. One of the best ways to witness the camaraderie of our brotherhood of arms is to immerse yourself in our Chapter's joy! We relish serving as local veteran family advocates. Come join us in keeping our community's veteran-loving reputation. Bring a friend -- all patriots are welcome.

Tony Young



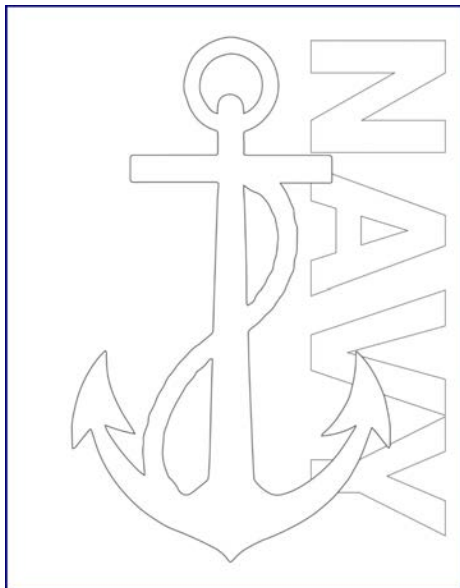
**Cadet Kyle Ward,
CDR Peter Bissonnette,
Jay Torres**

**Tanya Mazzei,
Jessica Holberton**





Curtis Holden presents speakers Jessica Holberton and Tanya Mazzei with a gift.



Inspiration for our sailors as they prepare to wow us with their rendition of the Navy Hymn



Female Sailor



Naval Officer

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our chapter membership remains strong despite being a small chapter. We currently have 96 members as well as 15 associate members and 23 honorary affiliates.

I am happy to welcome our newest chapter member, Captain Mike Johannsen, US Navy Retired. Mike, a MOAA Life Member, served with distinction as a Naval Aviator. Mike was snagged (recruited) by our President Tony Young.

Remember, we are all recruiters! 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, ask him or her to contact and join.

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

The chapter expressed its gratitude to Terry Treat for his service as President in 2023 and 2024. Robert acquired a beautiful plaque that denotes Terry's honorable tenure as our top dog. Lucy would be proud!





The Buccaneer



CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Two members have stepped up to serve! **John Palazzolo** will be our chaplain. I am delighted. John brings the heart, commitment, and insight we want. His experience in uniform and work experience following active duty are valuable assets. Please welcome him to the leadership team. Yes, his wife is Kim! We enjoy a tag team par excellence!

Chris Steinhilber, a Massachusetts native who retired as a colonel after more than 30 years of service, has joined the Veterans in the Classroom volunteer squad. The chance to engage with students is indeed a motivating endeavor. As a Marine, he will likely be promoting that humble calling. We do need a few good men and women.



Our Chapter's new chaplain,
John Palazzolo



Chris with his mom, Betty; wife, Gabriela;
and dad, Dr. John Steinhilber, US Army, MC

LEGISLATION

The **MOAA Legislative Action Center** at moaa.quorum.us allows us to learn about MOAA-supported legislation and contact our lawmakers directly. For example:

Contact your legislators and urge them to support the **Major Richard Star Act**, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset whereby their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation for these injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings.

Also, **military spouses** face a persistent 21% unemployment rate—the highest among any population tracked by DoD. Frequent relocations, unpredictable schedules, and limited job markets near military bases all contribute to this ongoing crisis. Despite their having higher levels of education and valuable skills, employers are often reluctant to hire military spouses, knowing they may move within two to three years. Adding military spouses as a target group under the **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)** would help offset hiring costs and incentivize businesses to recognize the value these talented workers bring. Congress took similar action to combat veteran unemployment; now it's time to apply that same proven strategy to support military spouses.

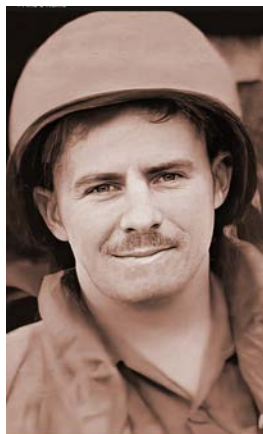


Honored in October

PVT Lonnie Hamilton 5 Oct. 1918
TSGT Fred D. Coleman 7 Oct. 1944
PVT Fay R. Taylor 12 Oct. 1918
Y2C Robert E. Harlock 12 Oct. 1943
EW2 Ronald Scott Owens 12 Oct. 2000 (USS Cole)
CAPT Fred Woodward 15 Oct. 1932 (WW1)
1LT William C. McCully 20 Oct. 1944
MSG Ernest Hayward 25 Oct. 1965
1LT Mark Jackson 28 Oct. 1969
CAPT Joel Preston Keen 28 Oct. 1947
B2C Gene Evans 31 Oct. 1941

FYI

Check out the newly released YouTube video honoring **Stephan Wiggins**, in which Harvey Arnold shares this story of valor. The video includes images of military armor in Vietnam, family photos, the Sanctuary ceremony, and Congressman Haridopolos' words honoring SGT Wiggins on Capitol Hill. The sacrifice of that generation deserves to be told.



The link is [youtube.com/watch?v=WsCiaAzhoOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsCiaAzhoOo) and the full title is "Fallen Vietnam Soldier Receives Long-Overdue Honor After 57 Years on Memorial Day 2025."

MOAA Vacations

Are you looking for a getaway or planning a vacation? I highly recommend you take advantage of MOAA Vacations, one of the benefits of your MOAA membership. MOAA Vacations can assist with every cruise line, ship, and tour company in the world, plus airfare and hotels. Choose from many options and enjoy concierge service with guaranteed satisfaction. To find out more, visit brennco.com/moaa.

Not only does MOAA Vacations provide our members concierge service, lowest price guarantee, and many free amenities, a portion of the commission received is returned to MOAA and our own chapter.

TREASURER'S REPORT, INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER MOAA

Please help. It would be awesome to have a generous donor cover the nominal cost for encouraging the SRHS and IRC MOAA 2025 initiative. We are speaking of \$175 to \$525 for November to May 2026.

Thanks for the generosity of our members contributing funds helping a homeless Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran transition to proper quarters. This response was a victory with your aid alongside the Veteran Services Office, Sheriff's Office, 21st Amendment Distillery, and the Next Generation Veterans, among the many unsung heroes. You embody the charity of the American Spirit!

Tony Young



Cadet Kyle Ward, Jay Torres



Dale Content, Terry Treat, Bob Masterson

September 2025

The Special Account balance is \$5,001.25. Checking account balance \$4,501.25, as a \$500 check written to the Cultural Council has not yet cleared. The dedicated amount for the WWII Tribute is now \$2,677.58. Two CDs with Seacoast Bank for the WWII Tribute total \$35,164.43, as one was renewed and the interest earned part of the new CD. The Business Account balance is \$10,130.40 and the checking account balance is \$10,065.40. Disbursements are shown below. This month the Chapter paid for lunches for the two speakers and guests from Sebastian JROTC program.

Special Account:

Receipts: None

Disbursements: None

Business Account

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 30.00
Luncheon	\$1,100.00
50/50	\$ 60.00
Donations	\$ 110.00

Disbursements:

2067	Herminio Torres	\$ 201.15	Flowers (Carson)
2068	Dale Content	\$1,200.00	Veterans Council Clay Shoot
2069	Gold Star Mothers	\$1,000.00	Walk-A-Thon
2070	Herminio Torres	\$ 148.75	Flowers (Palazzolo)
2071	Robert Albrecht	\$ 58.85	Plaque (Treat)
2072	Vero Beach Yacht Club	\$1,199.81	Luncheon
*2073	Indian River MCL	\$ 65.00	Ad
ACH	Guided Insurance	\$1,432.00	Liability and Directors/Officers

*Checks not cashed

Roger Grubic, Treasurer

Schedule of Upcoming Events

LEGEND: Board Meetings, **Members Luncheons**, **Chapter Events**, **Events of Interest**

11 OCT: USN/USMC 250th celebrations begin (see navy.mil)

11 OCT: 0800 VCIRC Clay Shoot, VB Clay Shooting Sports, 5925 82nd Ave.

17 OCT: 1130 IRC MOAA Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

27 OCT: 1000 Submarine Veterans Memorial dedication, Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary

2 NOV: 0900 Gold Star Mothers of IRC Walk-A-Thon, Riverside Park

4 NOV: 1800 IRC Veterans Forum, Elks Lodge, 1350 26th St.

6 NOV: 1900 Red, White & Blue Concert, VBHS Performing Arts Center, 1707 16th St.

8 NOV: 1700-2200 Beachside Bonfire, 3150 Ocean Dr.

8 NOV: 1730 USMC Birthday Ball, Pointe West Club, 7500 14th Lane

11 NOV: 0900 Veterans Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary

21 NOV: 1130 IRC MOAA Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

FT. PIERCE ELKS LODGE 1520 and PURPLE HEART CANE PROJECT PRESENTS

JUMPSTART ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

AWARD PLAQUES FOR 12 CATEGORIES

- FOOD
- FUN
- RAFFLE

When: OCTOBER 19, 2025
11AM - 3PM

Where: FT. PIERCE ELKS LODGE 1520
608 S. 5TH STREET FORT PIERCE

Registration: Fee \$20

To Pre-Register or for more information
Call Bill @ 772-342-3980

Submarine Veterans Monument Dedication

October 27, 2025 10:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary

Vero Beach, Florida

ANNUAL WALK-A-THON FOR MILITARY/VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS

Sunday, November 2, 2025
9:00am - 12:00pm

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County for a community walk to Let's help END Military/Veteran Suicide!

REGISTER NOW!
SCAN QR CODE

Riverside Park
Registration at the Grand Pavilion - Opens at 9:00am
\$25 / person online - \$40 / person - day of walk

DJ • Gift Raffle • 50/50 Raffle • Wall of Valor

T-SHIRTS: Available for the first 200 walkers who register

EARLY SHIRT PICK UP: (if you registered online)
Thursday 10:30 from 10am-3pm at American Legion Post 29 • 1535 Old Dixie Hwy

Proceeds Benefiting:

- Dogs For Life
- Mental Health Association

Please note our new mailing address:
7055 14th Lane, VB 32946

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 2025 BIRTHDAY BALL

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps

Presented by the Indian River Detachment Marine Corps League

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025
The Club at Pointe West
7500 14th Lane • Vero Beach, FL 32966

5:30 PM - Cocktails
6:15 PM - Presentation of Colors
6:45 PM - Dinner of Prime Rib and Stuffed Shrimp

followed by
Traditional Cake Cutting Ceremony
Toast "To The Corps" with Marine Corps Punch
Music for Dancing

Reservations required by November 3rd
\$75.00 per Person • Semi-Formal
Public is Welcome

1775-2025 "Once A Marine, Always A Marine"

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
A League member on Fridays and Saturdays from 3-5
At the Military Victory Center Store • Indian River Mall
Or by calling 702-236-9388



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
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)



SEPTEMBER CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

IRC-MOAA Luncheon, Friday Oct. 17, 2025

Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

3601 Rio Vista Blvd.



You can't read the local news these days without seeing something about the Vero Beach Regional Airport's activities, whether it be enhancements to its terminal and parking, a new airline starting service, or the opening of a new customs facility. Many area natives or longtime residents know that it was once a Naval Air Station that encompassed much of the real estate surrounding the physical airport. The airport served as a training base for Naval Aviators who received their flight training and wings prior to serving in World War II.

Brandon Dambeck, Operations Manager at the airport, will share highlights of the airport's Naval history and its transition from a Naval Air Station into a Vero Beach City asset that is financially self-sufficient and projected to log 300,000 aircraft operations this year. He will speak about the airport's 20-year plan and offer some insights into the vision for the its future growth. Brandon holds a Master's of Public Administration degree as well as a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management from Florida Institute of Technology. He is a commercial pilot with multi-engine and instrument ratings.

Send reservations and payment by 5 PM Friday, Oct. 9, 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:

- Swedish meatballs _____
- Salmon Salad _____
- Chicken and broccoli crepes _____

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