



THE COUNCIL COURIER

Brevard Veterans Council, Inc. & Veterans Memorial Center, Inc.
400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy. • Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547
Office 321-453-1776 • Service Office 321-452-1774 • Fax 321-453-1152

Volume 22 • Issue 1 • JULY 2010

YOUR BREVARD VETERANS SERVICES TEAM

Military Discounts at Florida State Parks (FS 258.0145): Effective July 1, 2010, Honorably Discharged Veterans, Active Duty Service and Reserve Members will receive a twenty-five percent (25%) discount on the purchase of a Florida State Park Annual Pass. The Discount provides a savings of \$15 on an individual Annual Pass and \$30 on a Family Annual Pass, which allows up to eight (8) people in a group to access most of Florida's 160 State Parks. In addition, Honorably Discharged Veterans who have Service-Connected Disabilities, and Surviving Spouses of Military Veterans who have fallen in combat, will receive a Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Pass at No Charge.

The Discounted Florida State Parks Annual Entrance Pass is only available for purchase at any Florida State Park Staffed Ranger Station. The Free Annual Pass can only be obtained at a Staffed Range Station.

VA Co-pay Update 10: On June 9, 2010, the VA announced that Veterans who generally have higher income and no Service-Connected Disabilities – referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 Veterans- will now pay an additional \$1 for each 30-day supply of Outpatient medications. Taking effect on July 1, 2010, the increase to \$9 from \$8 is the first change in VA Medication Co-pay since January 1, 2006. Veterans in Priority Groups 2-6 will have no increase in their Co-pay. When asked why this increase was necessary, the VA replied that the CPI for medication was increasing on a higher rate than the rest of the economy and this increase was deemed necessary. The prices will hold steady for the next 18 months.

Glenn McGuffie,
Veteran Services Team Manager

CONTACT NUMBERS

Your Brevard Veteran Services Team 633-2012
or South Area (Toll Free) 952-4700, ext. 2012

E-mail: richard.marquith@brevardcounty.us

OTHER NUMBERS OF INTEREST

Brevard VA Outpatient Clinic 637-3788
or if long distance (Toll Free) 1-877-878-3878
Brevard VA Clinic Enrollment 637-523/3522/3542
Brevard VA Clinic Volunteer Services 637-3517
VA Regional Office (Toll Free) 800-827-1000
DEERS Enrollment-TRICARE
for Life Enrollment 494-2276
CHAMPVA for Life 1-888-289-2411

USEFUL VETERAN WEB SITES

Brevard Veteran Services Team:
www.brevardcounty.us/veterans/

The VA's main Web Site: www.va.gov

The Florida Department of Veteran Affairs:
www.floridavets.org

The St. Petersburg VA Regional Office:
www.vba.va.gov/ro/south/spete

**Reminder: Is your beneficiary information current?
To check, call the VA Insurance Center
at 1-800-669-8477**

And, don't forget - on Saturdays at 9:05 am on WMEL-AM 1300, listen to "For Those Who Served." This is a radio show dedicated to providing up-to-date VA claims information and other important Veteran/Survivor VA and Military Retiree information.

A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check, made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life."

United We Stand

Brevard Veterans Council 2009 / 2010

Officers

Chairman	Skip Bateman	454-7363
Vice-Chairman	Maurice Meisner	783-3649
Secretary	Ray Norman	452-5376
Treasurer	Emma Meisner	783-3649
Chaplain	Dan Mix	759-6837

Directors

Director-1 Yr	VACANT	
Director-1 Yr	Alex Terrero	453-4526
Director-1 Yr	Mel Mueller	453-1605
Director-2 Yr	Nick Beninate	394-5150
Director-2 Yr	David Brand	453-6907
Director-2 Yr	Ed Walsh	636-8004
Director-3 Yr	Ed Barnett	749-2843
Director-3 Yr	John Howard	452-8666
Director-3 Yr	Paul Spescia	636-1148

Chairpersons

Operations Mgr	Forest Gilder	453-3235
Security	Skip Bateman	454-7363
Newsletter Coordinator	Emma Meisner	783-3649
Judge Advocate	Joe Hershey	433-3246
Historian	Lou Rossi	455-9743
Vets Outreach	Chaplain Dan Mix	759-6837
Assist (North)	George Stringfellow	267-4142
Assist (Central)	Ed Barnett	749-2843
Assist (South)	John Brown	727-1364
Finance/Audit	Ed Walsh	636-8004
Women Vets Liaison	Mary Bevan	255-1173
Legislative	Steve Crisafulli	
Librarian	Pat Clendenning	720-5851
Membership	Emma Meisner	783-3649
Museum Curator	Alex Terrero	453-4526
Asst. Curator	Bill Kowalczyk	302-4077
Consulting Curator	Mel Mueller	453-1605
JR ROTC Liaison	Paul Spescia	636-1148
Cemetery	Ed Walsh	636-8004
VA Hospital Com	John Howard	452-8666
Speaker's Forum	Rod Smith	632-6702
Scholarships	Dean Schaaf	452-0365
Stand Down	Bill Vagianos	431-0364
Service Officer	John Bibby	323-6599
Christmas Party	Emma Meisner	783-3649
Golf Tournament	Maurice Meisner	783-3649
Memorial Tree	Joe Hershey	433-3246
Memorial Gardens	Bill Kowalczyk	302-4077
Brevard VSO	Glenn McGuffie	633-2012
Commission on Aging	Charlie Antoni	773-3398

Veterans Memorial Center – Executive Board

President	Maurice Meisner	783-3649
Vice President	Skip Bateman	454-7363
Secretary	Ray Norman	452-5376
Treasurer	Emma Meisner	783-3649
Chaplain	Dan Mix	759-6836
Legislative	Steve Crisafulli	449-5111
Board Member	Joe Hershey	433-3246
Board Member	Dean Schaaf	452-0365
Board Member – 1 Yr	VACANT	951-7449
Board Member – 1 Yr	John Howard	452-8666
Board Member – 1 Yr	Bill Kowalczyk	302-4077
Board Member – 2 Yr	Mel Mueller	453-1605
Board Member – 2 Yr	David Brand	453-6907
Board Member – 2 Yr	Ed Walsh	636-8004
Board Member – 3 Yr	Ed Barnett	749-2843
Board Member – 3 Yr	Nick Beninate	394-5150
Board Member – 3 Yr	Paul Spescia	636-1148

Chairman's Report

The Election of our 2011 Officers is complete and we are fortunate to have our 2010 Officers willing to step up for another term. My job as Chairman of the Council is a snap compared to being President, Treasurer or Secretary of the Center. Please be sure to attend the Installation of our 2011 Officers at the July Membership Meeting. Call the Center reserve your seat for lunch.



ODDS & ENDS:

Bill Kowalczyk and his Air Force flew the tank over the fence and made a perfect landing on its concrete runway. The Memorial Gardens will become a reality very soon.

July is a transition month here in the Sunshine State. It is the start of our Hurricane Season. To improve your safety during a Hurricane:

- Stay tuned to weather forecasts and possible warnings.
- Gather items for your safety kit.
- Stock up on batteries and non-perishable foods.
- Bring in or tie down all outside objects.
- Prepare your house
- Don't forget your pets. Most shelters do not permit pets.
- Check on any of your elderly family members. They may need more help.
- Learn the location of your nearest shelter.
- If along the immediate coast, seek higher ground.
- Check your phone book for greater information.

The Transitional Facility is in need of house wares, canned foods, and furniture to help our Veterans. If you have anything to donate, drop it off with the MOD at the Center. Everything donated will get used and nothing will be put in the trash. Your donations are the start of a new life for one of our fellow veterans.

The Wade & Dorothy Harris Scholarship applications for the School Year 2001 – 2011 are now available in the MOD Office and on our web site at

www.Veteransmemorialcenter.org

(President's Message – Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2 – Chairman’s Report) Please take your time when filling out your application. It is very discouraging for the Committee to have to trash an application because of a slight omission or mistake.

“Red Shirt Fridays” is a way for you to show your support for the troops. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Manager on Duty (MOD) Program. I work every Friday from 0800 to 1200. If you want to receive one-on-one personalized training, put on your red shirt and come on down.

Until next month,
Be Safe and God Bless,
Skip Bateman, Chairman

HAVE YOU MOVED??

**If so, have you notified us of your new address?
Call Emma Meisner at 783-3649 or mail your new address to:
Brevard Veterans Council, Inc.
400 S. Sykes Creek Parkway
Merritt Island, FL 32952**

**If you go up north for the summer, it is YOUR responsibility
to let us know your address up north.**

**The Council Courier is sent at “discounted postage rates”
(formerly known as “bulk mail”. It is not forwarded and
if you are gone for over 30 days, it is not held
but is thrown away by the Post Office and we are sent a card
(which costs the Center 50¢, telling us “Temporarily Away”).**

**These costs mount up as well as the cost of unnecessary printing,
postage, and service charges.**

**Please let us know when you leave and when you return by
calling the Center and giving the information to the MOD on duty.**



Need a little help in getting around?

The Veterans Memorial Center has two electric wheelchairs available. If you need one, please contact the MOD, to make sure they are available. If you happen to need one, call (321) 453-1776.



Happy Birthday

July Birthdays

Henry Adams	Peter Diaz	Robert Howard	Gary Reinhart
Enrique Barnes	Charles Ferrall	Robert Kellams	Jason Shaffer
Frank Baker	Frank Foust	Michael Kinglighter	John Sutherland
Bill Bernhardt	Donald M. Fowler	Rober Lyhles	John Taylor
Wally Brown	Dean Francisco	William "Gary" McGuire	Alex Terrero
Edward Browne	Forest Gilder	Christopher McKenna	Ronnie Terrero
Will Burke	William Hayden	Richard Murray	Robert Tribble, Jr.
Don Clair	William Hayf	Harold Myers	Willie Urquhart
Robert Cooper, Jr.	Dale Hendricks	Ron Pritchard	Derek Walls
Thomas Daley	Frank Howard	Gary Rapp	

The names are taken from the Enrollment Cards on file. If you do not see your name, it is because your birth information was not entered. If you wish your name to be added, please let me know.

Emma Meisner, Membership Chair

If you have not visited our new Web Site, give it a look.

www.Veteransmemorialcenter.org

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to David Slawson and his wife for the work they did in getting our Internet Access problem solved – by hardwiring the computers.

Need Transportation to and from the VA Clinic??

The Space Coast Center for Independent Living would like to assist Veterans with transportation for their appointments at the Viera VA Clinic. They have available two wheelchair accessible vans and one 15-passenger van. They are offering to transport Veterans who do not have the means to make their scheduled appointments.

The cost is \$2.00 round-trip. They will pick you up at your residence, take you to the VA Clinic, and return you back to your residence. If you are interested, this is the process you need to complete to get started. Call the Space Coast Center for Independent Living office at (321) 633-6011 and complete an Intake Packet. The Intake takes only a few minutes and you will be registered.

You will need to call at least one week in advance when you would like to utilize their service. This will make sure that you obtain a pickup since the service is "first come first served." It would be in your best interest to schedule a pickup as soon as you make your appointment through the VA for medical services.

Due to liability and insurance reasons, the only service they cannot help with is any kind of Outpatient Surgery. If you have questions, call SCCIL Transportation Programs. Call for eligibility or information at (321) 633-6011 Voice/TTY.



BENEFACTORS SPOTLIGHT



Our sincere "Thanks" to the following individuals and businesses that have made contributions to various projects within the Veterans Memorial Center and/or Brevard Veterans Council

"Atta Boy" Museum Fund

Ed Barnett, Cocoa, FL
Skip Bateman, Merritt Island, FL **
Pat Bender, Cocoa Beach, FL
John Brown, Jr., Palm Bay, FL **
George Cipolletti (deceased), Titusville, FL
George & Joanne Golden, Melbourne, FL
Grace Harter (deceased) Lake City, FL **
John Howard, Merritt Island **
Alice Iacuzzo, Cocoa Beach, FL
Art Lapham, Melbourne, FL
Lucille Misurella, Prescott Valley, AZ
John Moale, Viera
Thomas Moran, Indialantic, FL

Susan Neugebauer, Melbourne, FL **
Stan Nodland (deceased) Jacksonville Beach, FL
John Plotnicky, Cocoa Beach, FL **
Armand Pouloit, Titusville, FL
Rosalie Smith, Merritt Island, FL
Jim & Rita Strickland, Merritt Island, FL
George Stringfellow, Titusville, FL
Suncoast Community Foundation, Inc., **
W. Palm Beach, FL
Zane & Nancy Tomilson, Cocoa
Ed Venable, Merritt Island, FL
WalMart – Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL
Helme V. Walter, Merritt Island, FL

**** Represents Multiple Donations**

Troop Support

Nick Beninate, Merritt Island
Mary Bevan, Melbourne
City of Palm Bay
Citizens of Palm Bay/Ted Whitlock
John Howard, Merritt Island
John Kaufmann, Merritt Island
WalMart, Titusville
Ed Walsh, Rockledge

Veterans Memorial Center, Inc.

Pat Bender, Cape Canaveral
Kimi Bloodworth, Merritt Island
Bill Kowalczyk, Cocoa
Jim Strickland, CPA, Merritt Island

Museum Donations ***

Richard Trzaskoma, Austin, TX

Armed Forces Memorial Golf Classic

FLORIDA TODAY
John Howard, Merritt Island
Lu Misurella, Prescott Valley, AZ

*** I have been asked to include donations made to the Museum, other than monetary donations. If someone has donated items to the Museum and they need to be recognized for their contribution in the newsletter, please let me know.

Emma Meisner, Treasurer/Newsletter Coordinator

Wade & Dorothy Harris Scholarship Program

Nick Beninate, Merritt Island

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## **Welcome to these new Council Members for June 2010**

**Wayne & Sandy Noble**  
Cocoa, FL

**Richard Trzaskoma (Lt. Gen Ret)**  
Austin, TX

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

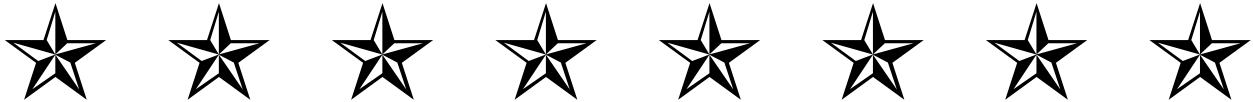
The Wade & Dorothy Harris  
Scholarship Applications for 2010-2011  
are now available.

If you would like an application, you may pick it up at  
The Veterans Memorial Center  
400 E. Sykes Creek Parkway - Merritt Island, FL  
8:30 am until 4:30 pm (Monday through Saturday)  
Noon until 4:00 pm (Sunday)

Or you may go on-line at  
[www.veteransmemorialcenter.org](http://www.veteransmemorialcenter.org)  
and download an application.

Applications will not be mailed.

All Applications are Due by August 7, 2010.



## Desert Shield/Desert Storm (DS/DS)

The DS/DS Committee is composed of a very limited group.  
We are looking for additional people to assist  
in our Fundraising effort of about \$5,000  
for the monument to be installed  
in the Memorial Garden.

Any suggestions will be appreciate, which, hopefully,  
will come with a helping hand and will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Ray L. Norman, DS/DS Coordinator  
at [normanrayl@aol.com](mailto:normanrayl@aol.com)  
or Cell at (321) 749-7121



# Volunteers are Needed To Work In The Library

**Have some spare time on your hands?  
We need several “volunteers” to assist in the Library  
Monday thru Saturday from 8:30 am to 4:00pm**

**Hours can be arranged. For example:  
8:30 am to 12:00 pm, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**Work as many hours or days a week as you want.**

**Contact Librarian Pan Clendenning  
for more information at 720-5851**

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Annual Awards Appreciation and Installation of Officers

July 14, 2010

Starts at 10:00 am

(not the normal time of 9:00 am)

Lunch 11:30 am

**If you plan to attend, please contact
Emma Meisner at 783-3649 or 243-3649 (cell)
or e-mail cocoakyme@cfl.rr.com**

NO LATER THAN JULY 10, 2010

So we can have an accurate headcount for lunch.

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### **CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS**

Old Cell phones can be dropped off at the Veterans Memorial Center, 400 S. Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, Florida, which is an “official” drop-off point for old cell phones that will be converted into phone cards for our troops. Drop off 7 days a week, Monday thru Saturday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday, from Noon to 5:00 pm.

# Isn't It Time We Talk About It?

After reading Skip Bateman's blurb about **Advance Directives** in the May newsletter, I asked "How can I help with this important issue that could affect us all without notice????"

I was "the guy" with Wuesthoff Hospice that Skip mentioned in his article that had come to do the presentation a couple of years ago.

My first reaction was to offer to do another presentation, either at a Council Meeting or a separate educational event. However, I did not think this was the best way to reach the greatest number of our members. I suggested the idea of doing a series of short articles to address the issues of **Advance Directives**.

- What is an **Advance Directive**?
- Why should I have one
- Where do I get one?
- How do I fill it out?
- What do I do with it after it is completed?

Over the next several months, each of these topics will be addressed and you will be provided with the resources to obtain additional information. Look to future issues for this informational and helpful series.

Charlie Antoni, LCSW  
Palliative Care Coordinator, OVAMC  
Commission on Aging Representative

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BLOOD DONATIONS – If you have donated blood in the past and asked that it be credited to the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Account, please note that the name has been changed by the Blood Bank.

The Account is now "Vietnam Vets – Brevard County" and the Account Number is A48.

Please be aware that you can donate or receive blood from this Account. This account is for all military vets, whether members of the Vietnam Veterans of Brevard or of any veteran organization. To access the account, please contact Ken Baker (632-4928) or Rod Smith (632-6702).

VETERANS OUTREACH

Several of our stalwart members are at the top of our Prayer List at this time.

Ed Barnett fell on the first Saturday of June and was unable to signal for help. When he was found many hours later and taken to the hospital, he learned the fall and extended hours on the floor had damaged his leg muscle and he could not walk. Consequently he ended up in the Rehab Center on Barton Blvd in Rockledge, where he is getting four hours of exercise a day. When I stopped by to see him after our June 9th Meeting and delivered the card all of us had signed, he was sitting in a wheelchair, smiling and upbeat. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Ed. Keep up that exercise.

Seymour Berman, our 93year-old World War II Veteran and loyal member, has passed away. He had been in poor health for several weeks, thinking he had the flu. Unfortunately he had cancer of the stomach. In spite of his situation, Sy was in good spirits when I visited him. Our sympathies and prayers go out to Sy's wife Betty, and daughter Pat, and family.

Our Secretary, **Ray Norman**, recently underwent a surgery to remove a cancerous growth from his leg. When I told him to keep a close watch on it, he said, "Tomorrow I'm going to go play golf and enjoy every moment of it." Isn't that what life's all about?

Frank Kunze, has now been declared legally blind and can no longer drive a car.

We are deeply saddened at the sudden passing of our Council Chairman, **Skip Bateman's** son. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy go out to Skip and Ruth and the entire family.

Bill Kowalczy's father passed away on June 19th and we want to extend our deepest sympathy to Bill and his family.

The Challenge Entrusted to Us

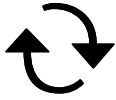
Take a few moments to read Psalm 8, which highlights the responsibilities the Almighty has entrusted to us. It answers the question, "What is man, O God, that You should be mindful of him?" The Lord created us in His likeness, granting us free will. His Spirit within sets us apart from the rest of creation, enabling us to reason and choose. God has given us dominion over the earth and we will survive only when we make good decisions inspired by our love for God and one another.

God Bless,
Jim Peterman, Chaplain

**Please keep us informed by calling the Center at (321) 453-1776
and/or our Outreach Staff: George Stringfellow, North Brevard (321) 267-4142
Ed Barnett, Central Brevard (321) 749-2833
John Brown, South Brevard (321) 727-1364**

We are still taking orders for Bricks
for the Memorial Garden.
Extra Order Forms and a Copy of the
Layout of the Memorial Gardens
are available at the Office.

<p>TABLE TENNIS CLUB</p> <p>Meets</p> <p>Every Monday 7:30-10:30 pm & Every Wednesday 7:00-10:00 pm</p> <p>For more information, call Danny Nail (784-2152) or Bill Durban (799-3878)</p>	<p>3 DAYS OF PARTY BRIDGE</p> <p>Tuesday 12:30 Wednesday 12:30 Thursday 12:30</p> <p>For information, Jewell & Bill Schick at 452-2387</p>	<p>MEETING ROOMS & RECEPTION HALL</p> <p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Hourly or Daily Rates</p> <p>At the Beautiful Veterans Memorial Center</p> <p>Call 453-1776 for information</p>
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This Newsletter is recyclable, pass it along to a friend, mail it, copy it, post it on a bulletin board, copy articles into your newsletter

The Council Courier is the Monthly publication of the Brevard Veterans Council, Inc, and the Veterans Memorial Center, Inc. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily that of the organization. News items, poems, and letters of interest to Veterans are encouraged. We reserve the right to edit anything submitted. The Council is not responsible for content of fliers inserted by our members.

This Newsletter is mailed at reduced rates and the Post Office will not forward it. Please give any address changes or corrections to Emma Meisner at 783-3649 or mail it to her at The Brevard Veterans Council, Inc., 400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy., Merritt Island, FL 32952

<p>BVC Board of Directors Meeting</p> <p>9:00 am • 1st Wednesday Every Month</p>	<p>VMC, Executive Board Meets</p> <p>9:30 am • 3rd Monday Every Month</p>
<p>Brevard Veterans Council Meeting</p> <p>9:00 am • 2nd Wednesday Every Month</p>	
<p>MUSEUM HOURS</p> <p>Monday thru Saturday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Sunday: 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm</p>	

<h2 style="text-align: center;">CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES</h2>			
July 2 nd	Wed	9:00 am	B.V.C. Board of Directors Meeting at the Center
July 4 th	Sun	<i>Independence Day</i>	
July 14 th	Wed	10:00 am Note Time Change	Annual Awards Appreciation and Installation of Officers - General Membership Meeting – Lunch served at 11:30 am Make Reservations for Lunch – see page 7 for details
June 21 st	Mon	9:30 am	V.M.C. Executive Board Meeting
Aug 4 th	Wed	9:00 am	B.V.C. Board of Directors Meeting at the Center
Aug 11 th	Wed	9:30 am	General Membership Meeting
Aug 16 th	Mon	9:30 am	V.M.C. Executive Board Meeting

All Articles for the August Newsletter must be submitted by July 21st

