

## Mark Erdrich

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**From:** Cathy Haynes [chaynes11629@yahoo.com@ccsend.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2017 09:56  
**To:** merlin66@villageshonorflight.org  
**Subject:** April #2 Central FL list of veteran, military and patriotic events

### **April list#2 of military, veteran and patriotic events in Central Florida**

- \*Send me your events – people cannot attend an event if they don't know about it!
- \*Please share this information and events with your friends and interested others and attend. Post where appropriate.
- \*Event information is concentrated mostly on the Central Florida counties served by the new VA Hospital at Lake Nona – Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Brevard, Lake and Volusia. Other events elsewhere are considered based upon uniqueness and groups best served.
- \*Every effort is made to put a space into email addresses and websites – firewalls and spam filters don't like direct links, website and email addresses. If you use 'Copy and Paste' to make contact or get additional information, please keep this in mind.
- \*If you wish to be removed from the email list, just let me know.

**Memorial Day** - I am now receiving information about the events for Memorial Day (Mon. May 29) and weekend ceremonies and commemorations. Event notices received after May 20 may not get included in the list that goes out in 3000+ messages to individuals, groups, and media. People cannot attend an event if they don't know about it. The list of events will allow people to make a choice. Unfortunately, some events will regretfully overlap each other – it is hoped that more planners will coordinate and cooperate with each other next year.

Do you know someone who lost a son or daughter who was serving our country? Let her know about the following gathering. There is strength in numbers – giving and receiving.

**American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Dept. of FL-PR Convention – Sat. April 22** - 9 am at Shades of Green Resort, Disney World, Orlando. Info: Gold Star Mother, Toni at cgross5@tampabay.rr.com

Do you know of a Gold Star Mother living on the Gulf Coast south of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Naples or the Fort Myers area? A new Gold Star Mothers chapter is organizing. Lunch gathering on Sat. May 13. Contact bhaely@yahoo.com

**Earth Day Beautification – Sat. April 22** – Come join the employees of Siemens when they add landscaping and other beautification to the Domiciliary area of the Orlando VA Outpatient Medical Center at Lake Baldwin, 8 am – 5 pm, 5201 Raymond Street, Orlando, 32803.

**Greeters needed! Honor Flights - Orlando Int'l Airport** –After a day spent in Washington DC, veterans of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam return home thru Orlando Int'l Airport in the evening. The nation-wide organization has three local

hubs that take veterans on a single day trip to our nation's capital where they visit the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam War Memorials, Marine Corps Iwo Jima and the Air Force Monuments, and witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Come welcome these former warriors home! "Welcome Home" receptions at the airports make a difference! Bring your flags, banners and signs! – The closest dates are:

- **Sat. April 22** – Southwest flight# 4886 from BWI arriving MCO at 9:45pm. 25 veterans (8 from WW2 including 1 woman, 15 Korea and 2 Vietnam. 7 vets are over age 90 with the eldest being 97 yrs young. 7 Army + 1 WAC, 8 USAF/USAAC, 5 Navy and 4 Marines.)
- **Sat. May 6** – 24 veterans on JetBlue flight# 1023 at 8:23pm from DCA (Reagan Natl.) This Honor Flight mission comes in at Terminal A, Airside 1 (Gates 1-29) - the OPPOSITE end of the "usual" Honor Flight missions, NOT the hotel end.

The groups enter the Hotel end of the Airport terminal area and we greet them in front of the Starbucks - Terminal A, Airside 2 – (BUT NOT ON MAY 6.) Oftentimes led from the Tram by a bagpiper. Before leaving home to attend the homecoming, it is suggested that you check online to see if the flight is on time because there may be delays due to weather, mechanical or medical issues. Free parking has been arranged at an off airport property – FastPark and Relax (7870 N Frontage Rd, Orlando, 32812) who has been very generous to Honor Flights with free parking and shuttles to/from the airport (Tips welcomed by drivers!) Just tell the attendant upon entering that site that you are there for the veterans/Honor Flight – they try to park us together.

**New: APRIL 22 – NOT available for MAY 6 - Parking Vouchers WILL be available for airport garage parking from a GOAA rep. in the terminal for this event – maximum of 3 hours – BUT you have to take a PAPER ticket upon entering the airport garage. The vouchers will NOT work if you use the SunPass/EPass transponders – we cannot credit the charge back. Seek the GOAA rep. (or 'Miss Liberty') early before the veterans arrive. VOUCHERS NOT AVAILABLE MAY 6.** Information for more Flights will be forthcoming. Contact Cathy Haynes for those details 407-239-8468 chaynes11629@yahoo.com

### **Army Reserve Birthday – April 23, 1908 – Happy Birthday!**

**Rifle / Pistol Range Benefit - Sun. April 23** - Come out for the purposes of fun and to benefit Larry E. Smedley Marine Corps League Det. 064. 12noon - 3pm at Danville Bed and Breakfast, 232 N. Jungle Rd. Geneva, 32732. Arrive NLT 1pm if you plan on shooting, shooting to start promptly at 1:15pm. Fun and friendly competition with awards for Marine, Veteran, Civilian top guns. B&B facility that was featured on HGTV, includes the range. Info: Jr. Vice Commandant - 407-415-1504

**Veteran Hiring Event – Mon. April 24** - The Orlando VA Medical Center is hosting an employment hiring event for Orange County Corrections - 10am-2pm interviews at Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona, 13800 Veterans Way, Crescent Room, Orlando, 32827. Positions to be filled include: Certified Correctional Officers,

Detention Service Officers, Community Corrections Officers, and Inmate Programs Employees. Info: Annie Artis, Veteran Employment Community Coordinator, at 407-646-5500 x27246 or new Mobile #: 407-750-0350 EllaMay.Artis@va.gov

**Aerospace and Defense Industries hiring event – Mon. April 24** – Industries (including Kratos, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman) are looking for veterans to hire. This was an invitation only event that was coordinated with Mission United, CareerSource Central Florida, and Goodwill Industries of Central Florida. Missed the resume' submission deadline or want 'heads-up' for a next one? Contact Priscila Kalagian, Mission United Director, at MissionUnited@hfuw.org

**Passports Week - April 24-29** – Are you leaving the country to take a vacation? Be sure the County Clerk's Office is at the top of that list. Whether you live in Orange, Seminole or any surrounding county, join us for Passport Week. The offices in Apopka, Ocoee and Winter Park locations will have extended hours, staying open until 5:30 p.m. Those same branch locations will also be open on Saturday, April 29, from 9am to 12noon to process your passport applications. Some passport requirements have changed so visit [www.myorangeclerk.com/passportweek](http://www.myorangeclerk.com/passportweek) to review the details.

**Clothesline Project displays – Tues. April 25 and Fri. April 28** – Displays at VA locations will be set up to help bring awareness of sexual trauma and to “break the silence” that often surrounds the experience. The VA provides free and confidential treatment services to males and females veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of military sexual trauma. Info: Dr. Ashley Arens, 407-646-5500 x28442. Ashley.Arens@va.gov  
Displays on Tues. April 25 at Viera VA Clinic lobby, Orange City VA Clinic; Fri. April 28 at Kissimmee Clinic.

**FAVOB Lunch and Learn – Wed. April 26** – The Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses (FAVOB) hosts this lunch with a guest speaker at the Heritage Country Club (in The Heritage Room). \$20 pp, 12noon – 1:30pm at 1200 Bridgewater Drive, Heathrow, 32746. RSVP's requested. 19 states offer contract preferences to veteran owned businesses. Florida is **NOT** one of them. FAVOB's goal is to change that in big business, and with our state, our cities, and counties too. Info: Website, Facebook or [marketing@favob.org](mailto:marketing@favob.org) (863) 899-3703

**Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall - April 27 - May 1** - City of Eustis is the site of this touching memorial. Volunteers, sponsors, vendors for this event are welcomed. Also yearly music Fest event April 28-30th. Info: Erin Bailey 352-483-5491

**Orlando VA Family Resource Fair – Thurs. April 27** – All are welcome to come and connect with some VA resources and local organizations that provide services to Veterans and their families. Couple & Family Therapy services, Family Groups, Women's Health, Vet Center, and more. 10am – 2pm at Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona, 13800 Veterans Way, Orlando, 32827. Info: Melissa at 407-621-2681.

**MacDill AFB Career Fair – Thurs. April 27** - This military focused career fair allows service members, contractors, civilians, veterans and family members (essentially anyone who lives, works or has access to a military installation) to meet 70+ different employers. Hosted by MacDill AFB, Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC). 11am – 2pm at Surf’s Edge Club, 7315 Bayshore Blvd, MacDill AFB, 33621 (This event is in Tampa area.) Thank you, David St. John!

**Sailing Into Your Senior Years - Thurs. April 27** - Free educational event from 5:30pm – 7pm. Learn about veteran Aid and Attendance and how to get your affairs in order to control how you age. An attorney will talk about veteran benefits and assets. A VSO (veterans service officer) cannot tell people how to manage their assets in order to get funding but an attorney can. An array of healthcare options available can be discussed. 4:30-5:30 Complimentary Happy Hour; 5:30-6:30 Presentations (20 minutes each panelist); 6:30-7:00 Panel Q & A. Space is limited. Watercrest of Lake Nona, Assisted Living and Memory Care Community, 9682 Lake Nona Village Place Orlando, 32827. Info and to RSVP: 407-226-3113 jphillips@watercrestseniorliving.com

**U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Foundation Golf Tournament – Fri. April 28** – The Florida Chapter of this group (USMCCCA) use all the proceeds of this 13th Annual event to benefit America's wounded Marines in charitable, educational and patriotic programs. Sherman Hills Golf Club - considered one of Central Florida’s better venues - at 31200 Eagle Falls Drive, Brooksville, 34602. 12:30pm sharp, shotgun start, usual tournament benefits, and meal, awards following tournament. Corporate sponsorships still welcomed! Donations VERY welcomed! Info: James “Red” Carpenter at jcar1@tampabay.rr.com or (352) 688-6720.

**“Invisible Wounds Memorial” fund raising breakfast - Sat. April 29** – Pancake breakfast to raise funds for memorial dedicated to veterans and service members who suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. \$10pp – pancakes, bacon, sausage, home fries, eggs, doughnuts, coffee, tea, OJ, fruit salad. (WHAT? No cheese grits?!?) 9am – 12noon at Disabled American Veterans #84 (DAV) 605 8th St., Daytona Beach, 32117. Contact Post at (386) 252-4551 or Cathy Heigher, cathy.remembering.vets@gmail.com 386-931-8323

**Veteran Revamp Service Project - Sat. April 29** – Join Hands On Orlando in this project for veterans in transition at the William R Just Center for Drug Free Living in Orlando. 10am – 2pm at 1405 West Michigan Street, Orlando, 32805. Working together to plant trees and shrubs to create a hedge, paint apartments, lay concrete and erect a shade structure. Info: Brittany - Brittany@handsonorlando.com - 407-375-9389

**Ocoee Fire Department Open House – Sat. April 29** - Annual Open House from 10am – 2pm at Fire Station 25 located at 563 South Bluford Avenue, Ocoee, 34761. The Fire Station will be open to the public, giving the opportunity to meet their firefighters and tour the station. With the storm season just around the corner, the open house will offer hurricane preparedness information. Residents can register to win first aid supply kits and weather radios. A full day of fun activities will include blood

pressure checks, complimentary hot dogs, sodas and popcorn. Many First Responders (fire, police, EMT's, etc.) are veterans. Info: 407-905-3140 or [thoover@ci.ococoe.fl.us](mailto:thoover@ci.ococoe.fl.us)

**Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall – Sun. April 30, Mon. May 1** – This replica tribute arrives on Sunday April 30 for a week at the Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion. Large motorcycle and first responder vehicle escort leaving Eastern Florida State College, Clearlake Rd, Cocoa at 10am. Proceeding down the highway to Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, 32935. It will remain at Wickham Park thru Sun. May 7. The cortege is a sight to behold going down the highway! 12pm: Covered dish picnic and wall set up.

**Mon. May 1 – 6pm:** Presentation of Wreaths from organizations. 7pm – Opening ceremonies.

**Mon. May 8 – 9am** Wall take down and clean up.

**HBI (Home Builders Institute) Classes – Mon. May 1 – May 26**– HBI offers 3 certifications in 4 Weeks and job placement at **No Cost** to Military Members, **Past or Present**. OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR/AED, Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate, Training, and Job Placement Promotion Class. 9am – 2:30pm - Mon-Thurs. 9200 Southpark Center Loop, Orlando FL 32819 (Inside Everest University off John Young Parkway.) Info or to secure your seat: Jamaican Penney-Vassey 407-259-5069 [jvassey@hbi.org](mailto:jvassey@hbi.org) A current OSHA 10 card is a valuable asset in any industry. Safety training enhances your professional marketability.

**Primary Cares Day – Mon. May 1** –The Orlando VA Medical Center hosts this day to provide Veterans an opportunity to learn about all the different services primary care offers. This provides some basics explanation time to clear up some confusions that you may have. This is an open house so people may come and go as they choose or come for only the topic they are interested in or to speak to a subject matter expert. 9am to 4:30pm in the Auditorium “A” on the 4th Floor. Presentations are: 0900 - Acting Director Remarks; 0915 – My Healthe Vet; 0950 – Minority Program/Homeless Program/Special Events; 1040 – Enrollment; 1130 – Primary Care/Womens Health/Resident Clinic; 1220 – My VA Access; 1310 – Choice; 1400 – National Cemetery Administration; 1450 – Traveling Veteran Coordinator. Tables with displayed info: 2018 Wheel Chair Games; LGBT, Veteran Affairs Pharmacy, Enrollment, Infectious Disease; My VA Access, and many others. Info: [vhaorpublicaffairs@va.gov](mailto:vhaorpublicaffairs@va.gov) 407-631-4436

**World Aviation Training Conference and Tradeshow – Tues-Thurs. May 2 – 4** – The 20th annual gathering of aviation training professionals is at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. The Conference streams to Cabin Crew, Helicopter, Maintenance, Regional Pilot and World Pilot positions, and over 70 exhibitors from around the world will be showcasing on the Tradeshow Floor the latest training and technology surrounding the simulation industry. Info: [www.halldale.com/wats](http://www.halldale.com/wats)

**Coast Guard Auxiliary meeting – Wed. May 3** – The Osceola Flotilla 17-10 meets on the 1st Wed. of each month, 7pm, at American Legion Post 10, 205 Lakeview Dr., Kissimmee, 34741. Auxiliary members are volunteers who support the Coast Guard in all its non-military, and non-law-enforcement missions. Members help to provide

maritime safety, security and stewardship; to secure the homeland, save lives and property; and to protect the environment. There are several Flotillas (groups) in Central Florida and membership in the Auxiliary is open to persons 17 years of age and older – some are much older! Info: Jim Nickles at jimnickles2@gmail.com 407-390-9611

**City of Orlando Mayors' Veterans Advisory Council – Thurs. May 4 – 1:30pm**  
 Monthly meeting of numerous organizations and individuals for the benefit of local veterans and active duty personnel. Planning of functions (ie: Veterans Day parade) and awareness of events is shared. Designated representatives allow groups to coordinate efforts. If your Orlando area vet/military associated group isn't attending, it should plan to get involved. Networking before and after the meeting. See website at cityoforlando.net, Office of the Mayor, Mayor's Committees, Veterans. Contact Chairman Michael Waldrop for attendance and location information. mwaldrop@blue-cord.com or Emily Bonvini emily.bonvini@cityoforlando.net 407.246.2728

**Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion – Thurs. May 4 – Sun. May 7** – This is the 30th Annual Reunion - the nation's **largest** veterans reunion is very well attended; military displays, reenactments and ceremonies, music, old and new friends. All eras, all branches. Military vendors have almost every patch or pin that you could ever need. Last year brought 87k+ persons. Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Dr., Melbourne, 32935. Additionally, the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall will be onsite from Sun. Apr. 30 to May 7. Definitely check the website for the schedule of numerous and varied events at floridaveteransreunion.com – VERY busy and interesting each day. Free parking, free admission. Info: 321-408-2698. Vendors call: 321-652-4185 or vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com

**Family Fun Day 2017 – Sat. Or Sun. May 6 or 7** - A Day at the Circus - The BAHIA Shrine Circus has invited Camaraderie Foundation's Military Service Members, Post- 9/11 Veterans and their family members to enjoy a free day at the circus. Silver Spurs Arena at 1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, 34744. Shows are at 10am, 2pm or 6:30pm on either day. To participate, register by emailing or calling: Anna Tanzilla at programs@camaraderiefoundation.org or 407 841 0071 with your name, email, phone number, # of tickets, and which performance on which day. Tickets are limited to 6 per family. Tickets will be available for pick-up the week of May 1st at Camaraderie Foundation (2488 East Michigan Street, Orlando, 32806)

**Honor Flight “Welcome Home” – Sat. May 6** – See information listed in the April 22 event paragraph.

**VE Day – Victory in Europe – May 8, 1945 – Thank a WW2 veteran for his/her service!**

**“The Vietnam War” special screening – Mon. May 8** – PBS channels will begin a special 18-hour documentary series on the Vietnam War from Ken Burns and Lynn Novick in September. This is a special screening of selected previews that will be attended by Lynn Novick and Col. Hal Kushner (ret.) of Daytona beginning 7pm-9pm at the Orange County Regional History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd., Orlando,

32801. WUCF hosts this and moderates a discussion, Q&A after the screening. Registration is requested at their website. Info: WUCF TV 407-823-2947  
jennifer.cook@wucftv.org

**Central Florida Navy League social – Tues. May 9** – Join those who support the Sea Services at this Social sponsored by Envision Innovative Solutions. 5pm-7pm at Cooper's Hawk in Waterford Lakes, 529 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando, 32828. You don't have to have served in the military in order to join the Navy League – just support the Sea Services: US Navy, US Coast Guard, US Marine Corps or Merchant Marines. Info: navleaguecenfl@juno.com

**Marine Corps League Orlando - Tues, May 9** - Cpl. Larry E. Smedley, Detachment 064 Monthly Meeting, 7pm – 8pm at the American Legion Florida Department bldg., 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. Info: mclcfl@gmail.com or Sr.Vice Cdr at 407-963-9388. (Cpl. Larry Smedley was an Orange County resident and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was killed in Vietnam on December 21, 1967 after heroic actions were seen in battle. He earned the Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously; he was 18 yrs old.)

**Central Florida Navy League luncheon and meeting – Wed. May 10** – All persons who support the sea services, whether civilian or military, are welcomed to attend this gathering on the 2nd Wed. of each month. 11:30 – 1pm at the Holiday Inn – UCF, 1724 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando, 32826. Interesting speakers and networking potential includes the simulation technology businesses. \$20 with credit card payment on website (cfnavyleague.org) or \$25 at the door. 3rd largest Navy League in FL with diverse membership including nearby technology industries. Contact Bob K. (Membership Chair.) at navleaguecenfl@juno.com 407-977-7575  
(**NEW!** The Navy League offers national E-Membership for only \$25 per year! Prior military service is NOT required. Support the sea services – Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines – with membership.)

**Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 12** – Thank a Military Spouse for their oftentimes overlooked and unrecognized support of their loved one.

**Army Aviation Association of America, Networking Social – Fri May 12** – Join the Central Florida Chapter of 4A's (aka Quad A) during Happy Hour for some fun and friendship at Froggers, Alafaya Square, 27 Alafaya Woods Blvd, Oviedo, 32765. Info: sean.c.osmond@gmail.com

**Packaging for the Troops – Sat. May 15** – Join Kids in Support of Soldiers (K.I.S.S.) to pack special care packages that will be sent to troops. 10am – 11am this month at Progressive Insurance, 1050 West Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs, 32714. If you have a loved one overseas or know of someone who has a loved one overseas, let K.I.S.S. know and they will add them to the mailing list to receive a package every month they are gone. Donations and items always welcomed! Info: 321-279-6092 akissfromhome@yahoo.com

**Marine Corps League fundraising – Sat. May 13** – The Cpl. Larry Smedley

Detachment will be collecting donations at the Navy Exchange (NEX). 9am – 3pm, 8717 Avenue C, Orlando, 32827. The NEX is south of the Beachline on Tradeport Drive, just bordering the west side of Orlando Int'l Airport. The funds raised help support the Young Marines Orlando Devil Dogs (boys and girls ages 8 – 18), and Scholarship programs. (Cpl. Larry Smedley was an Orange County resident and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was killed in Vietnam on December 21, 1967 after heroic actions were seen in battle. He earned the Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously; he was 18 yrs old.) sgtmajna@earthlink.net

**NEX** - Haven't been to the NEX (Navy Exchange) recently? You will be pleasantly surprised! There are great new products – non-gluten, fresh produce, popular brands of groceries and products, electronics, liquor and clothing at extremely competitive pricing! And no sales tax! To be eligible to shop, you need to be active military, reserve or guard, military retired, or 100% service disabled – at least until mid-November when shopping all the Exchanges online will open up to ALL veterans! The site also has a barber shop and an **MWR** for tickets to local attractions at competitive, even incredibly reduced prices! You must be eligible - military cards ARE checked. Think ahead to summertime for visiting relatives!

**Joggin for Frogmen – Sat. May 13** - 5K supporting Navy Seals Foundation in Fernandina Beach FL. [www.jogginforfrogmen.com](http://www.jogginforfrogmen.com)

**Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses mtg (FAVOB) – Tues May 16** - Meeting at 10am, a “Chamber of Commerce” of sorts open to all veteran owned businesses, at American Legion Florida Department bldg., 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. 19 states offer contract preferences to veteran owned businesses. Florida is NOT one of them. Our goal is to change that in big business, and with our state, our cities, and counties too. See FAVOB Facebook site. Info: [chairman@favob.org](mailto:chairman@favob.org) or [marketing@favob.org](mailto:marketing@favob.org)

**Orange County Mayors' Veterans Advisory Council –Wed. May 17 – 1:30pm** monthly meeting of numerous organizations and individuals for the benefit of Central FL veterans and active duty personnel. Planning of events and awareness is shared. Designated representatives allow groups to coordinate efforts and unite for the common cause. If your Orange County /Central FL vet/military associated group isn't attending, it should plan to get involved. Mayor Teresa Jacobs is very supportive of a veteran-friendly community. Contact Chairman Col. Edwin Marrero for attendance and location information. [emarrero81@cfl.rr.com](mailto:emarrero81@cfl.rr.com)

**Armed Forces Appreciation Day – May 20** – The unified recognition of all presently servicing persons in the armed forces rather than separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force Days.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary meeting – Sat. May 20** – The Orlando-Winter Park Flotilla 17-11 meets on the 3rd Sat. of each month, 9am, at the Lake Baldwin VA Clinic, 5201 Raymond St., Orlando, 32803. Auxiliary members are volunteers who support the Coast Guard in all its non-military, and non-law-enforcement missions. Members help to provide maritime safety, security and stewardship; to secure the homeland, save



lives and property; and to protect the environment. There are several Flotillas (groups) in Central Florida and membership in the Auxiliary is open to persons 17 years of age and older – some are much older! Info: Joseph Bonaccorse [bonaccorse@usa.net](mailto:bonaccorse@usa.net) 407.222.9681.

**Armed Forces Appreciation Night – Thurs. May 25** – A combined gathering of Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel, veterans, and groups at the Citrus Club in downtown Orlando. (Dag-gone-it, Air Force! Ain't we good 'nough for ya?!?! But you are still welcomed to join us for fellowship and networking!!! Maybe next year? – My words. )

#### **VERY UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY:**

**Coast Guard Cutter Eagle visit to Port Canaveral: May 31- June 3.** This is a tall ship – one with real masts and sails. The Coast Guard Cutter EAGLE, provides USCG Academy cadets and officer candidates with their first taste of sea and salt air. Built in Germany in 1936 and recommissioned by the United States at the close of World War II, the EAGLE is the largest tall ship flying the Stars and Stripes. This will be a unique opportunity.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Army Birthday Ball – June 17** – Commemoration of the 242nd Birthday with “Over There! A Celebration of the WWI Soldier” A grand event and gathering. Discounted advance tickets and hotel bookings. Info: Dee at (407) 924-0810 [www.ausa-sunshine.org](http://www.ausa-sunshine.org)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**First time Veteran home buying workshops** - Veteran homes being built in Apopka, Orlando & Winter Garden. Must attend one First-time buyer class. Classes are on the 1st Saturday of the month. Winter Park Community Center, 721 W. New England Ave., Winter Park, 32789. Registration required in order to receive a Certificate of Completion for HUD. Info and to register: 407-599-0057 [tasiah.malofsky@consumerdebtcounselors.com](mailto:tasiah.malofsky@consumerdebtcounselors.com)

**Research Project** - Active military, reservists, guardsmen and veterans needed – If you or someone you know has experience overseas, a research project is ongoing at the UCF RESTORES lab at the University of Central Florida. The project determines if smells influence their experience in virtual environments similar to those we use in the treatment of combat-related PTSD. Participation takes approximately one hour, and those who volunteer will be compensated for their time. You can help others who suffer from PTS by your participation. Call UCF RESTORES: 407-823-3910.

**Navy Yearbooks and Photos** - a volunteer Navy historian is amassing the largest collection of pictures/articles and RUDDERS - which are yearbooks of graduating recruits. Especially wanted are the Yearbooks from our past Orlando Navy Training Base – the “boot camp” that changed over 650,000 lives. If you can't part with your

yearbook or photos, a scanned copy would be ideal! Info: usnwaveret7495@gmail.com

**USTA Program for Veterans - Every Monday from Now – May 22** – United States Tennis Association (USTA) shares that tennis is an excellent way to stay physically fit and mentally sharp. Disabled Veterans and wounded, ill and injured Service Members are invited to participate in a 7-week program designed to help Veterans and Service Men and Women reconnect with everyday activities. All Veterans are welcome at no cost. Please bring valid military ID, VA ID or DD 214 on the first day of program. USTA National Campus, 10000 USTA Blvd., Orlando, 32827 Info: Jason Allen at jason.allen@usta.com 844-872-8667 (Remember: Tennis is an included event in the Paralympics and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (being held in Orlando in 2018!))

**Veterans Bowling League – Now for 7 weeks - 6p-8:30p** – Veterans, R.O.T.C.'s, Service Organizations and Families. Come put together a team to represent your Favorite Branch or Organization. Hosted by Boardwalk Bowl, 10749 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, 32817. Info: 407-384-0003. Thank you, Roger D. Sack of PVA!

**April – Month of the Military Child** - The Museum of Military History recognizes the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. This overlooked treasure has exhibits that offer learning for all ages. Regular hrs: 10am-6pm Tues-Sun. 5210 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, 34746. (407) 507-3894

**Fantasy of Flight Museum** is currently OPEN on weekends!! It has a large collection of military aircraft. Friday - Sunday 11am - 3pm. Fantasy of Flight Museum, 1400 Broadway Blvd SE, Polk City, 33868 (Take exit 44 from I-4) Ph: 863-984-3500 or check their website for more info.

**Burial Schedules** - VA is now providing online daily burial schedules for its national cemeteries, per Vantage Point, Official Blog of the Department of Veterans Affairs, March 24, 2017. The online schedule for all VA national cemeteries that will allow families, friends and community members to find time and location information for those being interred. Thank you, Ed Burford, Seminole Co. VSO. (Locally: This effects the grounds at Bushnell and Cape Canaveral – Some people and groups don't want ANY veteran to be buried or interred alone and forgotten. This will allow a tribute to the deceased veteran.)

**Drivers' Licenses, TSA, federal facilities and military bases** – If you are a snowbird or have snowbird family, residents of eight states will no longer be able to use their state-issued ID for domestic air travel [or to enter a federal facility or military base]. Beginning January 22, 2018, residents of Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Carolina or Washington, will no longer be valid to pass TSA-checkpoints with their state IDs [driver's license]. This means they'll have to bring a passport, military ID or permanent resident card next time they

go to the airport, even if they're just traveling within the United States. (Jan. 2017 resources, including Military.com) Why? These states don't meet the federal government's minimum security standards, which requires verifying every ID applicant's identity, putting anti-counterfeit technology into the production of the card and conducting background checks on the people issuing the driver's licenses.

**Puerto Rican birth certificates** - All certified copies of *birth certificates* issued prior to July 1, 2010, have become *invalid*. The government of Puerto Rico has invalidated every birth certificate issued on the island before July 1, 2010, in an attempt to curb rampant fraud and identity theft that officials say has ruined lives, strained social service programs and compromised national security.

**Veterans in crisis** – For you or someone you know.

**Suicide** is a medical emergency. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone and care should be sought immediately by calling 911. Free, confidential resources are instantly available through the Military Crisis Line to aid you if you are in crisis.

**Call** 800-273-8255 and press 1,

**OR** chat online now for 24/7 access to trained counselors who understand what service members and military families are coping with. Website at [veteranscrisisline](http://veteranscrisisline.org)

**OR:** text 838255 for 24/7 confidential assistance. They are there because they care....

**Camaraderie Foundation** in Central Florida provides resources for private and confidential Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) counseling for Post 9/11 veterans/warriors and their families. They also have connections in other areas, other states. It works.

**It HAS saved lives, saved marriages and saved families.**

[camaraderiefoundation.org](http://camaraderiefoundation.org) Contact 407-841-0071

Caring and sharing,

Cathy Haynes Member/supporter of numerous veteran and military organizations in Central FL

407-239-8468

[chaynes11629@yahoo.com](mailto:chaynes11629@yahoo.com)


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Central Florida veterans advocate | 11629 Peach Grove Lane, Orlando, FL 32821

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