

February 2021



Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

***Indian River Chapter
Since 1983***

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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 MOAA? If so, ask them to join and contact **Carroll Oates** at 954-494-8742.

February 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all IRC–MOAA Members and Associate Members

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and a Heartfelt thanks for your vote of confidence with being elected President of our Indian River MOAA Chapter. It's a big challenge made even bigger with the pandemic impacting our ability to function as we had. Hopefully, normal is not too far away and we can return to all of our activities.

Pandemic or no pandemic our mission continues to support our members and indeed all fellow veterans. As a member of MOAA since 1972 and of IRC-MOAA Chapter since 2009 I can see that our Chapter has an advantage.

First, it is our members, spouses and associates who work so hard to participate and support our mission and our Chapter.

Second, we work side by side and, in fact, as dual role participants with the IRC – Veterans Council. The Veterans Council is unique as the command and control headquarters for all the 25 military organizations here in Indian River County. Soon, I learned just how valuable the Council was in overseeing their motto of "Veterans Helping Veterans". I also realized early on that while the American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other veterans groups in the county had their own missions IRC-MOAA had major leadership in the Veterans Council itself.

I have just finished almost three years as a Board Member of the Veterans Council. During my membership IRC-MOAA Members made up 75 to 80% of the Council Board. In fact, I realized that the IRC Veterans Council and IRC-MOAA are one and the same in so many ways. The past four Veterans Council presidents were IRC-MOAA Members and several of the Committee Leaders were as well. Can you see the opportunity this gives our Chapter?

Here's where I'm headed: IRC-MOAA fulfills its mission by and through the IRC Veterans Council. How? Well, we are doing it already. We take the lead on the Veterans Council's two main events each year: Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Also, bus transportation to the West Palm VA Hospital. And we take the leadership with UAV (Upward American Veterans) and Veterans Outreach, two programs giving direct financial aid to County Veterans. We have led the Veterans Helping Veterans Committee since its introduction three years ago and have so far managed the spending of over \$200,000 in home improvement projects.

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2021 OFFICERS AND BOARD

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In the past 6 years, some eight MOAA Chapter Members have become teachers in our very own MOAA team for Veterans in the Classroom serving in all county elementary, and secondary schools. At least three of our members have taken leadership roles in "Next Gen" which is a sub-section of the council that includes mostly younger veterans (and a few of us older ones) who served since 1990. Many MOAA Members have contributed numerous hours as volunteers at the Victory Center Store. Our members put in countless hours assisting veterans already.

My plan is simply to expand what we already do. Get more people involved, raise more money for IRC Veteran Assistance, gain even more visibility and take credit for everything we do already. A Council's project is a Chapter's project and we inform national MOAA of all of our undertakings. Many may not know this but our IRC Chapter has received much recognition (and grant money) for the things we do.

So, I am asking you all to think about getting involved and taking the lead and still serve. Each month I will attempt to tell you what we have done, what we accomplished, and what new projects we are taking on.

Hopefully, we can soon return to our lunch and our dinner meetings where we included great speakers and enjoy face to face participation.

I'll need your help and especially your friendship. Thanks for your support and for your service.

CARROLL OATES

LTC USA (RET)

IRC-MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Jay Torres

A chapter must be politically nonpartisan. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates' position.



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IRC MOAA MEMBER ADVOCATE INITIATIVE

PURPOSE: Increase member participation in Charter events and thereby enhance member awareness of Chapter goals. Enhance new member recruiting by instilling a higher sense of pride in Chapter membership.

GENERAL: This is a volunteer effort whereby members agree to act as Advocates of current members and newly recruited members. Advocates may select current members whom they wish to support, or, in the absence of specific requests, the Membership Chairperson (MC) may assign members, generally no more than five. If a newly recruited member was sponsored, the sponsor, if willing, will serve as Advocate. If unsponsored, the MC will appoint a volunteer Advocate.

Advocates will contact their assigned members, at the Advocate's discretion, preferably by phone calls, to ensure their members are aware of and encourage participation in:

- Upcoming Chapter activities (luncheons, Zoom sessions, Officer's calls, etc.)
- Recent media recognition of Chapter accomplishments
- Chapter Newsletter publication, website and Facebook postings

If the Advocate feels appropriate, they are encouraged to meet with their members to coach them on accessing the above via electronic means.

Advocates are encouraged to learn the background and experience of their members with an eye toward future service as a Chapter Board Member, Officer, Project Manager, or luncheon speaker.

Additional contact opportunities include birthdays, anniversaries, "I saw your name/picture in the paper," attendance of a Chapter Board Meeting, and attendance of a Veterans Council General Meeting.

SPECIFICS: The MC, or another person appointed by the Chapter President, will facilitate this initiative.

Advocates, especially those of new members, are encouraged to sit together with their members at in-person Chapter activities to facilitate recognition and introductions, and help instill a sense of belonging within the Chapter.

Advocates are requested to identify their members who are not current on their Chapter dues and encourage payment.

As this is strictly a volunteer initiative, no record keeping or reporting, other than the MCs informal list of Advocate/member assignments, is anticipated. The effectiveness of the initiative will be measured by the recruiting, retention and activity levels of the Chapter membership.

Members who wish to volunteer to serve as Advocates are requested to notify the **Chapter Secretary, Walter Flynn**, at flynn44c@yahoo.com or 845-514-0388 (cell). Volunteer Advocates may specify Chapter members by name (max 5) who they wish to support.

Best Regards,

Carroll Oates

President

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Now and Always
We'll be There.

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February 2021

**MARINE AIR RESERVES:
MOBILIZED FOR THE KOREAN WAR**

Submitted by Michael Di Scipio

Because of the success of the Inchon-Seoul operation and the possibility that the war would soon end, the initial mobilization of Marine Air Reserves had not been so extensive as that of ground reservists.

But Communist China's entrance into the war and the reverses it inflicted on the UN forces in November and December 1950, changed that thinking. As a result, on 3 January 1951, the Joint Chiefs authorized the Marine Corps to increase the number of its fighter squadrons from 18 to 21.

Eight days later, 9 Reserve VMF's were ordered to report to duty. Six of these – VMF-112 VMF-143 VMF-144 VMF-215 VMF-234 VMF-321 were mobilized as personnel, and 3 VMF's: VMF-121 VMF-251 VMF-451, preserving their squadron designations.

Of the 1,900 aviation reservists affected by these orders, 1,637 actually reported on 1 Mar 1951. As of that date, the Corps had its newly authorized 21 VMF's in active service.

In summary, by 1 Mar 1951, 20 of the 30 MARTCOM fighter squadrons and all 12 of its Ground Control Intercept squadron had mobilized. Of the 6,341 Marines in the organized aviation Reserve, a total of 5,240 had been ordered to active duty. Of these, 94% reported to initial stations of deployment.

These reserve squadrons enabled the Corps to meet its Korean War aviation manpower requirements. Many of these aviators were WWII veterans, providing the Corps with the experience necessary to meet the upcoming battles. WWII veteran aviators called up for Korea included TV personality **Ed McMahon** and MLB stars **Ted Williams** and **Jerry Coleman**, who received two DFCs.



PHOTO: LtCol Jerry Coleman, US Marines



PHOTO: Capt. David Booker, USMC (left) mans his aerial reconnaissance plane on the flight deck of a US Navy aircraft carrier with the Seventh Fleet. Photo released on 19 July 1950.



PHOTO: Captain Ted Williams, US Marines

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PICTURE: James A. Michener's 1953 novel, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, tells the story of a WWII pilot recalled to fight in the Korean War.

BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL

7 August 1942 - 9 February 1943

The Reader's Companion to Military History

Submitted by Terry Treat

The World War II Battle of Guadalcanal was the first major offensive and a decisive victory for the Allies in the Pacific theater. With Japanese troops stationed in this section of the Solomon Islands, U.S. marines launched a surprise attack in August 1942 and took control of an air base under construction. Reinforcements were funneled to the island as a series of land and sea clashes unfolded, and both sides endured heavy losses to their warship contingents. However, the Japanese suffered a far greater toll of casualties, forcing their withdrawal from Guadalcanal by February 1943.

When Japanese troops arrived on Guadalcanal on June 8, 1942, to construct an air base, and then American marines landed two months later to take it away from them, few people outside of the South Pacific had ever heard of that 2,500-square-mile speck of jungle in the Solomon Islands. But the ensuing six-month Guadalcanal campaign proved to be the turning point of the Pacific war.

Strategically, possession of a Guadalcanal air base was important to control of the sea lines of communication between the United States and Australia. Operationally, the Battle of Guadalcanal was notable for the interrelationship of a complex series of engagements on the ground, at sea, and in the air. Tactically, what stood out was the resolve and resourcefulness of the U.S. Marines, whose tenacious defense of the air base dubbed Henderson Field enabled the Americans to secure air superiority.

By the end of the battle on February 9, 1943, the Japanese had lost two-thirds of the 31,400 army troops committed to the island, whereas the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army had lost less than 2,000 soldiers of about 60,000 deployed. The ship losses on both sides were heavy. But by far the most significant loss for the Japanese was the decimation of their elite group of naval aviators. Japan after Guadalcanal no longer had a realistic hope of withstanding the counteroffensive of an increasingly powerful United States.



PHOTO: A U.S. Marine on Guadalcanal keeps his Thompson machine gun close.

EDITOR REQUESTS
ARTICLES OF INTEREST

By Robert Scheppy

This is your newsletter.

Would you like to submit an Article of Interest? Send it to Robert Scheppy, Editor, for inclusion in the Newsletter. schepy70@yahoo.com

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OUR PUBLISHER

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INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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The chapter is non-partisan and the contents of the Indian River Chapter News are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of the National MOAA, Florida Council of Chapters, the Indian River Chapter FL36, or the DOD.

IN MEMORIAM

Chaplain Richard H. Flick, Capt USN went to his heavenly home, from Vero Beach FL, on December 24, 2020. He was a much loved husband, father, grandfather, Chaplain, and Pastor. His dedicated service to this country and fellow man will be greatly missed.



Born in Pennsylvania on October 3, 1939, "Dickey" graduated from high school and entered the Navy as a hospital Corpsman. After serving four years, he studied at Memphis State University. He married Ruth Cary on November 3, 1961 in Memphis, TN.

Called to the ministry, Dick earned a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

In 1973, Dick returned to the Navy as a Methodist Chaplain. For 25 years, he served with the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines. In 1990, he deployed on the USS Guam during Operation Desert Storm. He received 25 military awards.

In 2004 Dick and Ruth moved to Vero Beach, FL where he proudly served as a Pastor Emeritus, VNA Hospice Chaplain and Veteran's Council Chaplain.

Chaplain Flick will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in 2021 with military honors.
