

February 2024



## Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047



## NEVER STOP SERVING

By Bob Albrecht

Vacancies exist for the office of **First Vice President/Program Chair** and **Second Vice-President**. We are searching for members to fill the positions. If interested in hearing more about these exciting opportunities to continue serving, please contact **Bob Albrecht** by phone at (772) 257 6678 or cell phone (919) 616 3873 or email [ralbrecht1702@comcast.net](mailto:ralbrecht1702@comcast.net).

Bob Albrecht

My topic for this issue is the word “**SERVICE.**”

I write not of **Military Service**...we all know intimately what that entails: risk, sacrifice of many types, to include the ultimate one, honor, integrity, discipline, leadership, camaraderie.

I become confused, however, when I hear the word used with these organizations:

- Internal Revenue **Service**
- US Postal **Service**
- Cable TV **Service**
- Civil **Service**
- Public **Service**

This is NOT what I thought **Service** meant.

But recently, I overheard two farmers talking, and one of them said he had bought a bull to **Service** his cows.

BAM !!! It all came into focus. Now I understand what all these organizations are doing to us.

You are now as enlightened as I am.

**Proud to serve as your Chapter President, Terry**



February 2024



## The Buccaneer



### GUEST SPEAKER

February 16, 2024

Sylvester McIntosh, USMC 1965-1968

Silver Star



**Photo: Sgt. Sylvester McIntosh has a PhD. in religious education**

Vietnam veterans lauded for heroic deeds often deflect the praise by saying they had no choice but to act as they did. **Marine Sgt. Sylvester McIntosh**, who received the Silver Star for his bravery during a battle in Vietnam, is one such person. McIntosh, a squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, was out on a search-and-destroy operation in Quang Tri province on May 13, 1967, when his unit came under heavy fire from the North Vietnamese Army.

Shot in his chest while assisting a wounded Marine, McIntosh carried that man to safety and returned to make two more rescues before collapsing. One of the men he rescued died. He doesn't know the fate of the others.

"I was trying to cover my butt and trying to get my buddies home," McIntosh recalled recently. "Other people may call me a hero, but I was doing what I was trained to do."

McIntosh's platoon had just cleared one village and had stepped aside to let a second platoon take over to clear the second village. "And when they got in, the enemy did what we call a horseshoe," McIntosh recalled. "They closed the horseshoe on the second platoon, with me following up."

His platoon formed a reverse horseshoe, and he and his corpsmen went in to recover the wounded and dead. While retrieving the first casualty, he got hit in the chest when his flak jacket slipped open and allowed a bullet to enter.

McIntosh went back to the United States for care and spent two months at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. After release, he served a year at Parris Island, S.C., before returning home to Wabasso, FL.

He worked first at Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach and then for the U.S. Postal Service. In between, he earned a bachelor's degree in business and a doctorate in religious education.

A minister affiliated with the Church of God of Cleveland, Tenn., he has been the pastor of three churches in Florida and continues to preach to this day.

McIntosh says he was religious before he joined the military, but his experience that day in Quang Tri changed his life. "God spoke to me that day ... And his words to me: 'You're gonna get hit, but you're not going to get killed. I've got much work for you to do.' So I've been pastoring ever since I got out."

[Sylvester McIntosh - USMC 1965-68 | Vietnam War Walking Dead \(youtube.com\)](#)

# The Buccaneer



## 2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD

### OFFICERS

#### President

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

#### 1st Vice President /Program Chair

OPEN

#### 2nd Vice President

OPEN

#### Secretary

Bethany Fortunato 941-730-3476

#### Membership Chair

LTC Bob Albrecht 772-257-6678

#### Legislative Affairs

CPT Robert Scheppy 772-925-1117

#### Treasurer

CPT Roger Grubic 386-589-3157

#### Chaplain

CPT Hugh Albright 561-901-7723

#### Immediate Past President

LTC Carroll Oates 954-494-8742

#### Editor

CPT Robert Scheppy 772- 925-1117

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LTC Bob Albrecht 772-257-6678

Capt William Duffy 772-532-6523

CAPT Maryann Grodin 240-678-9994

CPT Robert Scheppy 772-925-1117

Carolyn Riordan 239-272-1502

LtCol Jay Torres 540-850-5113

CPT Hugh Albright 561-901-7723

#### Public Relations

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

## 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 **Bob Albrecht** at 772-257-6678 or [ralbrecht1702@comcast.net](mailto:ralbrecht1702@comcast.net)

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### Treasurer's Report for Indian River Chapter MOAA for December 2023

Bank balances were unchanged from previous report for the special Account at \$1,960.07. The regular bank balance at the end of December 2023 for the regular account was **\$11,838.42**. Not all dues or donations submitted via MOAA are deposited yet in our bank account.

#### Cashed in December

2002 Terry Treat - \$ 127.97 Speaker Gifts

2003 Tim Adkins - \$200.00 Christmas Entertainment

2004 Vero Beach Yacht Club - \$2,475.00 Christmas Dinner

#### Deposits

Luncheon \$2,385

Dues by check \$525

Dues ACH \$245 (\$840 identified by MOAA emails)

Donations Check \$400

Donations ACH Unknown (\$245 identified by MOAA emails)

Seacoast Bank and the MOAA deposits do not identify the members who made payments via credit card thru MOAA. Separate e-mails are sent This requires some logical accounting skills based on the mails from MOAA. **Roger Grubic, Treasurer**

**February 2024**

**Do we Have Your Current Contact Information?**

Do we have your up to date and correct personal information on file? Is your Address, email address and phone number current? We obtained this information for the Social Roster from MOAA National. If they have out of date information so will the chapter.

Please log in to your MOAA account at **www.moaa.org** to be sure this information is correct. If you prefer, you can call MOAA member services at 800-234-6622 and they will help you.

Any Questions please call **Bob Albrecht, 772-257-6678** Chairman, Membership

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**TAKE ACTION**

Here is the link to MOAA's online legislative Take Action Center:

[MOAA | Take Action Center \(quorum.us\)](http://www.moaa.org/quorum)

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**THE BUCCANEER**

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The chapter is an IRS 501(C) (19) non-profit, tax-exempt organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, but not associated with the Department of Defense.

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.

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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

A chapter must be politically nonpartisan of issues and potential legislation, and the positions of political officials and candidates regarding same. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates' positions.

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**

**Joan DiScipio's e-mail address:**

**[jdiscipio56@gmail](mailto:jdiscipio56@gmail.com)**

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**Indian River County**

**Veterans Service Manager**

The Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) are involved with the process of applying for pension and aid and attendance benefits for qualifying veterans and their widows. If you have anyone that needs help with applying for any benefit with the VA (Compensation, Pension, Education, Healthcare, Funeral) that is what my offices are here for. Please send them to us.

**Thanks!**

**Respectfully,**

**Melissa Arndt**

**MSG, USA (Ret.)**

**Veterans Service Manager**

**Indian River County**

**Phone: (772) 226-1395 Fax: (772) 770-5038**

**[marndt@ircgov.com](mailto:marndt@ircgov.com)**

**[melissa.arndt@va.gov](mailto:melissa.arndt@va.gov)**



February 2024



### Officer's Call

#### Walking Tree Brewery

April 11, 2024 (6:00-8:00PM)

By Bob Albrecht

Please mark your calendar.

Do you know a friend or neighbor eligible for MOAA membership This is a great opportunity to introduce them to our organization.

“Bring a Potential Member” event.

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### Carroll's Corner

By Carroll Oates

This time of each year I have memories of snowstorms, heavy coats, and messy weather walking to school and thinking of summer weather and vacation seemingly so far away. Growing up in New England had its good points and more than its share of bad ones. My early Army career mostly involved time at bases in the South and I realized that you could avoid real bad weather if you were lucky enough to be located away from ice and snow.

I am sure most of you experienced similar situations. My grandfather who I'm named after (Carroll Regan) had a home building business that shut down during the winter months and they would go to a place called Clearwater for several months each winter. I never understood why until I got older and wiser.

My first overseas assignments were to Europe in 1977, which happened to be one of the mildest winters recorded there. Second overseas deployment was to Central America (Honduras, Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador) and that area in 1984 had plenty of sunshine, fruit and warm weather. The third and final overseas duty was November of 1990 to June 1991 to the Middle

East for the Persian Gulf War (it's real name). We were living in tents out in the desert on the border of Iraq and Saudi Arabia during the coldest and wettest days recorded for that area. Just our luck and just to remind us that Service means Sacrifice.

At least there wasn't anything to shovel except stories others told. We endured and succeeded while humming that very famous Army song: You're in the Army now, you're not behind the (snow) plow.....

We find ourselves at the beginning of another new year still completing missions and STILL SERVING. But we are serving in one of the most beautiful and weather friendly areas in the world. How wise we are.

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### Chaplain's Corner

By Hugh Albright

#### Entering the New Year

Oh Power above,  
help us enter the New Year quietly,  
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
mindful that our steps make an impact,  
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.  
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,  
help us enter the New Year reverently,  
aware that you have endowed  
every creature and plant, every person and habitat  
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.  
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,  
help us enter the New Year joyfully,  
willing to laugh and dance and dream,  
remembering our many gifts with thanks  
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.  
May we cast off the small, vindictive evil our fears  
have made.

Vinita Hampton Wright

Minister Hugh Albright, Saviors of the Sky Ministry's, IRC MOAA CHAPLAIN

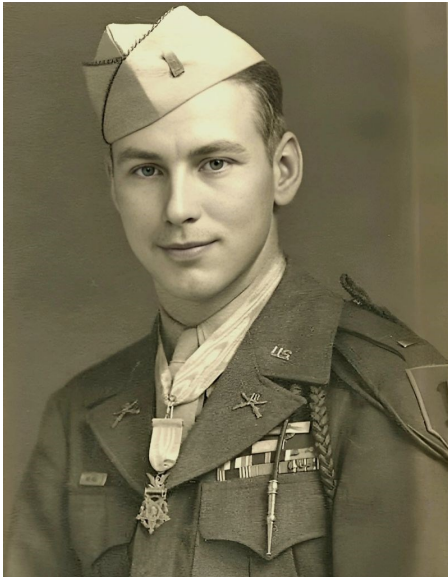
February 2024

## Sgt. Walter Ehlers

D-Day - Medal of Honor

Submitted by Terry Treat

Edited by Robert Scheppy



### World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Walter Ehlers 1921-2014

On June 6, 1944, Sgt. Walter Ehlers went ashore at Omaha Beach. Later in June 1944 near Goville, France. Sgt. Ehlers repeatedly led his men against heavily defended enemy strongpoints, exposing himself to deadly hostile fire whenever the situation required heroic and courageous leadership.

Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led his squad against a strongly defended enemy territory, personally killing four enemy soldiers who attacked him. Then crawling forward under withering machine-gun fire, he attacked the German gun-crew and put it out of action.

Turning his attention to two enemy mortar teams protected by the crossfire of two machine guns, Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this hail of bullets to kill and force a retreat of the enemy mortar teams, killing three men himself.

After mopping up the mortar positions, he again advanced on a machine gun, his progress effectively covered by his squad. When he was almost on top of the gun, he leaped to his feet and knocked out the position singlehandedly.

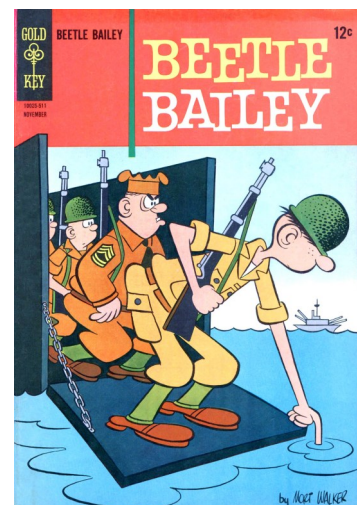
The next day, having advanced deep into enemy territory, the platoon of which Sgt. Ehlers was a member finding itself in an untenable position as the enemy brought increased mortar, machine-gun, and small-arms fire to bear on it, was ordered to withdraw.

Sgt. Ehlers, after his squad had covered the withdrawal of the remainder of the platoon, stood up and by continuous fire at the semicircle of enemy placements, diverted the bulk of the heavy hostile fire on himself, thus permitting the members of his own squad to safely withdraw.

At this point, though wounded himself, he carried his wounded automatic rifleman to safety and returned to retrieve the automatic rifle which he was unable to carry previously. After having his wound treated, he refused to be evacuated, and returned to lead his squad.

Sgt. Ehlers also earned three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star during his service with the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Infantry Division.

After the war, Walters Ehlers became an advocate for military veteran benefits and proudly worked as a security guard for Disneyland when it opened in California.



### D-Day

Growing up in Greenwich, CT, **Mort Walker**, was our neighbor. Age 5, I recall visiting his studio as he drew Beetle Bailey cartoons. Walker was an army officer in Italy during WWII.

**Robert**

February 2024



## Schedule of Upcoming Events January 1, 2024

**LEGEND** - Board Meetings, **Members Luncheon**, **Chapter Events**, **Events of Interest**, **Events Added Since Last Edition**

**Feb 3:** 5:30 – 9:00 PM, 3rd Annual Dogs For Life Dinner Dance, Pointe West Country Club, 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach, \$125 includes reserved seating, dinner, & live music. This is a very fun event for a great cause. Visit their website for tickets! <https://www.dogsforlifevb.org/>

**Feb 5:** 1:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting, United Way (Downstairs Conf Room), 1836 14th St, VB

**Feb 6:** 3:30 - 4:00 PM Veterans Administration Veteran Town Hall & 4:00 – 5:00 PM VA Enrollment Fair. Held at Richardson Center, IRSC Mueller Campus, 6155 College Lane, VB

**Feb 7:** 5:30 – 7:00 PM Veterans Council Introduces New Veteran Center located at 1790 14 th Avenue, VB. Please RSVP to: [Events@VeteransCouncilirc.org](mailto:Events@VeteransCouncilirc.org)

**Feb 16:** 11:30 AM Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

**Mar 4:** 1:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting, United Way (Downstairs Conf Room), 1836 14th St, VB

**Mar 15:** 11:30 AM Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

**Apr 1:** 1:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting, United Way (Downstairs Conf Room), 1836 14th St, VB

**Apr 4:** SAVE THE DATE – IRC MOAA sponsors an “Evening to Remember” featuring award-winning soprano Lisa Eden for a concert and formal dinner to benefit the WWII Tribute at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. The event will be held at the Grand Harbor Golf and Beach Club, 4895 Club Terrace, VB – Tickets \$250 pp to include cocktails and a four-course sit down dinner. Lisa is an award-winning soprano and has offered to do this performance for the exclusive benefit of the Tribute in memory of her grandfather, who was a WWII pilot in the Pacific Theatre. The evening will have a very patriotic flair and we can’t WAIT!!! Click here for her Bio and website. Details for ticket purchase will follow.

**Apr 19:** 11:30 AM Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club

**May 3-5:** Vero Beach Air Show – Need volunteers to work IRC MOAA Fundraising Booth

**May 6:** 1:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting, United Way (Upstairs Meeting Room), 1836 14th St, VB

May 12-15:2024 FCoC Convention, Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach-Registration will be open in early February.

**May 17:** 11:30 AM Members Luncheon, Vero Beach Yacht Club



February 2024



**FEBRUARY CHAPTER  
 LUNCHEON REGISTRATION  
 Friday February 16, 2024 11:30 AM  
 Vero Beach Yacht Club  
 Vero Beach, Florida**



Our guest speaker is **Sylvester McIntosh**. Sgt. McIntosh served in the USMC in Vietnam, earning the Silver Star for rescuing wounded Marines during combat operations. After military service, he worked at Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach and then for the U.S. Postal Service. In between, he earned a bachelor's degree in business and a doctorate in religious education. A minister affiliated with the Church of God of Cleveland, Tenn., he has been the pastor of three churches in Florida and continues to preach to this day.

[Sylvester McIntosh - USMC 1965-68 | Vietnam War Walking Dead \(youtube.com\)](#)

**MENU CHOICES AT \$25 PER PERSON**

**IN ADDITION, PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING**

**WWII Tribute    Chip Saunders Scholarship    Veteran's Assistance    Honor Flight**

**DONATION AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM. Wednesday, February 9, 2024**

**Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU CHOICES AT \$25 PER PERSON:**

Arugula & Fennel Salad with *Grilled mahi mahi*, Citrus Vinaigrette, Almonds, Castelvetrano Olives \_\_\_\_\_

*Baked Rigatoni*, Ricotta, Italian Sausage, Pomodora, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil, Reggiano, Broccoli \_\_\_\_\_

*Chicken Thighs Mattone*, Lemon, Basil, Garlic, EVOO, Red Pepper Flakes, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Broccoli \_\_\_\_\_

**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**



**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System



# VETERAN TOWN HALL & ENROLLMENT FAIR

★ ★ ★ **February 6** ★ ★ ★

## Order of Events

**3 PM Doors Open**

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**Veteran Town Hall**

**3:30 PM-4 PM**

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**Enrollment & Resource Fair**

**4 PM-5 PM**

### Location:

Richardson Center  
IRSC Mueller Campus  
6155 College Lane  
Vero Beach, FL 32966

