

April 2022



## Indian River Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 644047

Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

### President's Message

By Carroll Oates

Spring has sprung. It has always symbolized a new beginning, a fresh start, an awakening. I like it. Things are looking up and there's no doubt that our Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is awake and at full power. Let me tell you why I believe this.

For the past few years, **IRC-MOAA** has won every grant and award given out by our higher headquarters, Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) and National MOAA. I believe we are in the top 10 Chapters Nationwide. We have been granted funds that we use to support our county's veterans, have been given valuable recognition in at least three articles of the National MOAA Magazine, won "Battle" streamers for our Chapter MOAA flag, numerous leadership awards to our officers for their involvement and accomplishments and received visits from leaders of both FCOC and "Big MOAA". They don't waste their time on non-performing Chapters. So, this is a sign of significance.

Did you know that in the past 15 months we increased our membership by 18%? This has come about by gaining visibility within the county. I give special recognition to our event committee for their tremendous success with our recent **Gold Star Mothers** fundraiser, which netted \$8700.00 for the IRC-GSM lead by one of our own members **Michelle Dale**.

Our MOAA **Veterans in the Classroom Team** is always the top Team with giving classes to all county schools plus several non-school organizations. On April 29th our officers will again award MOAA JROTC medals to two cadets at Sebastian River High

School. Plus, as I always add, IRC-MOAA is the leading veteran organization working with and supporting the IRC Veterans Council.

We are a Chapter with vision and purpose and it shows.

This month our April meeting is scheduled for Friday the 22nd because of Good Friday / Easter falling the week before. We have a great meeting planned that includes giving recognition to several of our past Chapter presidents, other Chapter leaders, and our soon to become newest and youngest member **Ben Evans** AKA our WW1 Doughboy. Ben was mentored by our Chapter for over a year and has received an appointment to the USMA at West Point. We will recognize Ben as well as the five MOAA officers who gave Ben some assistance, advice, and encouragement. We should have a fun time patting ourselves on the back and blowing our own horns. Why not, we are still serving and winning.

Remember that May will be our last official meeting until September, but we are planning another **River Cruise** like last year, on 23 June. Please let us know if you plan to attend, because the boat does have a fixed capacity.

Enjoy Spring and all the new stuff it brings. Stay healthy, happy, and Still Serving.

**Carroll Oates**

**LTC USA (Ret)**

April 2022



## The Buccaneer



American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc.  
6400 Nevis Court  
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Incorporated, April 1, 2020  
Chartered: AGSM, Inc. February 19, 2019  
Email: michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com

March 21, 2022

MOAA IRC  
PO Box 644047  
Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

Dear Carroll, MOAA Officers and Members,

Thank you for believing in our American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. and our mission of helping veterans and their causes while providing support for each other with our loss. We are so very grateful for your scheduling, promoting and doing all the work for the Neil Diamond Concert with the purpose to donate the proceeds to our Chapter and our cause, helping prevent the suicides of our military/veterans who are struggling with the Battle Within. This a mission in which our American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County emphatically believe.

Your \$8700.00 donation will help us ensure our Walk-A-Thon will be up and running well before our final plans for the 2022 event will be complete!! We will be able to continue our work to help fund the two general population Veteran PTSD Recovery and Support Groups at DFL; the Female Only Veteran and First Responder Group at DFL; and the Veteran Meet Up at the Mental Health Association of IRC keeping them going and growing to help save the lives of our struggling veterans. Our veteran therapists on staff during these sessions help those, who are attending, open up and share as they know the pain and anxiety they feel will be understood. These veterans gave up so much for us. They need and deserve all the help we can give them. One military/veteran suicide a day is a TRAGEDY. 22 is UNACCEPTABLE.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our Gold Star Hearts for believing in us and supporting our American Gold Star Mothers of the Indian River County, Inc.

God bless you.

Michelle Dale, President  
American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, AGSM Department of Florida/Puerto Rico

# The Buccaneer



## 2021 OFFICERS AND BOARD

### OFFICERS

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MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

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MAJ Terry Treat (Acting) 703-304-4935

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COL Mike Di Scipio 772-217-8112

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 **Carroll Oates** at 954-494-8742.

## Treasurer's Report for February 2022

**Bill Duffy**

We started the month with a balance of \$15,557.12  
We contributed \$2,000.00 to the IRC Veterans Council Scholarship Fund

We collected \$1,208 for the February Luncheon and paid Vero Yacht Club \$1,121.80 for their services.

We collected \$2,650 in the Neil Diamond Tribute ticket sales and expensed \$635.00 for rent and miscellaneous items for the event to date.

Finally, we paid \$61.25 for the annual non-profit registration and tax reporting. We closed the Month with a balance of \$16,236.90.

**Bill**



April 2022

## Black Sunday: Raid on Ploesti

August 1, 1943

by Kris Cotariu Harper, EdD

**Colonel John Kane** joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1931. In 1942, he was assigned to the Mediterranean Theater. His bold maneuvers during 43 combat missions against German and Italian shipping resulted in German Intelligence giving him the nickname “Killer Kane.”

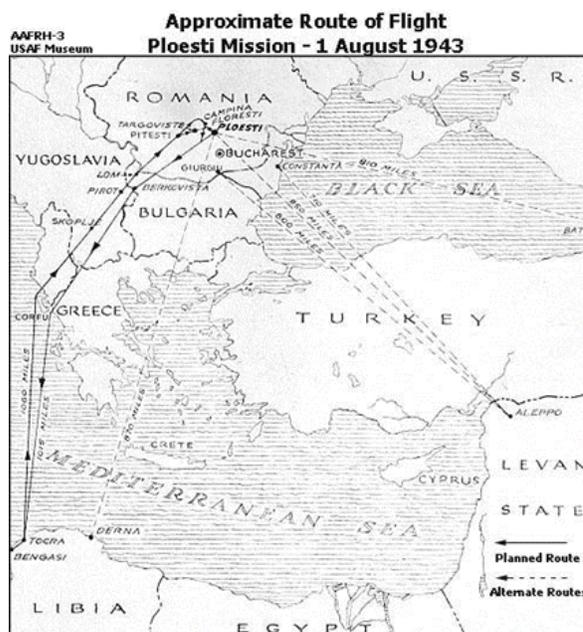
The Ploesti raid was conceived and agreed upon by **Prime Minister Winston Churchill** and **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt** at the Casablanca Conference in Morocco in January, 1943. The plan was to send 179 B-24 Liberators on a low-altitude (200 to 800 feet) bombing mission from American air fields in north Africa, to Ploesti, a round-trip of 2400 miles. The goal was to destroy the refineries, Germany’s largest single-source of oil, and cripple Hitler’s ability to continue the war.

On August 1, 1943, 179 B-24 Liberators took off from the American airfield in Benghazi, Libya.

The Germans had deciphered the American code and thus had advance knowledge of the planned raid. The German commanding general strengthened the defense system around the refineries and reinforced it with three fighter groups in addition to the local Rumanian and Bulgarian fighters, making it one of Europe’s strongest air defense systems. As the first two bombardment groups approached from the south and Kane, with the remaining two, approached from the north 20 minutes later. The Germans waited with their concealed anti-aircraft weapons and smoke generators. Their fighters were already in the air. The large, slow Liberators, flying at low altitude, were no match for this defensive network.



Colonel John Kane



### The Americans flew straight into German anti-aircraft fire.

In an interview years later, one airman recalled the experience as “terrifying” and reported that flames from an exploding storage tank on the ground shot “50 feet higher than our plane”.

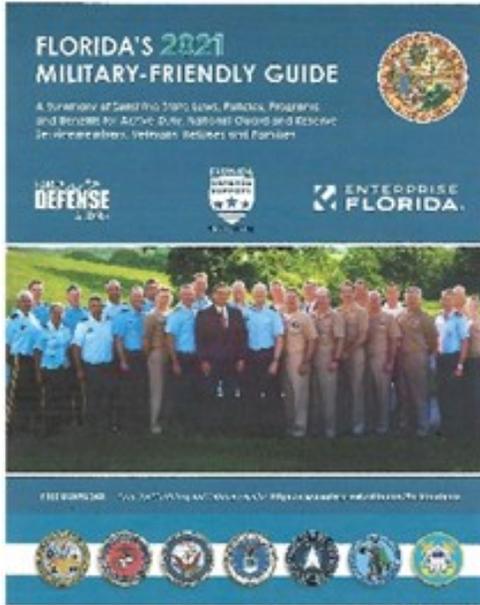
Into this conflagration, Kane led three bombardment groups. When Kane arrived at his designated target, he realized it had already been hit by one of the previous groups so he led his group further into the target area to find a new target.

His courageous leadership and flying skill enabled his and the trailing groups to inflict additional damage to the refineries while his aircraft sustained more than 20 direct hits from anti-aircraft weapons and the loss of one engine. Eight days later, on August 9, 1943, John “Killer” Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Approximately 90 Liberators returned to Benghazi; without exception all were badly damaged, some unreparable. In total, 660 men did not return – 440 were confirmed as killed in action, the remaining either captured or missing in action.

John Kane survived the war and retired from the Army Air Forces in 1954. In 1996, Col Kane was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

*Kris Cotariu Harper, EdD, is an Army wife and the daughter of two WWII Navy Veterans. She is an educator and trainer who often writes and speaks on values demonstrated by Medal of Honor recipients*



**The Florida Military Friendly Guide is online at 2021 Florida Military Friendly Guide.**

The **2021 Florida Military Friendly Guide** updates programs, policies and benefits Florida provides for servicemembers, their families, and military veterans.

“The Florida Military Friendly Guide reflects Florida’s consistent commitment to our military installations, servicemembers, their families and veterans,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “As the most military-friendly state in the nation, Florida has the back of the thousands of military and civilian families who live and work in our defense communities. We hope this guide connects our service members with the resources and support they need.”

The **2021 Florida Military Friendly Guide** is distributed in print to Florida’s 23 major military installations, representing each of the six services, more than 65,000 active duty Servicemembers and families, over 35,000 DOD civilian employees and families, and 1.45 million veterans. An online version is available.

Florida boasts the 2nd highest number of military retirees in the U.S., the 3rd largest number of veterans, and the 5th largest number of Servicemembers and DOD civilians. Florida’s military and defense industry contributes just under \$95 billion in economic impact and supports more than 914,227 jobs, the third largest economic sector in the state.



**Melissa Arndt , MSG, USA (Ret.)**

**Veterans Service Manager**

**Indian River County**

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

**marndt@ircgov.com**

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### LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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

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

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

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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.

March 2022

IN MEMORIUM

Staff Sergeant Joseph Lemman, USAF  
Berlin Air Lift Veteran

Alvin Joseph Lehman, Staff Sergeant, United States Air Force died in Vero Beach, Florida, at the age of 96 on March 10, 2022.



While serving in the USAF (1948-1952), Al played an integral role as a Crew Chief on the C-54 "Skymaster" during the Berlin Air Lift of 1948-1949.

They flew their supply loads from Lancaster, England to Tempelhof Airfield in Germany, delivering food, medicine and other essentials to the starving German people.



Berlin Airlift 1948-1949

German children welcome the USAF

A promotional poster for the Vero Beach Air Show 2022. The top half features three F-16 fighter jets flying in a V-formation against a blue sky with light clouds. Below the jets, the text "VERO BEACH AIR SHOW 2022" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, it says "FEATURING THE U.S. NAVY BLUE ANGELS APRIL 29th - MAY 1st AT THE VERO BEACH AIRPORT". The poster also lists sponsors: Piper (Freedom of Flight, Presenting Sponsor) and Northrop Grumman (Platinum Sponsor). It includes a QR code for buying tickets and the website "www.VeroAirShow.com". A person wearing headphones is seen from behind in the foreground, looking towards the sky. Logos for the U.S. flag and a charity logo are also present.

Al participated in over 350 of these humanitarian missions. He often spoke of anxious moments when the Russian fighter planes 'buzzed our planes', but they never fired a shot.

His youngest daughter, Michelle, was given a German scholarship from the "Luftbrücken-Dank Stiftung" (Berlin Air Lift Thank You) program and graduated from the University of Potsdam with a diploma in Music Education.

A military memorial service will be held on Veteran's Memorial Island in Vero Beach on April 19, 2022, at 1000 AM.

Submitted by Carlos Halcomb, Col, USAF, Rtd.

An advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. The background is a solid blue color. At the top, the MOAA logo is displayed, consisting of three vertical bars of increasing height followed by the text "MOAA INSURANCE PLANS". Below the logo, the slogan "Standing with you at every stage." is written in white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com" are listed in white. A small number "93569" is visible in the bottom right corner.

SAVE THE DATE  
**June 9-12  
2022**

**FUN in the SUN**  
45th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters

West Palm Beach Marriott

The Dinner Detective

Casino Party PLANNERS

**MOAA Florida Conference Registration is now open!**

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention is set for June 9th - 12th at the West Palm Beach Marriott. MOAA Members from around Florida will have representatives at the Convention and all MOAA Chapter Members and Guests are invited. The fun will include a Mystery Dinner Theater Dinner and a Casino Night Fundraiser for the MOAA Foundation, along with optional trips, outings, and adventures! Join us for a great time with old friends or to meet new friends!

For more information and to register, go to the Florida Council Website at:  
[MOAAFL.org](http://MOAAFL.org).

**Tales of the Bermuda Triangle**  
By Tad Woodhull, Captain USAF

One night, too late, alert aircraft, ended up at Eglin AFB, Florida. For whatever reason we would find out. Our KC-97 53316 (100th ARS) finally off to Kindley AFB, Bermuda once again all we knew was to refuel a B-47, as a VIP going somewhere.

Unfortunately, that night the weather was solid IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) the whole way with no chance for celestial and no loran (long range navigation) coverage. So, those of you who know DR (dead reckoning) navigation and an accurate winds aloft were all there was to work with.

At our ETA (exact time of arrival) we could not even reach Kindley AFB, Bermuda approach and, frankly, had a pretty big problem.

Help came as the overcast dissipated and I got a 3-star fix showing us 150 nautical miles off Bermuda and we got there for breakfast.

There is no way a KC-97 could go that fast. BERMUDA TRIANGLE?

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April 2022



**APRIL CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION**  
**IRC-MOAA Luncheon, Friday April 22, 2022**  
**Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM**

Our program for the April 22nd luncheon is devoted to honoring our past Chapter Presidents. Expected to attend are Bob Albrecht, Jim Rannazzisi, Scott Carson, Mike Weiss and Rip Weiler. You'll learn some things you never knew about these interesting people and hear some funny stories, too. Come to gain an appreciation of the history of the Chapter and an appreciation of how we became one of the most successful and respected chapters in Florida.

-----Tear Line -----

Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM  
 Friday April 15, 2022

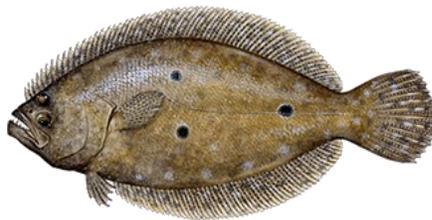
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU CHOICES AT \$22 PER PERSON:**

Sauteed Flounder w/ redskin potato and broccoli \_\_\_\_\_

Sliced Ham w/Rum Raisin sauce w/ redskin potato and broccoli \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Cobb Salad \_\_\_\_\_



Select your meal(s). Mail the check payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail it in by March 11. Bill Duffy collects the checks.

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



VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL  
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**RED, WHITE & BLUE**  
CONCERT

**Sunday, April 3 ~ 2:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, April 4 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Veterans: \$6**

**General Admission: \$15**

**Live Stream Option Available: \$5**

*Featuring*  
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and Jazz Bands



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