



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Spring 2023 (Apr-Jun)

How busy we are. Your chapter needs you to know and to become involved. Here is some recent news and some upcoming events you can join in on in the future as they come around!

Thoughts from the Chapter President:

It was a fantastic night. The Central Florida Army family celebration of the Army's 248th Birthday was a resounding success. As the Army's private organization in Central Florida, the Sunshine Chapter of AUSA was honored to bring together a team of community, industry, and government partners to celebrate at the Rosen Centre in Orlando.

During the Major General Francisco Espallat Memorial Award Ceremony, the chapter had the privilege of joining our local Army leaders to recognize Soldiers, Civilians, and Teams of the year from Army Contracting Command-Orlando, US Army Recruiting Company Orlando, Cross Functional Team Synthetic



Training Environment, and Program Executive Office Simulation Training and Instrumentation.

We were honored this year with many prestigious guests and a ballroom filled with our Army family. In his keynote remarks, our guest speaker—Major General Robert Collins, the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology, reflected on our current strategy environment and the role of training as essential to ensuring the Army's edge against potential threats. I thank everyone who made this event a great success, especially our Army Ball Committee.

For the theme of the ball, we look to our Army history upon which to draw lessons and insights into our future. This year is the 125th anniversary of the Battle of San Juan Hill in the Spanish American War. That battle provides insight and examples that are relevant today. It also brought to our national life two great Army leaders who would go forward to the highest levels of responsibility and service—Black Jack Pershing and Theodore Roosevelt.



The ball culminates a year of growth for the Sunshine Chapter. We established a monthly battle rhythm with networking socials to bring together public and private organizations that have a focus or interest in the success of our Army, its Soldiers, Cadets, Veterans, and families. We also tried new events to broaden the chapter outreach, including a trivia night and a Derby Party. We also responded to requests for direct support and assistance to leaders of our benefactor Army organizations to help in their challenges and join in their successes. Through these actions and events, we have expanded the chapter to fully embrace all aspects of the AUSA mission.

On to our 2024 fiscal year!

Things Happening Inside the Chapter:

Monthly Pre-PALT Socials

Our organizational battle rhythm has been picking up. Beginning in September, many visitors to PEO STRI have been enjoying mixing at our Pre-PALT networking social every **second Monday of the month**. Our friends at the Island Wing Company on Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard have done a fabulous job supporting these events. Our corporate members have been and are encouraged to sponsor these gatherings.

There are no Socials during 3 months: June (because of the Army Ball), October (because of AUSA national conference) and December (holidays)



Kentucky Derby Party



A Kentucky Derby Party was held on 6 MAY 23 at former Chapter President and current Chairman of the Board of Governors COL De Vorhees, Golf Clubhouse in Lake Mary. For many, it was the first time attending such an event. All the Kentucky Derby accoutrements were there, from the mint julep to the gravy lunchmeat with bread sandwiches and, of course, the Derby pies. There were skills contests and Derby trivia questions. Those who attended now know how many roses are on the Winner's blanket and what special song is associated with the Derby. There was even a fastener's competition and a popular vote for the Best Derby Dress contest. Our first annual Derby Party was a great success and those in attendance vowed to return next year better prepared.



AUSA Sunshine Chapter (...)

282 followers

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LAST CALL! Purchase AUSA Sunshine Chapter Derby Party Tickets... see more



General Membership Events



**SUNSHINE CHAPTER AUSA
SPC BRENDEN N. SALAZAR
MEMORIAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

SEPT 18, 2023 • 8:30 AM

WWW.AUSA.ORG/SUNSHINE-CHAPTER/EVENTS/GOLF
ROBERT BIGGERS • 407-607-4481 • RBIGGERS@CYBERNET.COM

SPC Salazar grew up in Chuluota, FL as a proud "military brat", was a dedicated son and brother, and a decorated Army Infantryman who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan in 2012. This tournament honors his memory and aids in our mission of supporting the future leaders of our community by funding our scholarship programs.

Sponsorship levels

- Tournament: \$5,000
- Goodie Bag: \$4,000
- Drink Cart: \$3,000
- Putting/Driving: \$3,000
- Par 3: \$3,000
- Platinum: \$2,000
- Gold: \$1,500
- Silver: \$750
- Bronze: \$300

SEE EVENT SITE FOR FULL DETAILS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Eagle Creek Golf Club



Scramble Tournament
Lunch provided

Player Fees
Single • \$150
Foursome • \$500

Includes
Lunch • Practice Balls • Goodie Bag

Super Tickets
+\$25 per Player
Adds

Closest to Pin • Longest Drive • Putting Contest

SEE EVENT SITE FOR FULL DETAILS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION



*****★★★*****

1st Annual SPC Brenden N. Salazar Memorial

GOLF
Tournament

*****★★★*****

18 Sept 23- 8:30 AM
Eagle Creek Golf Course- Orlando, FL
\$500/Foursome
\$150/ Single Golfer
Includes lunch, practice balls, goodie bag





Sponsorships Available

<https://charitygolftoday.com/event?e=5475&ce=4bac4e>

Scholarships and Awards

← AUSA Sunshine Chapt... :

[View as member](#)

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Was honored to award Cadet Cruz from EAST River HS, JROTC program. She earned the **AUSA Sunshine Chapter (Official) JROTC Leadership award**.



SFC (Ret) Ken Johnson led our Scholarship Program and Selection Board this year and after a rigorous selection process, three scholarships were awarded. He continues to present Leadership Awards at Army JROTC detachments across Central Florida. Kenny will be back for next year, always hoping to get more applicants and assistance. Keep on the look-out!

AUSA Sunshine Chapter (...)

282 followers
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Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Winners who were honored at our Monthly Social last night!

1st Place: Isabella Campos
2nd Place: Hunter Dillon (not pictured)
3rd Place: Olivia Litaker



Memorial Day and Last Roll Call Commemorations

From **Military.com** -- written by Blake Stilwell, who can be reached at blake.stilwell@military.com. He can also be found on Twitter @blakestilwell or on Facebook.

Traditions are important. They are a form of living history passed down from generation to generation. Even so far removed from Memorial Day's earnest beginnings as a way of honoring the scores of dead from the Civil War, we still recognize our honored dead by taking the time to visit and spruce up their final resting places.

The older tradition of Decoration Day led to the introduction of Memorial Day after the War Between the States. Decoration Day, the ad hoc annual Springtime clean-up of family cemeteries and the decoration of graves, occurred all across the country, but even earlier each year in the South as the temperatures are warmer and Spring arrives earlier. First pronounced as a regular event in the North by the leader of the Grand Army of the Republic, the primary Union Civil War veterans' association, it became a National event in the mid-20th Century.

Aside from a nationwide surge in parades, burger and beer sales and visits to veterans' cemeteries, there are certain traditions that happen every Memorial Day. Even if you aren't planting flags at a cemetery or you don't know anyone who fell in service to their country, there are still things you can learn, observe and even teach to others.

1. The Moment of Silence

Every Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time, whether you're at home, at a parade or in the middle of a speech, please take a moment to observe the National Moment of Remembrance. For just one full minute, Americans everywhere should pause to remember all the men and women who died in service to our country. The idea is to keep Memorial Day from becoming just another holiday, one that Americans use to get an extra day of swilling beer in the sun. Since 2000, Public Law 106-579 has asked that we shut our burger holes for 60 seconds and "pay tribute to

individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States and their families."

2. It's Not Veterans Day

As much as we enjoy the extra attention afforded to vets on Veterans Day, this is not the time for that sort of thing. Memorial Day is about honoring the fallen men and women who died in service to their country -- not just anyone. A lot of people will confuse the day, conflate the day or, worse, forget the day. Most veterans will not expect to be thanked for their service, but this especially true on Memorial Day. Instead of smiling and saying whatever it is we say when someone thanks you, vets can take the time to explain the meaning of Memorial Day to them like we're Linus explaining the true meaning of Christmas.

3. When to Raise and Lower the Flag

The rules for where and when the American flag is raised and lowered are different for Memorial Day. We may collectively remember to render proper salutes while the flag is being raised and lowered. We might even remember to raise the flag "briskly" and lower it slowly and ceremoniously. But if you're the emcee of a Memorial Day event, you should be sure to observe the proper timing for where Old Glory should be throughout the day. The Stars and Stripes should of course be raised briskly first thing in the morning. But on Memorial Day, the flag is raised only to half-staff. At noon, the flag should be raised to full-staff until it's taken down at sunset. Memorial Day is the only day that observes both positions on the flagpole. If you fly a flag from the porch of your house and can't lower it, simply attach a black mourning streamer to the top for when it's supposed to be lowered.

4. What Day Memorial Day Is On

Memorial Day started as a good idea from an organization made up of Union Civil War veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic. These veterans lobbied state and local governments across the former Union to recognize May 30 as a day of remembrance, originally known as "Decoration Day." They chose May 30 because no great battles happened on that day. Over the next 100 years, Decoration Day morphed into Memorial Day. By 1968, all of the Civil War vets had died, and Memorial Day belonged to the fallen veterans of all eras. Congress eventually

changed the observance to the last Monday in May as a way to give federal employees a set of standard three-day weekends -- and widen the observance of the day.

May 2023 OVAHCS Memorial Program Details

EVENT: OVAHCS "Last Roll Call Ceremony of Remembrance"
DATE: Wednesday, May 24, 2023
TIME: 1000-1200
LOCATION: Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park at Lake Nona
(auditorium reserved as backup)

Master of Ceremony: Emil Martoral Agosto, MHA Health Systems Specialist
Welcome Remarks: Timothy Cooke, Director, Orlando VA Medical Center
Second Welcome Remarks: Colonel DeLloyd Voorhees, Jr., President Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation

Presenting of Colors: VFW Goldenrod Color Guard (silent salute, folding of the flag, Taps)
National Anthem: Scheralda Brown-Small, LCSW, SW Service
Pledge of Allegiance: Jane Manry, RN
Invocation: Craig Daugherty, Chaplain
Musical Performance: Paul Reynolds, Chaplain Service musician (piano selection)
Introduction of Guest Speaker: Anthony (Tony) Ingram, LCSW, SW Assistant Chief
Guest Speaker: Commissioner Mike Scott, Orange County District 6
Spiritual Remarks: E. Darlene Smith, MDiv, RCC, Chaplain

Last Roll Call:
Courtney Franchio, MS, Health Systems Specialist
Sandra O'Callaghan, PA-C, Endocrinology Service
Josh Bowen, Congressman Scott's office
Colonel DeLloyd Voorhees, Jr., President Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation
Colonel Clay Edwards, Association of the United States Army, Sunshine Chapter
Donna Cooby-Rose, MDiv, Chaplain
Danielle John, MSW, Caregiver Support, Social Work
Akiea Whalen, Psychologist, Mental Health
Teresa Brown, LCSW, ARMOR Program Manager, Social Work
Patricia Arteta, PSA, CNH program, Social Work
Christen Suarez, LSW, Caregiver Support, Social Work
Jacqueline Brenner, PT, PMRS
Kathryn Davies, RN, Chief Nurse, Nursing Education
Jenny Mosley, SW Associate, Social Work
Mark "Ske" Jurkowski, MDiv, Chaplain
MaryLu Williams, Chief of Nutrition & Food Services
Gloria Gomez, LPT, Health & Wellness Coach, Liberty Clinic
Rachelle Flammio, LCSW, Supervisor, Social Work

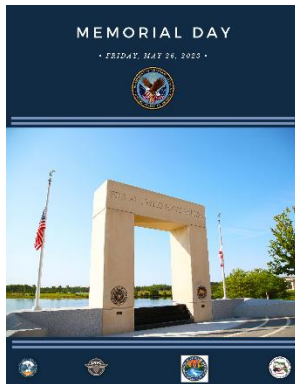
Benediction and Closing Remarks: Craig Daugherty, Chaplain

The Orlando VA Medical Center held a Last Roll Call ceremony for local veterans who have passed away in the recent past. COLs De Voorhees and Clay Edwards participated this year as name readers.

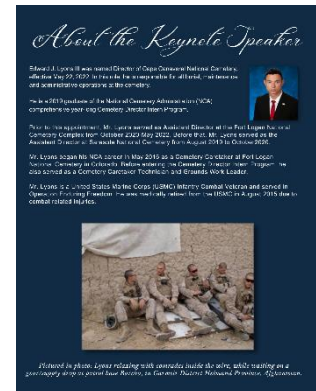
For those not familiar with the ceremony, it is the reading of the names of veterans this Medical Center supports (six counties - Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole & Volusia) who have died in the hospital, the CLC (assisted living facility), or any other location supported by this Medical Center.

There were 18 readers for the 952 names that were read- separated by Service. This list covered the 2 plus years that COVID locked down these kinds of activities. Each of us had 50+ names. As it was, Clay had a name many of us know – MSG Sam Richards. We both had been to see Sam in the hospital before he passed. Just wanted to let all know that we remembered our brother Sam! May he rest in peace.

The VA Med Center will be doing this again in November (date/time TBD). We should be able to get a representative from each of our Service-related associations to participate. Please put this on your list for November. As we get closer and a date determined, we'll be asking for your assistance.



Orlando, Fla. – The Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS) hosted a Memorial Day Ceremony, Friday, May 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in collaboration with, Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation



(CFVMPF). The event was held at Memorial Park, located at the Orlando VA Medical Center in Lake Nona, Orlando, Fla. The ceremony is to commemorate the nation's fallen service members who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Edward J. Lyons III, Director of the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Lyons is a United States Marine Corps (USMC) Infantry Combat Veteran and served in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Everyone is welcome to attend these ceremonies. In addition to our keynote speaker, community participants from the OVAHCS executive leaders, Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, the Sea Cadets, Lake Nona Veteran's Council, Orlando Veterans Advisory Board, Congressman Darren Soto's office, and others will be assisting with the facilitation of the ceremony.

"As we recognize Memorial Day, we pause to remember, honor, and express our gratitude to all Veterans who lost their lives in uniform," said OVAHCS Director, Mr. Timothy J. Cooke. "At the Orlando VA Healthcare System, we observe Memorial Day and reflect on the lives of the men and women whose sacrifices allow us to flourish as individuals and as a Nation."

Parking for such events is made available in the east and west parking garages, and in any available parking spots located in the south parking

lot near the emergency room. Attendees are asked to refrain from parking in the Community Living Center and Domiciliary parking lots. In addition, Golf cart shuttles will be operating to assist with transporting attendees to and from the ground floor of both the east and west parking garages.

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2023/05/26/day-of-reflection-orlando-va-pays-tribute-to-fallen-troops-ahead-of-memorial-day/>

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Established in October 2006, the Orlando VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) was designated a 1a facility (most complex) in 2021, with more than 5,660 employees and an annual budget of \$1.5B and serves more than 131,000 Veterans in Central Florida.

The Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona provides outpatient, inpatient and emergency services. Lake Nona's 65-acre medical campus encompasses 134 acute inpatient beds, providing complex Medical/Surgical/Mental Health specialty care, advanced diagnostic services, and a large multispecialty outpatient clinic as well as a 120-bed Community Living Center, two Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs/Domiciliaries (60-beds located at the Lake Nona Campus and 58-beds at the Lake Baldwin Campus). Outpatient services are provided at a Health Care Center in Viera, a Multispecialty Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Daytona Beach, and five Community-Based Outpatient Clinics located in Clermont, Kissimmee, Deltona, Palm Bay and Tavares.

More Remembering Veterans

On 24 May 1973, President Nixon held a White House Dinner for the returned Vietnam Prisoners of War, and on 23 May 2013, the President Nixon Foundation held a 40th Anniversary Reunion of the gathering at

the President Nixon Library in California. As 23 May 2023 was the 10th Anniversary of the Reunion, and with Memorial Day around the same week, the below link is a very moving 12:07 min video with excerpts of both events, but in particular the tribute paid to these Patriots 50 years ago!

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/LemllfcAY8A?sns=em>



Commemorative Partners,

Thank you for being a part of our milestone “Welcome Home – A Nation Honors our Vietnam Veterans and their Families!” Enjoy a recap overflowing with photos, ceremony and concert videos, special messages and many other tributes from this historic national event. Also, remember to join the Nation on Memorial Day, May 29 at 3 p.m. for a National Moment of Remembrance.

Sincerely,

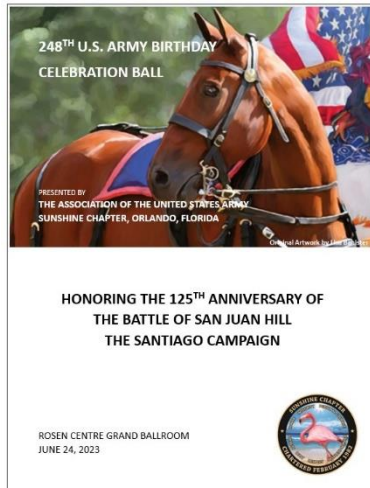
The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff

"Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"

www.vietnamwar50th.com

Engage with us online at <http://linktr.ee/VNWar50th>

The 248th Army Birthday Ball, 24 June, 2023



It was a great day to be a Soldier as we all wished a Happy Birthday to the US Army! Many distinguished guests, friends, ladies, and gentlemen join together to celebrate the 248th Birthday of the United States Army. Harry Buhl, the President of the Sunshine Chapter of the Association of the United States Army was our

Master of Ceremonies and regaled us as we celebrated another glorious day in Army history, the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of San Juan Hill, The Santiago Campaign.



projected rendition.

Regulars, Guardsmen, and Reservists Soldiers, Families, Army Civilians, Retirees, Veterans and Friends, we all alike toasted, and prayed, and talked. We ate

The Orlando Recruiting Company posted the Colors and Andrew Donnangelo of V2X led us in the singing of our national anthem. What a fabulous and powerfully



and fellowshiped, all the while remembering those who could not be with us, the POW/MIAs of all American wars. We saluted the Gold Star Families and recognized those within our midst.

COL Buhl told us about the daring charge made up of Regular and Volunteer units, cavalry and infantry, black and white, led by a future President and Medal of Honor awardee, at San Juan Heights, just outside Santiago, Cuba, 125 years ago this month. This charge represented an inflection point in American history, as we prepared to move into a 20th Century pretty much defined by the United States. After a scrumptious meal, we heard from our guest speaker, Major General Robert Collins, the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology. Then, we brought forth and cut the



Army Birthday cake, provided this year by L3 Harris. The VIPs who cut it included 93-year old retired Colonel Franklin Hungerford and a just

turned 22-year old PFC, as the Guest Speaker and the PEO STRI officiated.

In 2009, the Sunshine Chapter established two perpetual awards recognizing selfless actions, patriotism, and support to the Sunshine Chapter. These are the David G. Halloran Award for Best Corporate Support and the Earle L. Denton Award for outstanding individual



service to the Central Florida Army Family. Mrs. Carol Denton presented the Denton Award to Jan and Gail Drabczuk. Mr. David Halloran presented the Halloran Award to Cybernet.



After our awards were presented, the table decorations were identified to their winners, and the Silent Auction was closed down and high bidders announced. We recognized our gracious event



sponsors and those can be found listed at the Sunshine Chapter website at <https://www.ausa.org/chapters/sunshine-chapter>. We retired the Colors and said our Benediction, sang our Army Song, and recognized the Army Birthday Ball committee. We thank Trish Buhl and Jenna Tuck, as well as the Rosen Centre, for such a wondrous and enjoyable event.





Save the Date - The 249th Army Birthday Ball
Stand-by, June 2024

Your Executive Committee



The chapter is always appreciative of our community partners. Your membership and sponsorship of our events enable us to fulfill our mission. If you would like to sponsor, volunteer, or host any of our events, please contact me anytime. We can't do it without you.

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

Upcoming Deadlines

- 30 June: All chapter activity reports (CARs) due
- 30 June: Last day to register for Chapter Leader Development Training (CLDT)
- 1 July: Chapter annual plans due (email to Angelina at aflores@ausa.org)
- Mid-July: Chapter financial portal opens
- 25 August: Chapter financial statements due

<https://www.ausa.org/chapters/sunshine-chapter>

