



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Fall 2023 (Oct -Dec)

Things are busy, moving along for the sake of the US Army. You need to know and get involved. Here is some news and more upcoming events!

Things Happening Inside the Chapter:



Monthly Pre-PALT Socials

Dozens of 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. We thank and encourage our

corporate members who keep sponsoring these gatherings. We would love to have more interest from our corporate members in sponsoring our Socials and other events.



Veterans Day

We had one of our Chapter Vice-Presidents get real involved with speaking to the next generation about Service and Veterans. CSM (ret) Rob Fortenberry was the

guest speaker for the Orlando STEM Charter 7th Grade Middle School Class on 10 November. He says:

“This year I decided to take a different approach to the traditional guest speaker roles I have taken since retiring from the U.S. Army. The message was a little less complicated and the audience was certainly much younger than the typical



Veteran population from the previous podium speeches I have presented. In the true spirit of the “Soldier for Life” narrative of telling your story, I was invited to guest speak about Veterans Day to a group of students from the most diverse school in Orange County, Orlando. The Orlando Science Charter Middle School for STEM educates some

of the brightest and most insightful young people I have ever had the pleasure of speaking with. The topic was simple “What does Veterans Day mean to me and the importance of the day for Americans.” I leveraged the topic of Veterans Day

and an approachable mentality to engage in a dialog with the students so that they understand that Veterans are ordinary Americans with an extraordinary desire to be part of something bigger than themselves. We spend much of our time together answering questions and



breaking stereotypes and barriers to build an appreciation for our Veteran's service. The students and I both left the school cafeteria that day with a better appreciation for the significance of Veterans Day and that our actions every day as Americans to make our country a better place is the thanks that all Veterans really appreciate.”

Annual National AUSA Meeting

Of course, like every year, our leadership and other interested members participated in one of the annual highlights, the AUSA national meeting in Washington DC. AUSA held this year’s meeting 9-11 October. Your Sunshine Chapter, joined by the National Training and Simulation Association, hosted a

hospitality suite for all Central Florida members and partners, and many invited guests. The suite in the Marriot Marquis -adjacent to the convention center is always convenient and busy.

Veterans Day

We have numerous events to recognize veterans of all services around the three or four counties of our chapter. Sunshine chapter members participated throughout the region to include parades in Orlando, Sanford, and other smaller municipalities, as well as in the Veterans Administration events at the Lake Nona VA Center and the National Cemeteries at Bushnell and Cape Canaveral.

Former Chapter President, COL (ret) De Voorhees was the Master of Ceremonies for the joint Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS) and the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation (CFVMPF) Veterans Day Ceremony held at the OVAHCS campus on November 9, 2023, at 10:00am. Major General Douglas S. Metcalf, USAF, Retired was the Keynote Speaker. Attending the ceremony was Mr. Timothy J. Cooke, Director/CEO of the OVAHCS; Ms. Terri Finger, Senior Military Specialist, Office of U.S. Senator Marco

About the Keynote Speaker

General Metcalf retired as the Mobilization Assistant for Commander, the Department of Defense, Oregon National Guard.

He was commissioned through the ROTC program at the University of Oklahoma in 1986.

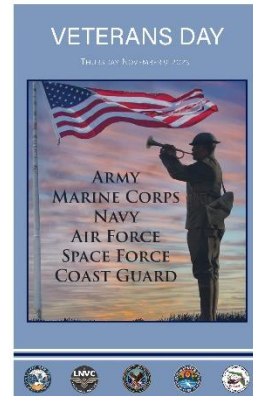
The 36-year career began as an Air Force Flightcrew Officer with the 48th Tactical Operations Squadron at Elmendorf and Chasing A5, Vietnam (A5C198), awards, and tactical support, logistics, engineering, and program management assignments.



Under the command of the 48th Tactical Operations Squadron, he was president of the Association of Commanders, a Veterans Affairs awarding, formalized a contract regulation for regulatory expertise of strategic support to be by corporate and military assignments.

He served several years as the Vice President of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, working with the general public and the local business community.

He also served three terms as the District City Commissioner in Winter Park, six years as a Board member of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, and a past president of the National Veterans Association. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation.



Order of Events

CALL TO ASSEMBLY	Captain George Gorman #1, USA, Ret. (Retired, OVAHCS)	REMARKS	John Bowes 2nd Deputy District Director for Assistance Congressman Darren Soto, FL-9.
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS	1st Lt. James Lee Galloway Corp Orlando VA Healthcare System	REMARKS	James P. Kubi Training Officer Director for Assistance Congressman Maxwell Frost, FL-10.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Commander Tom Lane, USAF, Ret.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Douglas S. Metcalf Major General USAF, Retired
NATIONAL ANTHAM	William R. Foster	MUSICAL PERFORMANCE	2nd Lt. Ryan S. Dyer 2nd Lt. Ryan S. Dyer
INVOCATION	Clayton J. Dyer Orlando VA Healthcare System	REMARKS	Clayton J. Dyer Orlando VA Healthcare System
WELCOME REMARKS	Timothy J. Cooke Director/CEO of the OVAHCS	DISMISSAL	Colonel Douglas S. Metcalf, USAF, Ret. President, OVAHCS
REMARKS	Terri Finger Senior Military Specialist Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio	PLACEMENT OF THE CEREMONIAL WREATH	Orlando VA Healthcare System Orlando VA Healthcare System

Rubio; Mr. Barry Cotton, Senior Military Specialist, Office of U.S. Senator Rick Scott; Mr. Josh Bowes, Military and Veteran Liaison for Congressman Darren Soto (FL-9); and Ms. Sarah Elbadri, Deputy District Director for Congressman Maxwell Frost (FL-10). Other guests included veterans from the OVAHCS Assisted Living Facility, the OVAHCS Veterans

Homeless Facility, OVAHCS Staff, CFVMPF Board members, and veterans from the Lake Nona Veterans Association. COL Voorhees laid a wreath after the ceremony at the Memorial Arch. The Foundation recently added new plaques to the wall. There were approximately 300 in attendance in total. As always, everyone is welcome to attend. "This momentous occasion not only pays tribute to the heroic

contributions of Veterans but also underscores the OVAHCS unwavering commitment to ensuring their well-being,” said OVAHCS Director/CEO, Timothy J. Cooke. Look for event parking in the east and west parking garages, and in any available parking spots located in the south parking lot near the emergency room. The VA asks attendees 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.

Your AUSA Sunshine Chapter is proud to announce our partnership with the UCF Office of Military and Veteran Student Success for A Veterans' Day College Football Tailgate, November 11 from 12:30 -2:30 at the Fairwinds Alumni Center on UCF Campus. And the Veterans' Day Weekend events continue Monday, November 13 with our monthly Army social sponsored by AVT Simulation, 5:30 at Island Wing Company followed by our Annual Trivia Night sponsored by General Dynamics Mission Systems at the same location, starting after the social at 6:30. Join us for this trifecta of Army esprit de corps!

50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War

This year continues the commemoration of the Vietnam War, building to the climax on 29 March 2024. The CFVMPF, OVAHCS and Orange County are planning a Vietnam Veteran's Day Ceremony on 29 March 2024 at the VA Lake Nona Complex and the CFVMPF park. The ceremony will be at 10:00am.

This year the mayor will read a Proclamation, Mr. Cooke, the VA Director, will speak followed by a Keynote Speaker. COL De Voorhees, the President for the Central Florida Vietnam Memorial Foundation will thank the dignitaries and their representatives.

Scholarships

As a reminder, Scholarship applications will be due in March of next year. SFC (Ret) Ken Johnson will be leading our Scholarship Program in the 2024 Operational year. He aspires to present three significant scholarships this year. He will be in touch. Keep on the look-out!
<https://www.ausa.org/sunshine-chapter/blog/sunshine-chapter-2024-educational-scholarship-program>

Look for a new Vice President of Scholarships after announcement of this year's awards. Ken is tremendously busy but working hard to make us more successful than ever before. We thank him for his hard work.

Save the Date - The 249th Army Birthday Ball, 15 June 2024, at Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World
<https://www.ausasunshinearmyball.com/>

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 cannot do it without you.

<https://www.facebook.com/AUSASunshine/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ausa-sunshine-chapter-official>

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



NAME	TITLE
COL (RET) Harry Buhl	Chapter President
COL (RET) Kevin Vizzani	Executive Vice President
CSM (RET) Rob Fontenberry	Senior Enlisted Advisor
Emily Banister	Secretary
LTC (RET) Steve Kennedy	Treasurer
Amanda Stewart	Vice President Programs
COL (RET) DelLoyd Voorhees	Chairman Board of Governors
Debi Dawson	Vice President Awards
COL (RET) Clay Edwards	Vice President Historian
COL (RET) Brian Walsh	Vice President Membership
Robert Biggers	Vice President Golf
LTC (RET) Dylan Morello	Vice President Operations
Ben Dills	Vice President Community Outreach
Trish Buhl, Jenna Tuck	Army Birthday Ball Chair
	Chapter CARs