



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2023 (Jan-Mar)

Things are busy, moving along again. 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 Vice President:

As we are transitioned to the post Covid world, we are getting our old and new battle rhythm down. Annually, we will do a Derby party in May, Army Ball in June, Golf Tourney in September, Flamingo Party in December, GMMs quarterly and monthly pre- PALT Socials on Monday Island Wings with a few other events sprinkled in.

This past January and March, we helped out PEO STRI providing industry leaders, mainly from the EXCOM to provide a reverse industry Day for all PEO STRI staff in the Central Florida Tech Grove. This gave the opportunity for Government folks to ask questions of industry and Industry gave the brutal facts to their thoughts on the acquisition process. Both panels were moderated by the Sunshine Chapter President, Harry Buhl, with the PEO herself, SES Karen Saunders, assisting.



Lastly, the Executive Committee is looking for volunteers. Army Ball, Army Golf, monthly Socials and events all take planning and coordination. If you would like to participate in one planning meeting a month and get the networking and

interaction with the Army community in Central Florida, contact Kevin Vizzarri at kvizzarri@avtsim.com.

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)



General Membership Meetings

The chapter hosted its General Membership Meeting on 28 February at the DoubleTree Hotel on the West side of the University of Central Florida Campus. We were privileged to have our own PEO STRI, Ms. Karen Saunders as the special guest speaker.



Scholarships and Awards

On 29 March, Scholarship Chairman, Kenny Johnson, presented AUSA awards to JROTC Cadets at Hagerty High School outside Oviedo.

SFC (Ret) Ken Johnson led our Scholarship Program and Selection Board this year and after a rigorous selection process, three scholarships were awarded. Kenny will be back for next year, always hoping to get more applicants and assistance. Keep on the look-out!

50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration

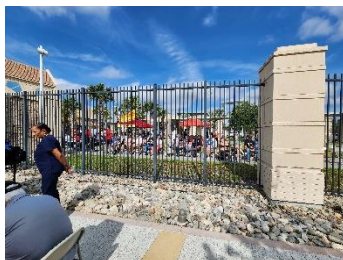
29 March represents the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War for active US involvement, and was celebrated in fine manner in Orlando. The Sunshine Chapter's own Board of Governors Member and former President COL (ret) De Voorhees, Jr. is the President of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation was the Master of Ceremonies and host for a huge gathering of Veterans, many from the Vietnam War era. Awards were presented, the Orange County mayor, Mr. Jerry Demings made a Proclamation, and a hearty welcome home was given to all VN veterans.

In February, AGG Restoration Services of Central Florida sent some before and after pictures of work they have done at other sites that have bronze plaques and medallions like our Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park. They gave a quote to redo our bronze. They were given the go-ahead to get it ready before the 50th Commemoration Ceremony of the end of the Vietnam War. Berman Corporation finished the work on removing the mulch; installing a barrier material; and placing rocks along the sidewalk.



At 1930 hours, 8 March, the U.S. Army Field Band and Chorus performed at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center in the Steinmetz Hall. Admission was free.

On 29 March, from 10:30 - 11:30am, the 50th Commemoration Ceremony of the end of the Vietnam War was held, including a pinning Ceremony for



veterans of that era. Living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive the Vietnam War lapel pin. The



pinning Ceremony took place at the Memorial Park. The Ceremony was a joint effort between the VA Med Center, the Orange County Mayor's Veterans Advisory Committee, and the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Foundation. Mr. Cooke, the VA Med Center Director, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, and COL De Voorhees made remarks.



The Vietnam moving wall was on display in the lobby of the Med Center. The author has his 50+ year old POW/MIA bracelet, and its namesake is memorialized on the Wall. Bill



Vose volunteered to bring his restored World War II Jeep and trailer.

Veterans



A member visited the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in St. Avold, France. We honor Americans who fought and died for their country all over the world. What a beautiful spot maintained by the American Battle Monuments



Commission, currently celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Other members will be visiting other overseas cemeteries, such as at the Normandy beaches this year.





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

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

Adults
Closed to Pin • Limited Drive • Putting Contest

SEE EVENT SITE FOR FULL DETAILS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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



***Save the Date* - The 248th Army Birthday Ball, 24 June, 2023**

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.

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

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Association of the US Army Sunshine Chapter

