

# Manatee County Veterans Council

- Our Officers and Committee Chairs
- Primary Purpose
- Our High Value Team (Spoke & Hub Operation)
- Major Project, Events and Goals





# MCVVC OFFICERS

**Chairman:** Carl Hunsinger, (Elected)

**Vice Chairman:** Richard Blunt (Elected)

**Treasurer:** Margaret Smelser (Elected)

**Secretary:** Lance Biddle (Elected)

**Chaplain:** Pat Stiles (Appointed)

**County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO):** Lee Washington (Advisor)

**Manatee County Flag & Patriotism Program Chairman:** Carlos Moreiera  
(Appointed)

**Community Safety & Security:** MCSO, Lt. Cunningham (Advisor)

**Veterans Court:** Malissa Bomar (Advisor)

**Veterans Administration:** Steven Garcia (Advisor)

# Manatee County Veterans Council

The Manatee County Veterans Council stood up in 1985. We are a not-for-profit 501c (19) Veteran Organization made up of all volunteers serving approximately 40,000 Veterans and their families as their advocate. While not all inclusive, our membership includes the local American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Veterans (AMVETS), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Desoto Marine Corps League, Goodwill Manasota, Turning Points, Merchant Marines, Multiple Auxiliaries, American Legion Riders, American Legion Sons, University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee (USFSM), State College of Florida Veterans Association, Manasota Elks, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Jewish Family and Children's Services and the list goes on... Perhaps if you qualify, you might consider joining our team as we can make a difference together.

We help articulate and champion our Veterans' needs with our government officials at all levels, Veteran Organizations, Veteran friendly businesses and provide an efficient direct benefits referral process. We even connect with our youth through our Flag and Patriotism Program.

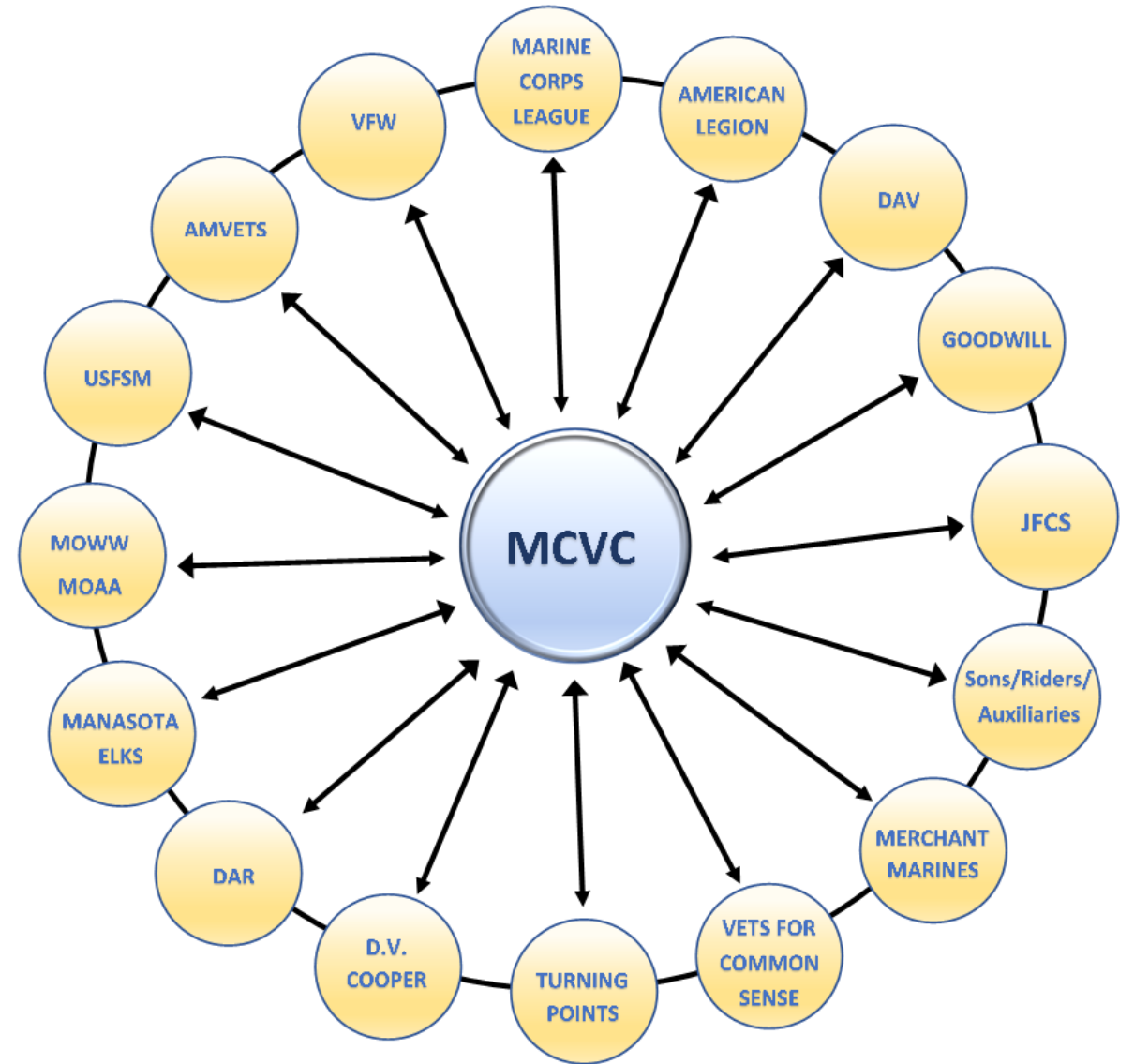
We have discovered that many members of our community to include businesses and non-veteran 501c3 organizations are not fully aware of the highly professional workforce standards our Veterans can offer after serving in the military. We are not just advocates for Veterans; We also advocate for their families and all youth--Veteran related or not. We are a total community focused operation that connects the community with Veterans and their immediate families. We do not engage in political campaign business but we do promote exercising the right to vote, volunteering for large scale events like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, Manasota Military Ball, 9/11 Remembrances, Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Awards Program and assisting our Council members and their organizations.

Bottom line; we connect local Veteran support organizations, government and businesses with each other through a spoke and hub operation permitting a much better, efficient and effective advocacy process.

# Manatee County Veterans Council Community Spoke and Hub

## Official Advisors & Representatives

- Manatee County Veterans Services
- Veterans Administration
- Veterans Court
- Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- Congressman Vern Buchanan's Office
- Florida State Legislators



# Some of What We Do...

- **Daily advocacy for our Veterans and their families without border restrictions**
- **Connect the total community with our Veterans and their immediate families**
- **Host an annual formal Manasota Military Ball for Veterans, Veteran families and Community Friends**
- **Host annual awards program for Veterans, Veteran Service Auxiliary (Sons, Ladies, Riders) and a non-Veteran business, individual or other type non-Veteran organization**
- **Host and produce the Veteran Memorial Day events for Manatee County**
- **Sponsor, organize and produce the Veterans Day Parade in Palmetto for Manatee County**
- **Host the Manatee County Flag and American Patriotism Program**
- **Provide Veteran related Legislative Updates with Federal, State and County government**
- **Maintain an open door coordination pathway with our Veteran Service Officers, supporting organizations and businesses**
- **Outreach Program with Veteran Organizations, Law Enforcement, Educators, community leaders and businesses**
- **Manage and coordinate events for the Military Veterans Monument Park (located behind Manatee Memorial Hospital)**
- **Conduct monthly Veteran Council Meetings with Spoke and Hub updates**
- **Attend all Veteran related meetings in Manatee County to include the monthly Sarasota County Veterans Commission meeting and the Goodwill Manasota Veterans Task Force**

# Manatee County Veterans Council Summary

- We are a 100% All Volunteer Organization mostly made up of experienced Veterans of all former military rank, skills and wars; We also have a huge support base from our community leadership
- We have a well developed website, [MY-MCVC.ORG](http://MY-MCVC.ORG) that grows with the needs and recommendations from our Veteran community
- Jobs: Coordinate and educate our Veterans and potential employers
- Outreach: Connecting the community of Veteran organizations, VA, local government, academic institutions and local businesses
- Proactive thinking and action to eliminate Veteran homelessness