



P.O. BOX 953663  
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# Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida

Newsletter

July - September 2022

## August 12, 2022 DVCF Retreat Orlando Marriott Lake Mary



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Pictures by Carlton Cartwright

## Free cruise to the Bahamas for teachers, first responders, military

The new Jimmy Buffett-owned cruise line Margaritaville at Sea sails out of the Port of Palm Beach. Margaritaville at Sea cruise line's first ship, The Paradise, launched in May. The cruise line is offering a free cruise to the Bahamas for all active and veteran military, first responders, law enforcement and educators. The "Heroes Sail Free" offer involves a three-day, two-night cruise to Grand Bahama Island to thank them for their "dedication to serving our communities at home and abroad." The cruise covers up to two qualified members per stateroom. Free ocean view upgrades are also available through Oct. 4. Taxes, fees and gratuities, however, are not included. You must have a verified member ID through the GovX ID platform at GovX.com, and some blackout dates do apply, according to the cruise line's website. The sailing period ranges from now through Dec. 29, 2023. Each qualified member gets one free sailing per year. Since the offer was announced last week, the cruise line has experienced significant call volume for reservations, the website reported, and they ask for patience as they work through all the booking inquiries. Margaritaville at Sea launched its first cruise ship, The Paradise, in May in a partnership with the owners of the former Bahamas Cruise Paradise Line and Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. It sails twice a week from the Port of Palm Beach.

To learn more see [margaritavilleatsea.com/offers/heroessailfree](http://margaritavilleatsea.com/offers/heroessailfree).

Tampa Bay Times

By Sharon Kennedy Wynne - Times Staff

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## Dr. Ogilvie becomes a mentor in Veterans Treatment Court

DVCF Past President, Dr. Vic Ogilvie became a Mentor in the Veterans Treatment Court in Seminole County, Florida. In Veterans' courts, those who have been convicted of certain non-violent offenses are offered a court supervised program of treatment rather than punishment. Upon successful completion of the program, their conviction is expunged from their record.

Vic is a retired US Air Force Colonel and a retired VA Clinical Psychologist. During his final USAF assignment, he was the Air Force Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for South Florida and an advisor to the Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard. As a VA Psychologist he specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder among combat veterans. Vic holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from U.C.L.A.

Politically, he has served as a precinct captain in Seminole County - walking precincts, making phone calls, watching polling places on election day and registering new voters. He is a past Chair of the Seminole County DEC, past President of the Democratic Veterans' Caucus of Florida, and past First Vice President of the Central Florida Democratic Club. Gov. Lawton Chiles appointed him to the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs where he served four years. He also served on Sen. Bob Graham's Service Academy Review Board for 13 years and was a delegate to 2004 & 2008 Democratic National Conventions.



## Awards for Beverly and Michael Ledbetter

Beverly Ledbetter recently received the American Federation of Teachers Living Legacy Award for her 40 plus years of service to the education profession.

Michael Ledbetter who is a US Army Reserves veteran received the Pasco County NAACP Community Service Award.

By Beverly Ledbetter



## The Million Veteran Program

Why are some Veterans more at risk for heart disease or depression? Why do treatments work for some but not others?

VA's Million Veteran Program is using genetic, health, and lifestyle data collected from over 875,000 Veterans to support researchers' quest for answers. You can help by joining today.

Thanks to our participants, MVP is helping to advance research that is important to Veterans, including:

Predicting the risk of cancer.

Understanding complications of diabetes

Managing mental illnesses like PTSD and depression

Preventing cardiovascular disease

The future of medicine is in your genes

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a national research program to learn how genes, lifestyle, and military exposures affect health and illness. Since launching in 2011, over 875,000 Veterans have joined MVP, making it one of the world's largest programs on genetics and health.

Making a significant impact on health research

MVP researchers use genetic, health, lifestyle, and military background information to understand how genes affect health and illness. Understanding differences in our genes can help explain why some people get diseases and respond to certain treatments while others don't. This can also help health care providers offer better preventative care and treatments of illnesses and disease. Individual genetic information is not currently returned to our MVP partners. However, Veterans, families, and their providers can use findings from MVP to make important health care decisions. Thanks to our Veteran partners, MVP is on the cutting-edge of genetic research. Read more about MVP's scientific discoveries today.

Women Veterans in research

Historically, women have been underrepresented in biological and medical research. This makes it difficult to ensure new treatments, screenings and other medical breakthroughs work just as well for women as they do for men. VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) is working to change that. Women make up about 9% of more than 875,000 MVP enrollees. By enrolling in MVP, you help ensure women aren't left out of medical research that could potentially improve or save the lives of fellow women Veterans.

To learn more and sign up, visit [mvp.va.gov](http://mvp.va.gov) or call 866-441-6075 to schedule an appointment (Monday - Friday; 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET).

From all of us at MVP, we thank you for your participation and support of VA research.

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