



### President's Message

This organization has two main focuses (foci?) - the enjoyment of its members and service to the community. The above photos illustrate both of those as we enter the summer of 2023.

We met at Lake Seminole Park on Thursday, May 11 for the first MVA picnic. More than 55 members and guests enjoyed a great day in the Florida sunshine - lots of food, fun, contests and fellowship. Wendy Hugar is doing a great job as our new VP of Member Events by bringing in new energy and ideas for member enjoyment.

On May 17, we heard from three community organizations (Ayakoo Watkins - Food Bank serving the Largo Community, Linda Frease - Literacy Council of St. Petersburg and Jealixson Jean-Simon - Salvation Army) and presented a \$2,000 donation to the Literacy Council. Dr. Gloria Hill is doing an excellent job of recreating our community outreach.

A very short while ago, this organization was in a state of flux. During the pandemic, the Minnreg Hall had become an albatross around our necks. No one was booking events, and the aging structure was in dire need of substantial work. The board debated for months and finally decided to put the building on the market. This was not an easy decision to reach as the building was the focal point of the Minnreg organization for many decades. But the board decided to move forward not knowing what the future would hold absent this very important symbol.

At the same time, the Minnregs and the Honeywell Retirees Club (HRC) began discussions about merging the two organizations since the number of active Minnreg members had shrunk to fewer than 50.

The building sold after several false alarms, and the two organizations eventually merged. And today, we stand on the work that got us to this point in our history. Today, we are 158 strong (paid members) and have almost 500 in the database who receive our newsletters and want to stay connected. We have a new location just across the street from the old one and continue to meet every month for socials and luncheons.

Today's MVA is an organization making a difference in the lives of its members and in the Tampa Bay community. Let's all celebrate that.





# Member Events 2023



Beautiful weather, bountiful food and fun fellowship. It was our first MVA picnic and we enjoyed a great Florida spring day, more than enough picnic food, and a day filled with fun activities. Over 50 members and guests met at Lake Seminole Park in Seminole at 11 am on Thursday, May 11. The event was such a great success that we are planning another picnic sometime in the fall. Now if we can just find a way to disinvite the flies...



The afternoon was filled with folks just enjoying the day, a series of cornhole games, an egg race for dollar bills, and old-fashioned horse shoes.



*Teri and Michael Godfrey relax and take in all the activities.*



*Al Shields and Tom Conner race to the finish line in the egg race.*



*Al Shields, Deb Dupper, Brian, Bea Conner and Wendy Hugar get ready for some serious cornhole.*





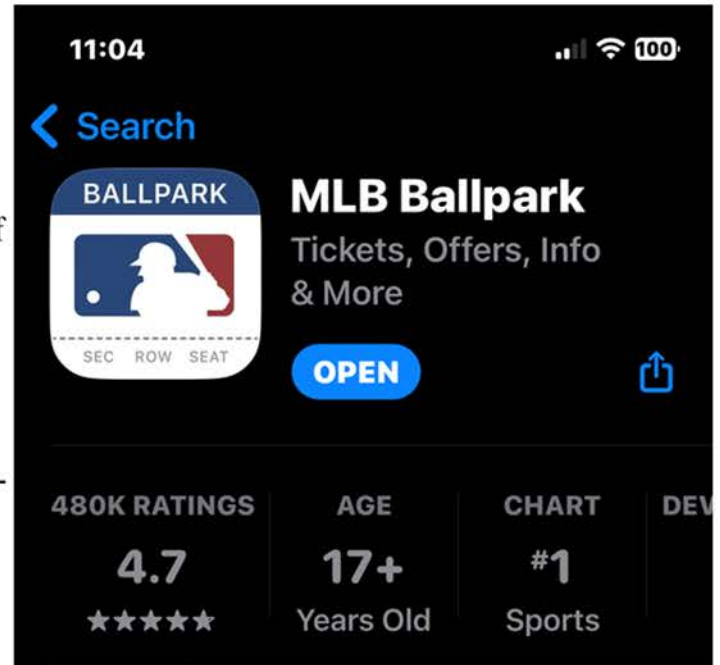
# Member Events 2023



The blazing hot Tampa Bay Rays will take on the Miami Marlins on Thursday, July 26 at 12:10 pm at the Trop in St. Petersburg. And MVA will be there in numbers to cheer them on.

Those attending will receive a lower bowl seat and a Rays baseball cap. The event sold out early, but we have a standby list on the website for those who still want to go in the event of a cancellation.

For those who are registered to go, we will be distributing the electronic tickets at our June luncheon. You MUST download the MLB Ballpark app to your smart phone to receive your ticket. No more paper tickets and Tropicana Field is now cashless as well. The MLB Ballpark app is your gateway to all aspects of the game, including your admission to the Trop. Please make sure you download the correct app - pictured here ----->



Your MVA game ticket gets you into the game, but you are on your own for parking and concessions at the game.

Gerry Sturm, our sports coordinator, will be on hand at the meeting to explain the process and answer any of your questions.

Two friends in their 90s were baseball fans their entire lives. Now one is near death and his friend asks him to let him know if there is baseball in heaven. A few days after his death, he appears to his friend in a dream. "I have good news and bad news," he says. "Yes, there is baseball in heaven and the games are great. The bad news is you are pitching next Wednesday!"







# MVA in the Community 2023



Vice President of Community Service, Dr. Gloria Hill, SPLC President, Linda Frease, MVA President, Thom Dupper pose with the "big check."

We were proud to award the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg a check for \$2,000 at the May luncheon. The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg's vision is an educated community of lifelong learners that is well-prepared to meet the challenges of the economy and society. Without the ability to effectively use the written and digital information in the world around them, individuals are unable to help themselves, their families, their friends and their colleagues. We believe that the ability to read is an essential element of an enriched and fulfilling life.



**The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg**

Teaching Adults to Read,  
Changing Lives Forever.



We heard a presentation from Ayakoo Watkins, CEO of Kingdom Works, a social service agency serving the underserved areas of central Pinellas County. The agency provides food relief, job counseling, housing services and more.

Ayakoo Watkins, Director of Kingdom Works.



April Lott heads up an organization that serves some of the most at-risk people in the Tampa Bay area. Her agency impacts the lives of over 21,000 people per year. Their website states, "Since 1982 we've been caring for the most vulnerable populations in Tampa Bay. By integrating our services, we are able to wrap our clients in the care they need and put an end to the cycle of trauma."



April Lott, President & CEO, Directions for Living



**DOING THE MOST GOOD**

Salvation Army's Volunteer Manager, Jealixson Jean-Simon, presented a whole host of volunteer opportunities at the local Salvation Army. Jealixson reported that of the 18,000 plus volunteer hours spent at the agency in 2022, over 43,000 people were served, 2500 meals were prepared and served, 13,000 grocery orders provided, 12,000 secured housing, 11,000 toys distributed and much more. Several MVA members have served as Salvation Army volunteers over the years, especially over the Christmas holidays with the bell-ringing. This is a great organization that deserves our support.

April will be our featured speaker at our June luncheon meeting on June 21. She will be reporting on an epidemic that is sweeping our society - youth suicide. Today's environment of social media and cyber-bullying has driven many young people into deep depression. Directions for Living works closely with several law enforcement agencies to intervene when possible and provide the help these young people so desperately need.

April's message is an important one for all of us. She will help us understand and recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to effectively deal with them.





# First Wednesday Social May 3, 2023



It was a great almost Cinco de Mayo celebration at Fat Cat Tavern for 71 Minnreg members. The venue is a great place to let your hair down and catch up with your HI friends - and enjoy some great menu items!



*Donna & Jim Hansen*



*Sherry, Danielle & Ron Rasmussen*



*Richard & Mary Reffelt*



*Larry & Masako Shannon*



*Sandy & Sam Janofsky*



*Bonnie Williams, Gloria Whitfield*



*Betty Held, Shirley Bowers*



*Shirley & John Bowers*



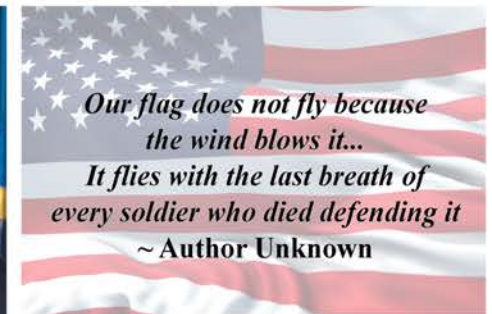
*Bea & Tom Conner*



*Marilyn Ruga, Pat Keegan*



*Bob & Fran Kay*



*Our flag does not fly because  
the wind blows it...  
It flies with the last breath of  
every soldier who died defending it  
~ Author Unknown*





# First Wednesday Social May 3, 2023



*Al Shields leads a table session*



*John Schiffgen, Jo Ketring*



*Natie & Billy Adkins*



*Gayle Smith, John Voissem*



*Bob Dalton*



*Jean Miller*



*Carol Bailey*



*Bob Lovejoy*



*Al Shields*



*Marilyn Urbanski*



*Brian Martinez*



*Gloria Whitfield*



*Darrel Schreiber*



*Vivian O'Dell*



*Bonnie Williams*



*Steve Simmons*



*Loni Wellington*



*Clive Bailey*



*Jim McCormick*



*Richard Malzahn*





# First Wednesday Social May 3, 2023



Mark Barlow



Margaret Simmons



Jim Acosta



Teri Godfrey



Michael Godfrey



Jack Freeman



Jeff Ring



Larry Trefz



Jerry Dangler



Al Parisi



Howard Howe





# In Memoriam

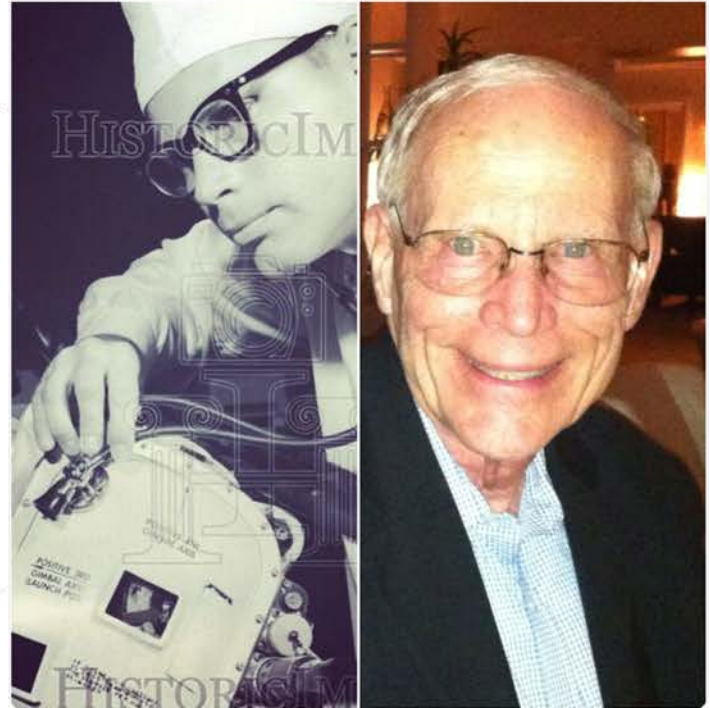
The greatest part about being part of this wonderful organization is all the quality human beings you meet as a result. In many cases, we are able to re-visit the days that most of us remember at the "old" Honeywell.

The worst part about being part of this wonderful organization is having to bid farewell to those same people. Such is the case with the passing of Ron Rasmussen.

Ron was an integral part of this organization and a critical link to our activities in the community.

He died from a rare and aggressive form of angiosarcoma. His son, Jeremy, posted this moving tribute to his dad and we share it here.

FYI according to the Mayo Clinic "Angiosarcoma is cancer that forms in the lining of blood vessels and lymph vessels. It often affects the skin and may appear as a bruise-like lesion that grows over time.



I wanted to tell you a little about my dad, [Ronald Rasmussen](#). You always hear about someone being as smart as a "rocket scientist." Well, he actually was one. As a Chief Engineering Fellow at [Honeywell Aerospace](#), he worked on the Atlas, Centaur, and Titan rocket programs. We used to go over to Cape Canaveral to see launches while he was in the blockhouse control center. His specialty was ring laser gyro navigation systems. On at least one occasion, he received a commendation for determining a serious issue and providing a solution that allowed the mission to complete successfully. Beyond that, he was a relentless volunteer with [The Salvation Army](#), [United Way](#), [Boy Scouts of America](#), [Fred E Marquis Pinellas Trail](#), [Forward Pinellas](#) Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and many other organizations.

Dad passed away last night from a rare and fast-spreading form of angiosarcoma, but not before he "held court" at home with all of our family from out of town -- talking, singing, and praying with everyone. Then, he was only at the Hospice facility for about 45 minutes before moving on to heaven. As always, this engineer had a great plan and executed it to perfection. Love you, Dad. ❤️



## Minnreg Veterans Association Newsletter

The MVA Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Minnreg Veterans Association, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit Corporation; chartered in 1958 and located at 12467 62nd St. N. Suite 103 in the Oaklefe Center, Largo, Florida 33773.

Website: [www.minnregs.com](http://www.minnregs.com) Inquiries: [info@minnregs.com](mailto:info@minnregs.com)





# Monthly Luncheon May 19



What a great fiesta time! All that was missing was a Mariachi band. Once again, our friends at Banquet Masters came through with an outstanding meal - featuring fantastic chicken, beef and shrimp fajitas along with their normal excellent service.



Howard Howe, John Delich, Carol & Clive Bailey



Lorraine Wert, Bonnie Williams, Pat Keegan



Jo Ketring, John Schiffgen, Loni Wellington



Larry & Masako Shannon



Brian Martinez, Terry Beemer



Tom & Bea Conner



Margaret & Steve Simmons



Deb & Thom Dupper



John & Shirley Bowers



Carol & John Janney



DC Stevenson, Jim Acosta







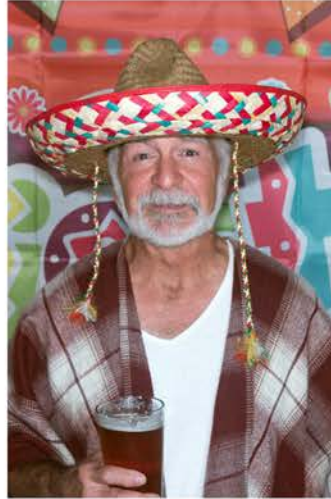
# Monthly Luncheon May 19



Betty Held



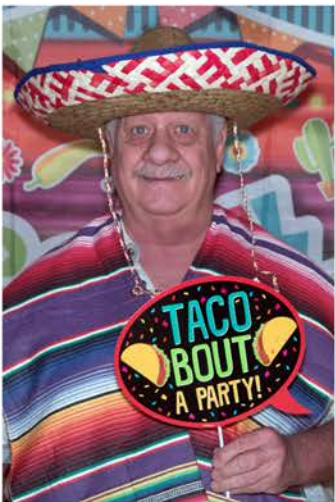
Gloria Hill



Brian Martinez



Gayle Smith, John Voissem



Dave Donnelly



The **June luncheon meeting** will be a nostalgic look back at the Fantastic Fifties. The dress is saddle shoes, poodle skirts and rolled up t-shirts. Let's all re-live those happy days. You never know - there might be a 50s trivia challenge as well. See you on the 21st!

A police officer just knocked on my door and told me my dogs are chasing people on bikes.



That's ridiculous. My dogs don't even own bikes







# Happy Birthday from MVA!



06-01 John Adams	06-13 Sandra Bloom	06-24 John Blechschmidt
06-01 Sophie Brzezinski	06-13 John Epperson	06-24 Shirley Campbell
06-01 Carl Gonser	06-13 Tina Hurley	06-24 Ted Carr
06-01 Merle Hubbard	06-13 Mary Miller	06-24 Nola Clay
06-01 John Voissem	06-13 Helen Voss	06-24 Arvilla Daeke
06-01 Mary Yale	06-13 Theresa Zawada	06-24 Helga Gregg
06-02 Roger (Roger) Byland	06-14 Robert Brown	06-24 June Helveston
06-02 John Humphries	06-14 Gloria Hill	06-24 Scott Lapham
06-03 Frank Cain	06-14 Bryan Martinez	06-24 Judy Mahoney
06-03 Judith Carnall	06-14 Robert Yager	06-24 Carolyn Papke
06-03 Jann Dennison	06-15 Frances Eicher	06-25 Barbara Cender
06-03 Thom (Thom) Dupper	06-15 Florine Ferguson	06-25 Charles (Ed) Collum
06-03 Trish Gray	06-15 Anthony Hibner	06-25 Howard Humberger
06-03 Robert Hall	06-15 Barbara Jones	06-25 Sally Israel
06-03 Gertrude Keegan	06-15 John Schiffgen	06-25 Chris Pickel
06-03 Beth Kendall	06-16 Robert Cadzow	06-25 Genevieve Saulnier
06-03 Marla Laufenberg	06-16 Howard Gerlach	06-26 G. Cantley
06-03 Karen Ostendorf	06-16 Faith Krahrmer	06-26 Robert (Bob) Dalton
06-04 Donna Hansen	06-16 Raymond Noah	06-26 Beverly Harvell
06-04 Carl Hurley	06-17 Robert Breslo	06-26 Julie Homer
06-04 Cindy Milas	06-17 Kathryn Moore	06-26 Joyce La Luzerne
06-04 Virginia Ward	06-18 Barry Hart	06-26 Paul Shreve
06-05 Daniel Burstein	06-18 Wesley Packard	06-26 Dorothy Williams
06-05 Bill Hansen	06-19 Betty Britt	06-27 Adele Bongiovanni
06-05 M. Head	06-19 Nolie Brown	06-27 Peggy Debusk
06-05 Cheryl Hood	06-19 Russell Buyse	06-27 James Kendall
06-05 Howard Howe	06-19 Ellen Coutant	06-27 Thomas McNeice
06-05 Judith McDurfee	06-19 Suzanne Seale	06-27 Lynn Neri
06-05 Martha Perez	06-20 Dale Barrow	06-27 Derrill (Del) Pratt
06-06 Beverly (Bev) Elwell	06-20 Richard Crede	06-27 Donald Scott
06-06 Gail Flowers	06-20 Mary Crow	06-27 George Tolos
06-06 Stan Myers	06-20 Robert (Frank) Rabe	06-28 Robert (Bob) Fletcher
06-07 Maryann Carlton	06-20 Judith Slone	06-28 Jean Heimlich
06-07 Juanita (Faye) Kercher	06-20 Robert Woodside	06-28 Robert Lang
06-08 John Janney	06-21 Shirley Cressman	06-28 Jerry Thoman
06-08 Margaret Melvin	06-21 Frances (Fran) Dobson	06-29 Marilyn Bayer
06-08 Laurie Smith	06-21 Ronald (Ron) Lindquist	06-29 Sharon Brault
06-09 Pamela Cantley	06-21 Jacqueline Schulze	06-29 Diann Hart
06-09 Harry Ferguson	06-21 Debbie Welch	06-29 Deborah Kriby
06-09 Francis Hill	06-22 Clara Aucker	06-29 Yolanda Lopez
06-09 Mark Reeve	06-22 Timothy (Tim) Dunbar	06-29 Margaret Niklas
06-10 Gladys Mesick	06-22 John (Jack) Ewers	06-29 Nancy Verville
06-10 Marie-Cecelia Miner	06-22 Marjorie Hanson	06-29 Phil Zell
06-10 Joel Panabaker	06-22 Dorothy Hester	06-30 Malcolm (Mac) Fossett
06-10 Julian (Jack) Quina	06-22 Cheryl Stewart	06-30 June Preusser
06-10 Dorothy Strinka	06-23 Louis Abbott	06-30 Virginia Stegall
06-11 Gene McClellan	06-23 Mary Clayton	06-30 Ruth Summers
06-11 Diane Nees	06-23 Bea Conner	
06-13 Phyllis Baumgartner	06-23 Deola Gillenwater	