

*"The strength of a mother's love is greater than any force on Earth -
it moves mountains, heals hearts, and lifts souls."*

~unknown



President's Message

In just a few months we will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of this great country. Many of us have been alive when we celebrated the bi-centennial and will celebrate the semiquincentennial. I think that's something to be very proud of. As we get ready for this momentous event, I would like to hear from you about why you think this country is something to celebrate. Please draw from your personal experience. For me, it was the stories my grandparents shared about emigrating to the United States from Italy through Ellis Island at the turn of the twentieth century. What is it about this nation that makes you proud to wear the label, "American"? Please pass along your story(ies) to me @ president@minnregs.com before the end of May. If you have supporting photos, please include those with your submission. We will publish a special patriotic edition of the newsletter in July.

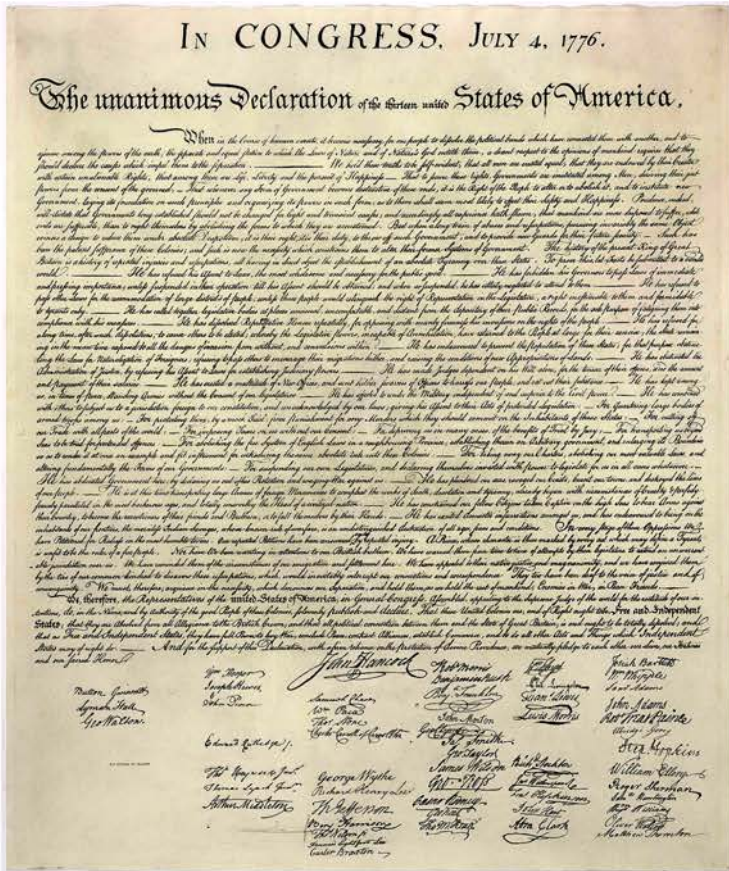
The flight of Artemis II was a real thrill. Many of us worked at HI when the first manned space program changed the course of history 60 years ago. On the twentieth anniversary of Apollo 11's lunar mission, we put together a display in the old Minnreg hall consisting of the major Mercury, Gemini and Apollo components designed and developed right at the Clearwater facility. Honeywell was such a key contributor to the success of early manned space - and they continue to be highly involved in the Artemis program today. It's nice to know that the tradition of supporting the American manned space program is alive and well in Clearwater.

We are in the process of rewriting the MVA by-laws. For many years, we have attempted to pry the new organization into bylaws that were written in the days when this organization was much different than it is today. The process is slow and laborious. A committee of Board members is examining every paragraph in the existing by-laws and recommending changes that reflect the contemporary organization. Once complete, the new by-laws will be presented to the full Board for approval. Upon Board approval, we will conduct a review session at the MVA office to present the new by-laws and offer rationale for all of the changes. Any MVA member is encouraged to attend the review session if they have an interest in the project. Finally, the new by-laws will be presented to the general membership for ratification.

The MVA Spring Picnic is set for Thursday, May 14 at Eagle Lake Park, Shelter #3 - 11:00 am. Picnic food and drinks are provided. MVA Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to share. Lots of fun, games and fellowship. These picnics give all of us an opportunity to spend time with other MVA members in a completely different setting - God's great outdoor cathedral. They are also a great place to show off your side dish talent. Make sure you register for this one: <https://form.jotform.com/260825666458166>



Semiquincentennial Why We Love America



Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,

At each monthly luncheon, we stand and pledge our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. For each of us, that pledge probably has a special, personal meaning.

It may be how your grandparents emigrated to this country and became part of the melting pot. It may be our protections under the Bill of Rights. It might be the lump in your throat when visiting the national monuments in D.C. Whatever "it" is, please share that with us.

We will publish a special section of the newsletter in July sharing those very personal stories. We will also select a few to show at the July luncheon.

Please submit your information prior to June 15 by using the online form: <https://form.jotform.com/261104127022035>

With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



A Tribute to Mothers



As we celebrate mothers this month, we were looking for a poem to publish about moms. We found a few, but none that really captured the power of a mother's love. So on a whim, we went to ChatGPT and asked for a poem about a mother's love. It provided references to some published works, but also offered the original poem below, called "Gravity." So we present it here and remind you that it was generated by Artificial Intelligence. We are pretty certain that ChatGPT does not have a mother. That notwithstanding, we think this work captures a mother's love as well or better than human poets. You be the judge.

"Gravity"

**She does not notice when it happens—
the moment her name becomes less a name
and more a place.**

**A harbor for storms that arrive without warning,
a kitchen light left on
long after the house has gone quiet,
a voice that says come home
even when no words are spoken.**

**She learns the language of small things:
the weight of a fevered forehead,
the geography of scraped knees,
the delicate diplomacy of broken hearts.**

**And slowly, almost imperceptibly,
she becomes gravity itself—
not holding tightly,
but holding always—**

**the unseen force
that lets a child believe
they are flying.**



First Tuesday Social April 7



Well, we broke through the century mark with the April luncheon - 107 members and guests gathered at Eddie's Bar & Grill in Largo for a late afternoon of fun, fellowship, prizes and a tasty dinner. Almost all the feedback about the day and location change has been positive. Eddies's is doing a great job accommodating such a big crowd all ordering at about the same time. We continue to have members show up before 3:30 pm. If this continues, the staff at Eddie's will start to enforce the start time so they have adequate time to prepare the room. **Please do not arrive prior to 3:30.** Many thanks.





First Tuesday Social April 7



Donald & Barbara Brash

Anne & Clyde Schreiner



Mike & Martha Ross

Remember This?

Bad Boys Table



First Tuesday Social April 7



Bea "Vanna" Conner, Al Shields



"The Shirleys" - Murphy & Bowers



Harry Blackiston, Robin Lewis



Betsy & Roddy King



Gloria Hill, Carol Janney



Mary & Richard Reffelt



Leslie Tuck, Julie Donat



Roger & Jean Block



Sam & Sandy Janofsky



Paul Krahmer, Betty Held



Eleanor Roosevelt



First Tuesday Social April 7



Teri & Michael Godfrey



Wendy Hugar, Paul Krahrmer



Patsy & Dick Rohrs



Jane & Dennis Willis



Thom & Deb Dupper



Tom & Bea Conner



George Suther, Patti Marchand



Greg Nikles



Gayle Smith, John Voissem



Carol DeLaTerre



Larry Shannon



Shirley Murphy



First Tuesday Social April 7



Wanda Beasley



Artie Martin



Gail Olsen



George Hafer



Patty Marchand



Jerry Dangler



Donna Seibel



Mike Ranallo



Bobbie Smith



Mark Barlow



Cheryl McAvoy



Remember This?



First Tuesday Social April 7



Bryan Martinez



Marsha Barlow



Jerry Klos



Margaret Simmons



Al Parisi



Stephanie Puffer



Jack Freeman



Gloria Whitfield



Bob Canistraro



Clive Bailey



John Schiffgen



Remember This?



First Tuesday Social April 7



Masako Shannon



Al Shields



Julie Donat



Brian Pershing



Pat Keegan



David Hadsock



Leslie Tuck



John Bowers



Bonnie Williams



Dave Donnelly



Jim McCormick





First Tuesday Social April 7



Genevieve Urbanski



Dick Malzahn



Fran Kay



Hendrik Gelderloos



Vivian O'Dell



Bob Kay



Teresa Mickiewicz



Joe Knight



Betty Held



Steve Simmons



Jean Miller



Jack Ptacek



First Tuesday Social April 7



Karyn Klos



Mike Seibel



Larry Trefz



Andrea Shields



Lou DeLaTorre



Jo Ketring



Al Olsen



Gloria Hill



Loni Wellington



George Suther



Michael Webb



Spring Picnic Time!

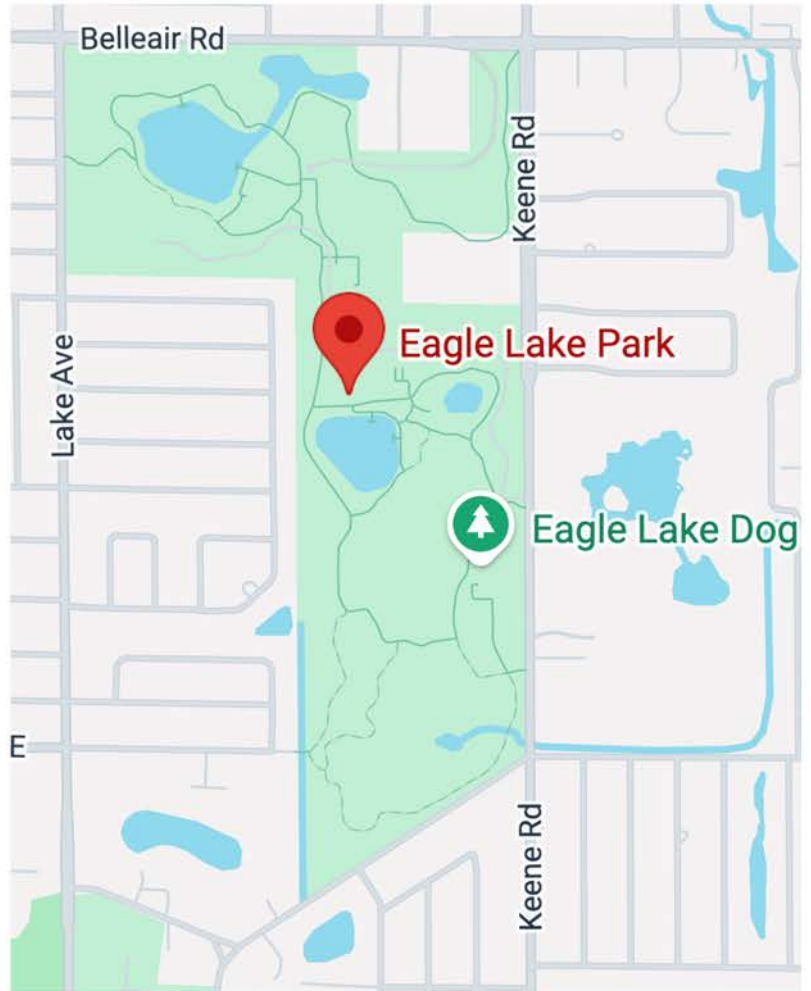


Let's get out into the fresh air and sunshine. Let's spend some time together around a picnic table in one of Pinellas County's best kept natural secrets - Eagle Lake Park.

The MVA spring picnic is set for **Thursday, May 14 at Eagle Lake Park (Shelter #3). The event starts at 11 am.**

MVA will provide the main course and all the setups. Each attendee is asked to bring a favorite dish to share - along with something to drink. (remember alcohol is NOT permitted in Pinellas County Parks.:-)

Please use the online reservation form so we know how to plan the food: <https://form.jotform.com/260825666458166>



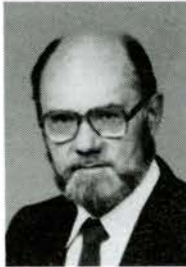


A Blast from the Past



Long Journey South

Twenty-years ago this month, 200 Honeywell families traveled to Clearwater from Minneapolis to begin their new lives in "sunny Florida." These employees, who worked in Space Flight Systems, relocated to Florida as part of a corporate reorganization to consolidate all space-related business. That organization formed in 1971 now represents a major portion of SSG.



Don Barnhill – "Right after I sold my home in Minneapolis, I was asked to remain there for two weeks to work on an important proposal. Fortunately, my wife and two sons were still with me so we stayed in Paul's Place. My cat was already shipped to St. Petersburg and boarded. After my proposal work was done, we started our journey to Florida. While making a stop-over in Detroit, I was contacted by Honeywell and asked to fly to Florida to work on an urgent proposal. I left my family in Detroit and my car at the Detroit airport. I returned to Detroit two weeks later and picked up my family. We arrived in Florida a few days later. You can imagine what it cost to fly a cat to Florida and board it for four weeks? In summary, the move required four weeks...and the most complicated set of expense reports I've ever processed."



Lindsey Ball – "My family and I were living in California, where I was working on Shuttle, when the invitation to move to Florida arrived. After a brief family conference with my wife and four children, and a short unsuccessful house hunting trip, we moved to Florida and into a rented house on the banks of the Anclote river, in Pasco county near a place called Elfers. The first week we were there much rain fell and the Anclote river outstripped its banks, flooded our house above the window sills and drowned one of our cars.

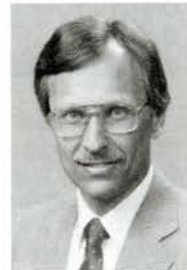
My wife and I had to use a rowboat to retrieve our suitcases (still packed). Since then, with firm resolve from my wife, we have lived in Palm Harbor far from any river and over 50 feet above sea level. In retrospect it was a good move for our family."

This major relocation made Honeywell history because of the large number of employees and family members involved. For most of these employees, Minneapolis was the only place they had ever lived. Today, Florida is their "home."

On the twentieth anniversary of their move, some of those employees share their stories.



Phil Kittleson – "A number of pluses and minuses come to mind when reflecting on the move from Minneapolis to Clearwater in 1971. On the plus side, the selling of the snow blower and winter clothes, the enormous amount of sunshine, the nice day after nice day after nice day, and the low cost of living are fond remembrances. On the minus side, the leaving of friends, the uprooting process, the heat and the new strange collection of bugs. We stayed on the beach the first several weeks in Florida while the house we had purchased was being prepared and were hence spoiled for any return to the north. A new collection of friends made the transition smoother and the readiness of Human Resources to solve problems helped significantly."



Jim Acker – "At the time of the move, I was project engineer for the Digital Operational Controller for the NASA Application Technology Satellite No. 6. I moved to Florida with my wife Mary Ann and our three children. What I remember most about the move was that our furniture arrived at our new house before the electricity was turned on. It was Aug. 1 and we nearly melted trying to unpack."



Sandy Kitto – "20 years in Florida...incredible. I remember the excitement and anticipation of moving to Florida; marveling at being able to swim in the Gulf of Mexico in the middle of the winter; being able to drive from Indian Rocks Beach to Honeywell (via Ulmerton) in about 15 minutes; cockroaches the size of a small cat; sunshine, sunshine and more sunshine; the rainy season. I love it all and I'm glad I came."



Honeywell/Clearwater 1971



A Blast from the Past



FROM CLEARWATER



avinews *for awareness*

HONEYWELL AVIONICS DIVISION

April Vol. 1

WHEN COLUMBIA FLIES, AvD/S WILL BE WATCHING

In addition to those fortunate few who will attend this first Shuttle flight in person, many employees here will be able to view the launch via a new closed circuit television (CCTV) network currently being installed.

The CCTV system works like this:

A central origination center is installed in the photo lab, consisting of two TV monitors attached to a master antenna atop Plant 1. Air signals from the local TV stations are received there and one station is selected to be sent out. That signal is then modulated down to

either channel 2 or 4. Coax cables connect the photo lab master control to each of the plants. Junction boxes at each plant are tapped into the provide individual cable leads to television sets located throughout the facility. To receive the signal at the individual sets, simply turn to Channel 2 or 4.

In addition to the Shuttle launch, the CCTV will be used for a variety of other applications.

- Emergency information about disasters-such as the May 8 flood or the Skyway accident
- Announcement of general significance to the facility
- Training/development courses
- General interest Honeywell news
- Benefits presentations/Ed Spencer tape

Photo lab supervisor Ken Cheek will operate and maintain the system and questions regarding use and scheduling should be directed to him at X3255.

Monitor locations by Plant are listed below:

- Plant 1 East and west cafeteria walls
Finance area upstairs (beam N-9)
- Plant 2 Aisle 505 (beam B-5)
- Plant 3 Aisle 330 (beam C-5)
(beam H-4)
- Plant 4 Cafeteria north wall
- Plant 4A (beam 14-F)
- Plant 5 Cafeteria north and south walls
(beam N-3)
(beam E-6)
- Plant 6 Office area N-E corner
- Plant 7 Aisle 850 (beam E-1)





Monthly Luncheon April 15



111! Our monthly luncheon attendance continues to increase as we welcome new members to our ranks on a regular basis. The April luncheon offered a great opportunity to catch up on Honeywell's current involvement in the Artemis program. Many MVA members worked on the first generations of manned space back in the 60s and 70s. It was rewarding to see how the current involvement is a direct connection to the OG group contributions. We were also treated to a presentation about Operation: Military Matters, a local non-profit that sends care packages to active military serving overseas. MVA members purchased a whole truckload of goods to stuff a bunch of boxes headed to military personnel all over the world. We also presented them with a \$2,000 donation along with \$464 in cash from luncheon attendees. All of this was followed by a great picnic-style lunch and a celebration of Spring.



MVA Manager of Community Service, Dr. Gloria Hill, Kadi Tubbs (Graci's mom) and MVA President, Thom Dupper



Kadi Tubbs and the table of gift box items purchased by MVA members and \$464 in cash!





Monthly Luncheon April 15



*John Bowers, Suzanne Francis,
Martha Ross. Betty Held*

*Richard & Mary Reffelt,
Julie & Greg Zajdel*



*Loni Wellington, John Schiffgen,
Jo Ketring, Dennis & Jane Willis*

*Howard Howe, Shirley Murphy,
LarryHarper, Genevieve Urbanski,
Ben & Emilie Carter*

*Teri Godfrey, PJ Clayton, Al Shields,
Terri Beamer, Michael Godfrey,
Bea & Tom Conner, Wendy Hugar*



Monthly Luncheon April 15



Richard & Mary Reffelt



Fred & Donna Cutting



Tom & Bea Conner



Faith & Paul Krahrmer



Pat Keegan, Bonnie Williams



John & Shirley Bowers



Deb Dupper, Mary Reffelt



Genevieve Urbanski, Larry Harper



Barbara & Donald Brash



Evelyn Hall & Daughter



Ben & Emilie Carter



Gail & Al Olsen



Monthly Luncheon April 15



Roddy & Betsy King



Brian & Katrina Pershing



Clyde & Anne Schreiner



Tom & Bea Conner



Gloria Whitfield, Margaret Simmons



Al & Gail Olsen



Dennis & Jane Willis



Terri Beamer, PJ Clayton



Wendy Hugar, Bea Conner



Gloria Hill



Fred Miller



Julie Zajdel



Monthly Luncheon April 15



Gloria Whitfield



Michael Godfrey



Masako Shannon



Frank Easton



Carol Jamney



Gloria Hill



Wendy Hugar



John Schiffgen



Sandy Janofsky



Remember This?



Benjamin Franklin
wikipedia photo

**"I didn't fail the test.
I just found 100 ways
to do it wrong."**



Alan Gilbert



Monthly Luncheon April 15



Artie Martin



Pat Keegan



Larry Shannon



Bonnie Williams



Steve Simmons



Gail Olsen



Bill Martin



Argie Easton



Sam Janofsky



Loni Wellington



Hendrik Gelderloos



Jo Ketring



Monthly Luncheon April 15



Jeff Ring



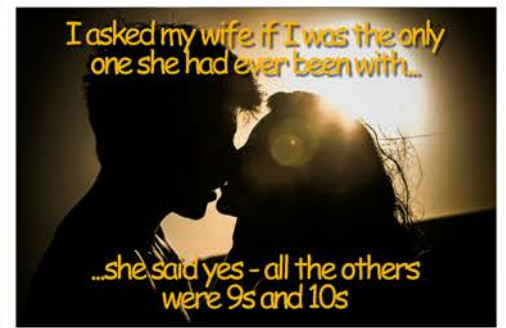
Jacqueline Morgan



Al "Bo Jangles" Shields



Bryan Martinez



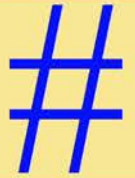
Our May Luncheon Speaker



Officer Joel Quattlebaum has been a police officer with the City of Largo for the past 6 years. Officer Quattlebaum has served in several capacities within the Department to include Patrol, Problem Oriented Policing Unit, CISM Team, and also serves as a High Liability Instructor. He has received several awards to include both the LPD Agency Meritorious Service Award and Distinguished Service Award, Largo Chamber of Commerce Inspire Award, and numerous others. Officer Quattlebaum additionally serves in the United States Marine Corps as a Sergeant wherein he supports and augments national security interests through mission readiness and Unit training. Officer Quattlebaum has served the community as Largo PD's Senior Services Officer for the past 4 years. The position provides a rewarding opportunity to effect real-life positive changes in resident's quality of life and facilitate connecting struggling seniors with valuable community resources, as well as to protect vulnerable elderly residents from fraud and exploitation.



www.minnregs.com



We have created a very useful online presence for this organization - the MVA website: www.minnregs.com. Understanding that many of our members are a bit shy of technology, here is an overview of what can be found on the site.

Most important, you are able to make a reservation at upcoming MVA events. Simply click on “Forms & Registrations” in the main menu. A submenu appears listing all the events happening in the near future. It is very important to register for any event you plan to attend since we need to know how to plan for the event. In some cases, we have to guarantee an attendance number in advance, and are on the hook for payment. So please register, and if you register, attend. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend an event you registered for, simply send an email to info@minnregs.com with your cancellation.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with the following items: Home, Charter & By-Laws, Forms & Registrations (highlighted), Newsletters, Community, and Calendar. The 'Forms & Registrations' dropdown menu includes: May 5 Social, Spring Picnic, May 20 Luncheon, Why I Love the USA, Suggestions, Membership Application, and Expense Report Form. On the right side of the page, there are two prominent pink buttons: 'Membership Application' and 'Community Grant Application'. Below these buttons, the text reads 'Minnreg Veterans Association, Inc.' and a partial description of the organization is visible.

You can also find the current edition of the MVA newsletter there under the “Newsletter” menu item. In fact, you are able to browse through every newsletter all the way back to July, 2022. Each month, the newsletter is posted here by or before the first of the month.

The screenshot shows the 'Newsletters' page on the website. The navigation bar is the same as in the previous screenshot, but 'Newsletters' is now the active menu item. The main content area is titled 'Newsletters' and features a grid of blue buttons, each representing a month and year. The buttons are arranged in a grid that is 6 rows high and 3 columns wide. The top row has a single button for 'April 2026'. The subsequent rows have three buttons each, representing the months of the previous year (2025) and the current year (2026). The buttons are: Row 2: March 2026, February 2026, January 2026; Row 3: December 2025, November 2025, October 2025; Row 4: September 2025, August 2025, July 2025; Row 5: June 2025, May 2025, April 2025; Row 6: March 2025, February 2025, January 2025.



Happy Birthday from MVA!



- Clive Bailey 5/2
- Barbara Pothier 5/3
- Sharon Carrozza 5/4
- Helen Malzahn 5/5
- Margaret Lynch 5/14
- Cheryl Lapham 5/14
- Mary Reffelt 5/14
- Samuel Janofsky 5/14
- Bobbie Smith 5/15
- Julie Zajdel 5/17
- Dawn Cheney 5/17
- Kim Porterfield 5/17
- Lawrence Brogan 5/20
- Barbara Brash 5/20
- Jackson Freeman 5/21
- Dick Rohrs 5/23
- Patricia Marchand 5/27
- Lois Strunce 5/29
- Al Parisi 5/30



Email "Smothers Brothers" to info@minnregs.com for prize

