

# Memorial Day



## Honoring the Fallen and the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary's 50 Years!

**Memorial Island dedication May 10, 1964**

The Veterans Council of Indian River County invites everyone to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony for 2014 to be held on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary at 8:50 on Monday, May 26th. This is a very special occasion since it will honor both the memory of those of Indian River County who paid the supreme sacrifice and recognize the realization of Alex MacWilliam's vision over the past fifty years. Come early and bring your lawn chairs, as a huge turnout is anticipated.

The ceremony will be given full military honors and include a parade of colors into the island center by color guards from Indian River County and beyond. All of the branches of Service will be represented and led by the Master's Academy Fife and Drum Corps. In addition, patriotic melodies will be provided by the Vero Beach High School Band. The customary wreath will be laid at the memorial of one of our honored. This will be accompanied by the bag pipes and ships bell. The keynote address will be given by Chaplain Richard Flick, Captain U.S. Navy (Ret.) The ceremony will be concluded with a rifle salute and taps sounded by the bugler.

This day will host two Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in service. Two Blue Star families who have sons and daughters deployed will also be introduced. Selected representatives of all ranks and Services will also be recognized while reviewing the ceremony.

Upon completion of honors to the fallen, a brief recognition will note the people who have been guardians of the island. The Sanctuary is a reality of the dedication of Alex MacWilliam and many other citizens, groups and local businesses. Memorial Island is the only island created and dedicated solely as a place for quiet meditation, reflection, remembrance, and private worship. The national colors displayed upon the 100 foot flag pole and the seventy-eight memorial markers to our fallen make these grounds hallowed.

Come join the patriotic tribute. The veterans' ceremony will be streamed live by Cross Roads Media. This is a milestone occasion for a community that has taken special pride in honoring our veterans. Golf Carts and a Veterans Council bus will be employed to aid those needing assistance. Colonel's Sam Kouns and Tony Young may be reached at the website: [indianriverveterans.org](http://indianriverveterans.org) for additional details.

# SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

## LT. COL. HUNTER K. JONES



**Lt. Col. Hunter Jones and wife, Tara, with sons Hunter Jr. (left) and Heath.**

He's a Naval Academy graduate who jumped ship and joined the Air Force to become an investigator. He's earned three master's degrees, including one in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College. And he's the recipient of a Bronze Star for his work as commander of an Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) unit during a year-long deployment to Afghanistan from October 2010 to October 2011, where his mission was to protect Bagram Airfield and its airbase from terrorist attacks.

Lt. Col. Hunter Jones, son of Barrie and Barry Jones of Vero Beach and Berwyn, PA, is all of the above and more. Today he's assigned as Branch Chief, CCJ5-SC Plans, Policy and Programs for Headquarters U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Florida. In this capacity, according to his official biography, he oversees "security cooperation activities, U.S. security assistance, and military-to-military engagements with partners in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility."

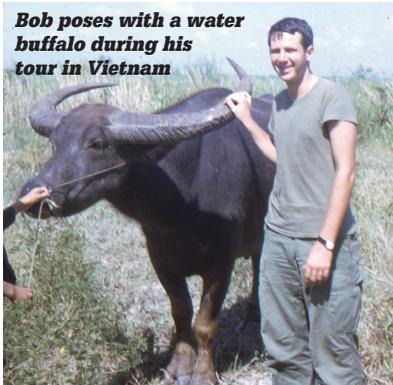
Officially, his bio gives the nuts and bolts of his service: "Lt. Col. Jones cross-commissioned into the U.S. Air Force in 1997, upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. Prior to being assigned to U.S. Central Command for his joint tour, Lt Col. Jones served as a career AFOSI officer. During his tenure with OFOSI, he had had extensive exposure to a wide array of missions within the scope of AFOSI duties to include narcotics investigations, counterespionage (CE) operations, counterterrorism (CT) served as a deployed AFOSI De-

tachment commander during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, protective service operations, and served as an in-garrison AFOSI Detachment commander."

But what sums up his leadership best is the citation that accompanied his Bronze Star. The document highlights the numbers: 222 attacks neutralized from rockets, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and ambushes; 721 confidential informant meetings that produced more than 1,064 intelligence reports leading to the capture or kill of more than 58 insurgents.

"During this period," the citation recounts in part, Jones, who at the time held the rank of major, "led one of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations' most successful and dominating synchronized team of 40 personnel from seven different skill sets that have ever operated in Afghanistan. His team dominated the battle space on 165 combat missions while exposed to danger from improvised explosive devices, small arms fire, and ambush of rocket propelled grenade. Major Jones led the recovery of his team through three improvised explosive attacks injuring nine of his airmen and a small arms fire attack injuring another airman. His leadership and decisiveness were pivotal during all incidents in returning all personnel and equipment safely to base.

"The exemplary leadership, personal endeavor, and devotion to duty displayed by Major Hunter Jones in this responsible position reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."



**Bob poses with a water buffalo during his tour in Vietnam**

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in both the Midwest and Baltimore, Maryland areas. Lastly, in 1986, he was asked to accept a position as Chief Operating Officer at the Montefiore Medical Center, New York City. He served as COO for twenty-five years, until his retirement in 2012.

In the off-season he resides with his wife, Carla, in Wall Township, New Jersey; and in-season in their home in Vero Beach, Florida.

**Joe Del Campo is President of Excalibur Group, Inc., Investigations, Business Intelligence, Protective Services. Visit [www.excaliburgroup.org](http://www.excaliburgroup.org).**