



Good Morning!

I will be traveling to Tallahassee this week to participate in Organizational Session. During this time the Florida Legislature meets to swear in new members, adopt chamber rules for the upcoming legislative term, and we will officially welcome Senator Wilton Simpson as our new Senate President.

I consider it a great honor to represent all the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Aaron Bean to Serve as Senate President Pro Tempore

Incoming Senate President Wilton Simpson announced this past week that Senator Aaron Bean, from Fernandina Beach, will serve as President Pro Tempore for the 2021-2022 Legislative Term.

In his announcement President Simpson noted, "*Senator Aaron Bean has a contagious energy, boundless compassion for our state's most vulnerable, and an abiding respect for each person he meets. First and foremost a family man, devoted to his wife Abby and their boys Bradley, Gray and Walker, Senator Bean brings a diverse range of personal and professional experiences to the Senate that allow him to relate to people from all walks of life and to build consensus without compromising principle.*"

"There is no question the impacts of the ongoing pandemic will change the look and feel of these next two years in ways none of us could have imagined when we first decided to run for office. Senator Bean's authenticity, positivity and optimism, combined with his deep knowledge and experience in the legislative process, make him a perfect fit for the critical role of President Pro Tempore."

Blue Green Algae Task Force

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be hosting an online meeting of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force to discuss algal bloom risks.

Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Watch Live Online at [TheFloridaChannel.org](https://www.thefloridachannel.org)

The Task Force was established through an Executive Order by Governor Ron DeSantis. During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature allocated \$10.8 million to the Task Force to address the prevalence of algal blooms in Florida's waters. The Blue-Green Algae Task Force is charged with expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algal blooms in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. The Task Force identifies opportunities to fund priority projects that build upon DEP's Basin Management Action Plans. The Task Force also reviews and prioritizes projects that will provide the largest and most meaningful pollutant reductions in key waterways.

To view the Task Force meeting agenda or to register to participate, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov).

District 17 Highlights

Programs to Support Our Veterans

This past week we celebrated Veterans Day by honoring the men and women who have faithfully and honorably served to protect our nation and our freedoms. We are so blessed to live in a state that strives to ensure that our Veterans receive the services they deserve. Below are just a few of the many programs and services available in District 17 to support and honor our Veterans.

Brevard County:

- [Space Coast Honor Flight](#) is dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifices of our military veterans. Honor Flight escorts qualified military veterans on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington DC to visit the memorials representing the wars in which these veterans served. Approximately 1,275 veterans have participated in the Honor Flight trips since 2010, many of which served in World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. The program has paused flights due to COVID-19 and hope to resume operations in Spring 2021.
- [Brevard Veterans Council and Memorial Center](#) works to support and promote the interests and welfare of Brevard County Veterans and their families.
- [Brevard Veterans Resource Network](#) is a broad coalition of groups that provide information, resources and support to Service Members, Veterans and their families throughout the county.
- [Space Coast Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses](#) is a Veteran's Business League advocating for Veteran Business Owners on the Space Coast.
- [Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard](#) provides assistance to Vietnam and all Veterans in their readjustment to life in the civilian community.
- [UCF Restores](#), a clinical program at the University of Central Florida's psychology department, has a satellite clinic at the University's Cocoa campus. The clinic provides rehabilitation services free of charge to veterans, active duty military, first responders, survivors of trauma and community members experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma-related concerns.
- [Melbourne Vet Center](#) provides confidential PTSD counseling, outreach, and referral services to veterans readjusting to civilian life, as well as grief counseling to the families of fallen soldiers.

Indian River County:

- [Veterans Council of Indian River County](#) strives to assist veterans, their dependents and survivors, in any way possible and to preserve and improve the quality of their lives by assisting them in the obtaining of all available benefits. The Council also provides free transportation for eligible veterans to and from the VA Medical center.
- **Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County** is an organization of Mothers who have lost their son or daughter in the service of our country. They continue honor their sons and daughters legacy through service to our veterans and participating in patriotic events.
- [Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County](#) provides assistance to Vietnam and all Veterans in their readjustment to life in the civilian community. Located at 686 8th Court in Vero Beach.
- **Veterans Crisis Line** (800) 273-8255 provides confidential counseling and referrals for Veterans and their families.

Little Birthday Angels Serving Treasure Coast Homeless

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Angel Pietsch who started the Little Birthday Angels program with her family in 2014.

Little Birthday Angels is a nonprofit organization that works to provide a birthday celebration for every homeless child living on the Treasure Coast of Florida. Mrs. Pietsch was inspired to begin the program when it was brought to their attention that a local shelter did not have the extra funds to celebrate a young girl named Destinee's birthday.

Today, with the support of volunteers, the organization provides themed birthday parties and gifts every month at four local shelters. The birthday celebrations include decorations, games, activities, cupcakes, and goody bags. In addition to birthday parties, they have also partnered with two local school districts to provide birthday gifts and essential items to homeless birthday students each month.

To get involved or for more information, please visit LittleBirthdayAngels.org or call (772) 925-9352.

Melbourne Emergency Home Repair Program

The City of Melbourne has received some additional Coronavirus Relief Funds which they are using to expand programs like their Emergency Home Repair Program.

In order to support residents experiencing economic hardship due to the pandemic, the City's Emergency Home Repair Program is providing funds to help low to moderate income households with emergency home repairs. Repairs must have become necessary since March 1, 2020, be critical to maintaining a safe living environment, and the household must have an identified and verified COVID-19 hardship.

For more information residents may call the Housing and Urban Improvement Office at (321) 608-7530.



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