



## Good Morning!

This Veterans Day we honor the brave men and women who have served faithfully to protect the freedoms we so greatly enjoy.

I recently had the honor of sitting with one of our country's heroes, Retired US Army Veteran George Rosenfield. Rosenfield, now in his 90's, volunteered to serve as ski trooper in the Army's 10th Mountain Division during World War II, and then went on to serve as an engineer officer in the Korean War. He later transferred to the Army Reserves and retired as a major. Back at home Rosenfield earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Forestry. He has served as a senior engineer with the RCA Missile Test Project at Patrick Air Force Base, and finally served 18 years with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Rosenfield continues serving his community as an active member of the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter and the Jewish War Veterans of America.



I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share this link with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#). If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

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## 2020 Election Results

The General Election results are in! Brevard County had 80.24% voter turnout and Indian River County had 78.72% voter participation this year. Congratulations to Lori Scott, Brevard County Supervisor of Elections, and Leslie Rossway Swan, Indian River County Supervisor of Elections, on a job well done!

I would also like to thank you for your support in my senate race this year. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of District 17 in the Florida Senate.

On the ballot this year were six proposed Amendments to the Florida Constitution. All but two of the proposals received the required 60% vote in its favor required for adoption.

- Yes - Amendment 1: Citizen requirement to Vote , received 79.3% approval
- Yes - Amendment 2: Raising Florida's Minimum Wage, 60.8% approval
- No - Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary, 43% approval

- No - Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments, 52.5% approval
- Yes - Amendment 5: Extend Save-Our-Homes, 74.5% approval
- Yes - Amendment 6: Extend Veteran Property Tax Discount, 89.7% approval

In a representative democracy such as ours, elections are extremely important. Voting is the best way to make your voice heard. Thank you for participating!

For more detailed information on the Election results, please visit the [Brevard County](#) or [Indian River County Supervisor of Elections](#) website. You can also see statewide results on the [Florida Division of Elections website](#).

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## Benefits for Florida Veterans

Florida remains the number one state in the nation for our military and veteran communities. The Florida Legislature is committed to recognizing the sacrifices these brave men and women make for our nation and ensuring they receive the benefits they deserve for their service and sacrifice.

One of our state's most popular state benefits for veterans are the Property Tax Exemptions. Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10% or greater are entitled to a \$5,000 deduction on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. Real estate owned and used as a homestead by an honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected, permanent and total disability is exempt from taxation. Any partially disabled veteran who is age 65 or older, any portion of whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged, may be eligible for a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead, commensurate with the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability.

The most underused state benefit for veterans is the tuition assistance. Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and community colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart. The waiver program also includes the state's career and technical training facilities.

Connecting veterans with earned benefits, services and support is the top priority for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. To view a full list of state veteran benefits please visit [FloridaVets.org](#). For assistance on this or any veteran-related issue, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. You may also email them at [VSO@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:VSO@fdva.state.fl.us).

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## District 17 Highlights

### Events to Celebrate Our Veterans

#### Brevard County

- On Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30pm the City of Melbourne will be hosting a Drive-In [Veterans Day Fireworks Celebration](#) at Melbourne Square Mall. Spectators are asked to remain in their vehicles and park in a designated parking spot. Shortly before the show, spectators are encouraged to tune into 98.5 The Beach to listen to pre-show announcements and to hear patriotic music played during the duration of the show.
- Wednesday, November 11th at 9:00am the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center will host a Veterans Day Ceremony.

### **Indian River County**

- At 9:00 am Wednesday, November 11th the [Veterans Council of Indian River County](#) will be hosting a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor our veterans and active duty service members. Location: Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary: 3001 Riverside Drive, Vero Beach.

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## **Indian River County MHA Veteran Support Program**

The Mental Health Association (MHA) of Indian River County has launched a new program to support our veterans. With a grant from the Gold Star Mothers, the MHA is now hosting weekly meetings led by Jim Ranahan. Jim is a retired Navy Veteran, who previously worked as a Boston Firefighter and, later, as a social worker.

Veterans Meet Up  
Our House 2183 Ponce de Leon Circle, Vero Beach  
Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00pm  
Snacks and refreshments are provided.

The Mental Health Association in Indian River County is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing immediate access to mental health care with no barriers. The Association has a Walk In & Counseling Center at 820 37th Place in Vero Beach, which provides immediate access to emotional and behavioral health care for children and adults.

For more information, please call (772) 778-4444 or (772) 569-9788. You may also visit their website at [MHAIRC.org](http://MHAIRC.org).

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## **Indian River Lagoon Day**

Brevard County invites you to join them in celebrating the Indian River Lagoon and the many species, activities and industries that it supports.

Indian River Lagoon Day  
Saturday, November 14th  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Front Street Park, 2210 Front Street, Melbourne

There will be exhibitor booths, volunteer opportunities, kayaking, games and hands-on learning activities. Anglers for Conservation will be hosting a "Hook Kids on Fishing Program" where children that participate will receive a free fishing rod. This program will begin at 9:00 AM and advanced registration is requested. Please register at [www.anglersforconservation.org](http://www.anglersforconservation.org).

This event is supported by Brevard County Natural Resources, The National Estuary Program, City of Melbourne, City of Palm Bay and City of Satellite Beach.

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Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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