

A Perfect Day for an Indoor Meeting

At 10:30 AM on Saturday morning, February 15, 30 individuals—Cub Scouts from Ormond Beach Pack 74, Dens 2 and 8, their parents and/or family members, and their den leaders and cubmaster—reported for their “meeting” at the Veterans Museum and Education Center.



Seated at left: Several members of Ormond Beach Cub Scout Pack 74, Dens 2 and 8, and their parents/family members.

Standing, from left to right: Museum Volunteer, Bill _____; Bob Hawes, Museum Curator and 1st VP; Tyson Richards, Den Leader; Sarah Mancuso, Cubmaster; John Brinkley, Museum Founder and President; and Scott Wagner, Den Leader.

After a brief welcome by VMAEC President, John Brinkley, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the program was turned over to Museum Curator and 1st Vice President, Bob Hawes, who began by explaining to the scouts the meaning of “veteran”. Illustrating the connection among veterans of all ages, Hawes asked one Cub Scout to stand up and shake his hand, thereby shaking hands with a Korean War veteran who shook the hand of a World War II veteran who, in turn, shook hands with other veterans, all the way back to 1776 and the Revolutionary War, the beginning of military service in the US.

Before setting off on a tour of the museum, Hawes offered the scouts some sage advice, i.e., if you decide to join the military, be sure your service affords you the opportunity to learn a skill either while in the service or later via a tuition-paid college or technical education.

For the next forty-five minutes, Hawes masterfully led the scouts through the various areas of the museum while they all listened in rapt attention. Those who were interested and daring enough even tried on military flak vests, like Michael Rosen and Micah Dattel at left, even commenting on their comfort—until, of course, they found out that soldiers must carry about 50 pounds of equipment in addition to wearing the vest!



With the variety of artifacts and memorabilia in the museum, there was something of interest to just about everyone visiting, including the museum’s replicas of naval vessels. But when all was said and done, Cub Scout Seth Mancuso was more than

happy to let this writer know that from the beginning, “These (challenge coins) are still my favorite.” And, of course, the specific favorite was the largest coin in the case—and one of the brightest-colored!



Following the tour, many scouts took additional time to photograph exhibits and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow scouts. But many also decided to put together the glider aircraft our museum gave each of them to remember their visit to the VMAEC.

