

# CANAVERAL BEACON

The official member newsletter of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

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## Our Mission

*To assist the 45th Space Wing in preserving, protecting, promoting, and interpreting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, State of Florida, and our Nation*

**Volume 9, Issue 4**

**August 2019**

### ONE GIANT LEAP

*Last month, just 16 months after breaking ground, we held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of the construction of the first of three replica keepers' cottages, and a restroom facility. On behalf of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, a very special thank you to our benefactors, builders and believers!*



With only ten years on the Board, I was one of the new kids whom Bob Merrilees inspired with his vision of one day recreating the historic lighthouse grounds and buildings to an earlier day - a time when the United States Space and Missile program was in its nascent rocket journey to space, the moon and beyond. "What was once, can be again," became our shared vision for the future.

Fast forward and here we are today, achieving success - which would not be possible without the dedicated effort on the part of so many, it is impossible to name and thank each one individually. There are a few, however, who, in providing their time, talent and treasure, were vital to CCLF reaching this milestone achievement.

Without the generous support of our **benefactors**, none of this would have been possible. Certainly, CCLF's Sponsors are true community beacons as their donations have provided the funding to sustain the Foundation operations and support our vision. Most significantly, the two benefactors whose generous grants of \$500K and \$250K made the construction possible are, respectively, the Brevard County Commissioners Space Coast Tourist Development Council; and the State of Florida. We sincerely thank all of you.

Our **builders** include those who provided their skills and expertise to design and build these beautiful buildings. To all those from RZK Architects, the Construction Engineering Group (CEG), and Kinley Construction who helped us bring history back to life, thank you.

And then there are our **believers**, those who never gave up, who shared a vision and persevered through countless hours of planning and approval meetings, overcoming all obstacles to turn our vision into reality. From our dedicated CCLF membership, I personally wish to thank RADM Bob and Bev Merrilees, Ginny Davis, Rocky Johnson and Hal Row, our Project Manager. And from the Air Force, I'd also like to thank Sonny Witt, Tom Penders, Robert Elliott, Mike Blaylock and the ten Commanders of the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing whom we have served. Words do not adequately convey the deeply felt thanks you all deserve.

This was no "small step," and the results are spectacular. ***What was once, is again!***

See you at the lighthouse, Jim

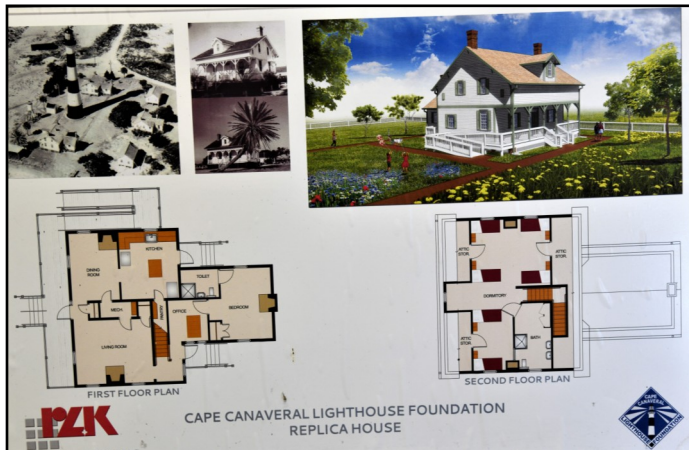
## Keepers Cottage Museum Ribbon Cutting

### FROM CONSTRUCTION TO CURATION: CCLF RESTORES A COMMUNITY TREASURE

On July 19, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) President welcomed VIPs and invited guests to the lighthouse grounds to celebrate completion of the construction of a replica keepers cottage. This marked the end of a four-year journey successfully navigated thanks to the countless hours and efforts of CCLF's extraordinary leadership, volunteers and community advisors.

Soon we will begin transforming it into a museum displaying historic artifacts and housing interactive exhibits which highlight information about the lives of the isolated families who inhabited the Cape in the late 1880s and 1890s. For this phase of the project, we have obtained a consultant to work with CCLF members in planning the design, layout and operational aspects of the Keeper's Cottage Museum. CCLF plans to hold a Public Grand Opening later this year, once the interior of the museum is complete. More "Museum" updates to follow in the next issue of *Canaveral Beacon*.

Photos from the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony were provided by CCLF volunteer, Darrell Woehler.





## Lighthouse Events

### **CCLF PRESIDENT LEADS TOUR FOR VIP GUEST AND FAMILY**

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) President Jim Underwood recently hosted Don Beck, President of Florida Summer Industrial Fellowships for Teachers, Inc. and his family for a special tour of the lighthouse grounds. Accompanied by his son Zachary and grandkids, Brennan and Lilly, Mr. Beck was able to view the lighthouse and observe the progress the Foundation has made in building the first of three keeper's cottages as part of its Lighthouse community restoration project.



*CCLF President with  
VIP guests.*

A special thanks to our docents who were on hand to inform and answer any questions.

### **RADIO OPERATORS TRANSMIT FROM LIGHTHOUSE OVER INT'L LIGHTHOUSE & LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND**

On August 17-18, members of the Kennedy Space Center Amateur Radio Club (KSC-ARC) participated in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend at Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. KSC-ARC members arrived the evening before the weekend event to move gear to the lighthouse site and raise the transmission tower.



By 8:00 a.m. on August 17, the antenna was up and running. This was the first use of the new (slightly used) tri-band beam antenna and it performed very well. Radio activity was busy with people having to wait their turn to talk to N1KSC.

"The view out the window while we were working contacts was awesome as the air-conditioned trailer was pointed right at the lighthouse. Later in the afternoon we had some thunderstorms roll through, so we had to power down and secure the equipment for a while, but resumed operations after it had passed," one participant recalled. KSC-ARC reported a good test of the tower and beam antenna, providing the following summary from their transmission at the lighthouse:

- 481 contacts logged
- 44 States (missed AK, DE, MT, SD, VT, WA)
- 4 Countries - Canada, Netherlands, Sweden and the United States

### **SHARING THE HISTORY OF CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHT, ONE EVENT AT A TIME**

Would your Club or Group like to know more about the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse located on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station? Would they like to know about our keeper's cottages restoration project and plans to recreate the lighthouse community as it was when lighthouse keepers and their families lived and worked there? Consider inviting a CCLF docent to speak at your next event.

Take a journey through time with a CCLF speaker and discover the rich history of Cape Canaveral Light and the role it has played in shaping Florida's Space

Coast Community. Your guests will also hear about the Foundation's education programs for Brevard County students and related grounds restoration project, as well as lighthouse tour opportunities and community events.

To schedule a lighthouse historian for your next event, please contact CCLF Speaker Coordinator, Yvonne Thornton, by email at [myvonneLight@aol.com](mailto:myvonneLight@aol.com) or by phone at (321) 267-5208. For further information, please visit CCLF's website at [www.canaverallight.org](http://www.canaverallight.org).

## Community Outreach

### FAIR SEAS & FOLLOWING WINDS TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER DAVID G. LADOMIRAK

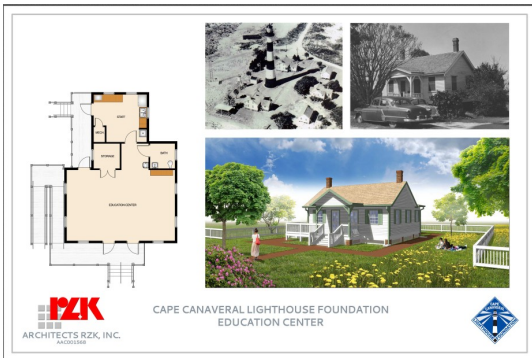
On July 11, Chief Warrant Officers David G. Ladomirak was relieved as Commanding Officer, United States Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral. During his tour of duty, CWO Ladomirak was an active member of the Space Coast community and is a staunch supporter of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF). Former CCLF President RADM Bob Merrilees (Coast Guard, ret.) and his wife attended the ceremony and presented CWO Ladomirak

with a framed picture of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse in appreciation for his many contributions to the Foundation. CWO Ladomirak and his family plan to remain in our area after his retirement. CCLF wishes him and his family all the best!



### HALFWAY THERE...

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation is continuing its efforts to identify grants and donors who can help support the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse community restoration project with the funding needed to construct the final two replica cottages. These buildings will complete the overall project and provide a significantly enhanced experience for tourists and community organizations who visit the lighthouse. The two buildings will be the First Assistant Keeper's Cottage equipped with furnishings to replicate the lives of the early keeper families; and the Second Assistant cottage which will be developed into a state of the art Education & Research Center for visitors interested in learning more about the history, archeology and the descendant community of Cape Canaveral.



### CCLF PARTICIPATES IN 5TH ANNUAL SPACE COLLECTIBLE SHOW

On August 10, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) volunteers participated in the USAF Space & Missile Museum 5th Annual Space Collectible Show and Sale. The event was held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sands Space History Center located near the South Gate of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida and featured an array of space memorabilia and artifacts, postal covers, coins, books, videos, launch squadron patches, contractor merchandise, models, photographs, artwork

and apparel as well as Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Memorabilia.

Patricia Lautner coordinated and led the CCLF participation. Other volunteers serving during the day were Karen and Ken Arbuckle; Laura Kelly, Liz Grauer, and Jean Rivera. CCLF volunteers spoke to many visitors about the lighthouse, distributed brochures and tour information, and sold items from the Keeper's Closet gift shop.





## Volunteer Spotlight

### **BOB & CHERYL DEWITT**



Bob Dewitt grew up on Florida's Space Coast in Rockville, FL. His father was a local firefighter stationed near the Cape and while Bob remembers attending cook-outs at the fire station with his family when he was young, he didn't discover the lighthouse until he was an adult, married and with children of his own.

In 1966, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After basic training, he was assigned to Chanute AFB in Rantoul, IL where he met his wife Cheryl, at a USO dance on New Year's Eve. It must have been love at first sight as they were engaged within a week, married two months later and recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary!

Bob's first assignment was Bermuda where the couple saw their first lighthouse. He was a firefighter but cross trained to instrument repairman. Bob's military career assignments took him to Homestead AFB, FL; Sacramento AFB, CA; and Hurlbert Field on Eglin AFB in Ft Walton Beach FL. He also served a tour of duty in Saigon, Vietnam and Taiwan where he went TDY to Thailand for three months and flew on two missions into Cambodia to drop off supplies. After getting cross-trained in medical logistics, Bob went onto assignments at March AFB in Riverside, CA, Rhine Mine AB Germany, and Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH before completing his tour of duty at Tyndall AFB in Panama City, FL. After leaving the Air Force, Bob and Cheryl settled in Rockledge and Bob spent 20 years working at the Cape for Pan Am, Johnson Controls, SGS and Indyne.

It was in 2005, while driving around the base, when Bob saw the lighthouse door open and stopped to look around and talked to the docents. After that, he would stop by and talk to the docents whenever the lighthouse was open and learned a lot about the lighthouse on these visits. Bob and Cheryl started reading everything they could find on the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Five years later, Bob and Cheryl became docents. Bob would give the opening introductions and some history, then send the visitors inside for the next docent. Cheryl would work the second floor of the lighthouse relaying interesting facts to the guests. Both love sharing what they know and education others about the history of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and have a number of fair weather stories from the many tours they have given over the years.

Bob and Cheryl remain staunch supporters of CCLF and promote the lighthouse whenever they can. While they no longer serve as tour guides, Bob and Cheryl continue to provide valuable support in helping CCLF with events at the Lighthouse. Bob helps by ordering Volunteer Name tags for us and brings them to the lighthouse for pick-up and continues to share the rich history of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse with anyone who will listen.

Thank you, Bob and Cheryl, for all you have done to keep CCLF's light shining!



## Keeping the Light Shining

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MUSINGS

Currently, the Foundation has more than 400 active members—evidence that Florida's Space Coast community remains passionate about preserving the historic Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.

With the summer in full bloom and many of us on vacation, we want to keep you informed about our CCLF museum. It is an exciting time to be on the ground floor of developing the museum! Very soon, we will need help moving heavy objects, hanging signs, arranging furniture and other small carpentry jobs. We will also need help in cataloguing the donated artifacts for the museum and selecting which pieces should be showcased in the museum or set aside for placement in either the education center or replica house, once those facilities have been built.

**Help Wanted:** If you are handy with a hammer, strong and eager to help, or are knowledgeable about antiques, please contact Chris Ecker by phone

at 321-591-5593. Please be advised, work will be scheduled on an as-needed basis based on availability.

**Membership Dues Reminders:** Reminders have been sent for those memberships that are due in August as well as those that are past due. Dues payments may be submitted using the form included in the newsletter, or online at [canaverallight.org](http://canaverallight.org).

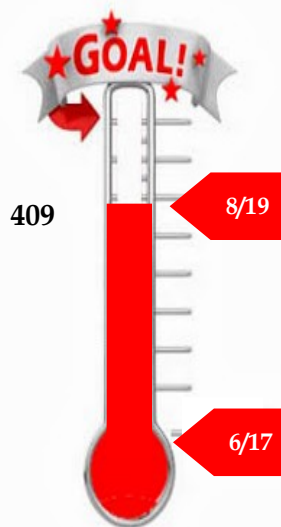
Individuals who renew online can save on membership fees when they become a Sustaining Member and register for automatic renewals.

**Member Feedback Requested:** Is there anything you would like to see your Membership Committee do? We welcome all ideas and those interested in helping us grow our membership are invited to serve on the committee. To share your ideas or get join the committee, please email [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com).

**Since January, more than 190  
loyal CCLF members have renewed**

### CCLF 750 MEMBER GOAL

CCLF is more than half way to achieving its goal of 750 total members; however, there is still a long way to go. Help CCLF grown and invite your family, friends neighbors and colleagues to a CCLF event so they can learn about the important work we do in preserving the community's and our nation's rich history along the Florida Space Coast. Then, share with them the value of membership and invite them to join!



**Please join us in welcoming the  
following new members to the  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse  
Foundation family!**

#### Lifetime Keepers

Ric & Nancy Garwood  
Ginny & Charles Davis

#### Head Lighthouse Keepers

David Jacoby  
Jill Dooley

#### Lighthouse Keepers

Eugene Vogt  
Ray & Karen Ward  
Timothy Zimmer  
William Akridge, III & Family

#### Assistant Keeper

George Kiser, Jr.

**\* \* \* 2019 CCLF Membership Application Form \* \* \***

**SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**

Visit *CanaveralLight.org* to pay your membership dues online via PayPal, or  
complete the form below and mail it with your check to:  
CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

       **New Member**             **Renewal**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering?             Yes             No

Please circle your desired membership category from the lists provided below:

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Head Lighthouse Keeper	\$100
Lighthouse Keeper (Family)	\$50
Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual)	\$35
Student Lighthouse Keeper	\$15

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

Life Membership (Family-2 member)	\$1,500
Life Membership (Single)	\$1,000

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT:**

**Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership**  
Phone: (321) 591-9844  
Email: [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com)

**Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers**  
Phone: (321) 452-5426  
Email: [bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com)

**CCLF membership benefits include:**

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- Member discounts at the Keeper's Closet Gift Shop, including 10% off commemorative brick orders;
- Volunteer opportunities to support & promote the lighthouse in its historical context; and, most importantly,
- Supporting CCLF's efforts to resurrect history and rebuild three lighthouse keepers' cottages and restore the lighthouse grounds!



## Upcoming Events

### **OCTOBER 19: LIGHTHOUSE FUNDRAISING EVENT AT THE AMERICAN MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM**

Mark Pieloch, owner of the American Muscle Car Museum (AMCM) in Melbourne, will host a Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation fundraising event. AMCM is Mark's private collection of over 300 beautifully restored and operational classic muscle cars. Out of hundreds of worthy non-profit organizations, only nine are offered this opportunity each year. After visiting the lighthouse with his wife Tetiana earlier this spring, Mark was delighted to select the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse as one of these recipients. Event sponsorship and ticket information is available on CCLF's website at [CapeCanverallLight.org](http://CapeCanverallLight.org).

### **OCTOBER 25-28: FLA FALL 2019 MEETING**

The Fall 2019 FLA Meeting will take place on October 25-26. All events will be held at the Atlantic Auditorium located in Fernandina Beach, Florida. For further information and to register for this event, please visit FLA's website at [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### **NOVEMBER 10: 2ND ANNUAL CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE 1/2 MARATHON AND 10K RACE**

Join us on November 10, 2019, for the 2nd Annual Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Half Marathon and 10K Race, benefiting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. On this one-of-a-kind course, you'll wind through iconic rocket launch complexes and historic testing sites before reaching the finish line at the 151-year-old lighthouse where a party and awards await all runners. Registration for the race is now open. For more information and to register for the race, visit [RuntheCape.com](http://RuntheCape.com).



### **LIGHTHOUSE TOURS**



Why not take your friends, family and colleagues to Cape Canaveral Lighthouse? CCLF has partnered with local tour groups to provide small and large group excursions to the historic Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Small, intimate 10-person excursions, and larger bus group tours are available through Canaveral Tours. For more information and to schedule your trip, please visit [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org).

## Hey Big Spenders...

### **SUPPORT CCLF WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE**

Shopping on Amazon? Switch to AmazonSmile and contribute to CCLF with every order you place, and at no cost to you. To support CCLF today, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com), and select "Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Inc" as your charity then begin shopping.

Every bit counts, so share this information with your friends!

### **MEMBERS SAVINGS AT KEEPER'S CLOSET**

Be sure to stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the lighthouse. There, you can browse our selection of souvenirs, books, apparel, jewelry, children's items and other lighthouse memorabilia. Proceeds from the Keeper's Closet sales support Foundation initiatives and community events.



And remember, **members who present their membership card when shopping will receive a 10 percent discount on their purchase.**



## Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

### GIVE A ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFT THAT MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION

Buy an engraved paver for your friend, colleague or family member to commemorate life's milestones and support Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation's (CCLF) Brick Program. CCLF's Brick Program is one of our major funding sources helping to rebuild the keeper's cottages and restore Cape Canaveral Lighthouse grounds. Soon, the first of three cottages will be finished and we will begin paving the walkways to link it to the lighthouse, keeping with the historical accuracy of the restoration project.



You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line. Insignias and art designs available for an additional \$20. CCLF members will receive a 10 percent discount on all brick orders. All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Ann Bolton, CLF's Brick Project Coordinator, at [annbolton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:annbolton@cfl.rr.com).

Pay tribute to a space program retiree, honor a graduate, celebrate a wedding or wedding anniversary. Commemorative bricks are also a perfect birthday present for that "someone who has everything!"



**Save a part of history, buy a brick!**  
**10% Discount for CCLF Members**

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### \*\*\* BRICK ORDER FORM \*\*\*

To purchase a 4" X 8" brick paver, please return this form along with payment to:  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

ENGRAVING: *Periods and spaces count as 1 character each. CCLF has right of final approval of copy.*

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Brick orders may be placed online under the Brick Walkway News section at [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org).



The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) mission is to protect, preserve, restore, and defend Florida's Lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts, and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.



### **PRESERVING FLORIDA'S HISTORY, ONE LIGHTHOUSE AT A TIME**

FLA is a nonprofit membership organization whose members play a critical role preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's remaining 29 historic lighthouses and educating the public.

Members receive:

- *FLASH*, FLA's semi-annual publication as well as routine updates on FLA activities via an electronic newsletter;
- Priority invitations to FLA Meetings, educational events and lighthouse tours; and
- Free admission to St. Augustine Lighthouse, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, Crooked River Lighthouse, Cape St. George Lighthouse and Pensacola Lighthouse.

Individual, family and corporate annual membership packages are available. For additional information about FLA membership, or to join, go to [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL 2019 FLA MEETING**

The Fall 2019 FLA Meeting will take place on October 25-26. All events will be held at the Atlantic Auditorium located in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Following the conclusion of the meeting on October 26, meeting attendees will gather for lunch and then tour Amelia Island Lighthouse. For further information and to register for this event, please visit FLA's website at [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### **NEW FLORIDA LICENSE PLATE FEATURES JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE**

Beginning August 1, Florida drivers can show their love of lighthouses while driving when they purchase a "Visit Our Lights" license plate. The new design features Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and 90 percent of the proceeds from plate sales help support the Florida Lighthouse Association's mission to protect, preserve and restore the Sunshine State's remain-



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY 410 ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

## Community Beacons

### CCLF SPONSORS ARE VITAL TO BUILDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Becoming a Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Sponsor is an excellent way to increase your company's visibility within Florida's Space Coast community! In addition to event sponsorship opportunities, this year we are expanding the program to include annual packages as well. Our hope is to attract local businesses and community partners whose dollars will enable us to continue educating today's youth, promoting public awareness and making the full restoration of the lighthouse grounds a reality. For more information on becoming a CCLF "community beacon", please contact Jim Underwood at [radmjim@aol.com](mailto:radmjim@aol.com).

CCLF would like to extend its sincere appreciation to those who've pledged their support for 2019:



## 2019 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

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