



CANAVERAL BEACON

The official newsletter for members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

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Our Mission

To assist Space Launch Delta 45 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

Vol. 14, No. 1

January 1, 2024

Message from Our Foundation President



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2023 was a good year for the Lighthouse, and 2024 looks like it will be even better. In 2023 we had over fifteen thousand visitors which was an increase of over seven thousand from 2022, thanks to Space Force family day which was estimated at ten thousand visitors. Our educational tours doubled from two in 2022 to four in 2023. So far in 2024 there are three educational tours scheduled for January with more to follow.

I want to thank all the docents and volunteers because without your dedication to excellence we could not have welcomed as many visitors as we did and still receive the many positive comments.

One event that did not happen in 2023 was our 10K/5K race due to late approval and not enough time to make it a good event. We started a lot earlier this year and the race is scheduled for March 24, 2024. As soon as registration opens, we will notify everyone.

Other upcoming events in 2024 include but are not limited to: Florida Lighthouse Association meeting at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on February 2 & 3, Descendant's Day on March 9, member/ brick owners caravan on March 16, an old fashion picnic at the Lighthouse in June/July and the member/ volunteer appreciation picnic in the fall.

On a sad note, two Lifetime Members and former Board Members passed away in November: our President Emeritus Rear Admiral G. Robert "Bob" Merrilees; and former Volunteer Coordinator and Lifetime Member Eric Kucera. May they rest in peace.

Looking back on my first year as President I want to thank the Board of Directors for all the support they gave me to make the position a lot easier. You don't know how great the Board is until you work with them. I especially want to thank Rocky Johnson, Jim Underwood, and Larry Ostarly. As past presidents they know what the position requires and are always ready to help or answer a question.

Thanks for your help in keeping our light shining into the future.

Ron

Museum Highlights

The museum has been hopping this holiday season, hosting tours from multiple school groups, community groups, Canaveral Tours guests, and participants from the 4th Annual Museums of Brevard Holiday Tour of Historic Homes. All enjoyed the many new and returning holiday decorations.

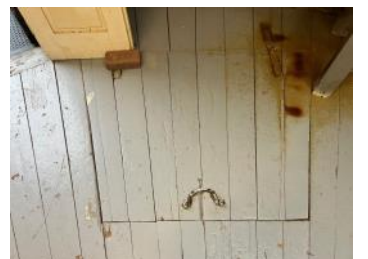
On Sunday, December 17th, as the heavy rains were ending and the final Museums of Brevard Holiday Tour of Historic Homes was ending, a picture-perfect moment occurred at the lighthouse. A spectacular end-to-end rainbow framing the Light Station was seen by all – a fitting ending to our 2023 Holiday Tours!



Did You Know?

Our historian, Barbara Moser, documented information about oil distribution inside the lighthouse: The system for delivering the oil to the lamp room consisted of a fixed support (davit) above the door to the third level to which a block and tackle could be attached for hoisting the barrels to that level. From there they were lifted through a series of trap doors to the 6th level, which served as the “oil room”. These trap doors could also be used to move furniture or other items from level to level. A trap door in the floor of the third level allowed such items to be lowered to the second level kitchen and bedroom areas. Each day the amount of oil needed for the night was transferred to a brass transfer can which was carried from the 6th floor oil room to the lamp room. After an exterior oil house was constructed at the new lighthouse site following the 1894 lighthouse move, oil could be stored and hoisted up as needed.

Becky Zingarelli
Museum Director
museumdirector@canaveralight.org.



Holiday Decorations at the Lighthouse Revisited

The Holidays at the Lighthouse were very special this year! We had more decorations than ever, both inside and outside of the museum and on the lighthouse. The Aids to Navigation Team from Ponce Inlet helped us raise our giant wreath to the top of the tower, again. It was a great addition since we missed having one last year when it was damaged. Thank you Ponce ANT!



Coast Guard Volunteers Cleanup Light Station

Coast Guard active duty service members from Port Canaveral once again came out and volunteered their time to help us spruce up the Light Station after the holidays. They cleaned the inside of the lighthouse and oil house, helped weatherize the decking on the cottage and restrooms, pressure washed the pavers, washed the cottage windows and helped us clean out a large storage area. They also picked up all the tree branches and other debris left by recent storms. Many thanks to the men and women of the CG Cutter VIGILANT out of Port Canaveral!



Photo credits: Cheryl M. Bennett

Space Force T-10 Miler

We welcomed nearly 2,500 runners and spectators during the T-Minus 10-Miler this year on December 9th, celebrating the birth of the Space Force. The next day, we welcomed over 50 key officer and enlisted personnel from around the country to visit the only lighthouse owned by their Space Force.



And School Tours Are BACK!

In November and December, we had three public schools bring over 180 students, teachers and chaperones out to visit the lighthouse and museum. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed their educational field trip! Many thanks to Holland Elementary, Palm Bay Elementary, and Eau Gallie High School for visiting. We already have several more schools lined up in January.



Community Outreach

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse was represented by a stellar community outreach team at the Meet the Museums of Brevard event held at the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum in Titusville on Saturday, Nov. 5.



L to R: Patricia Lautner, Liz Gravuer, Bev Merrilees.

Most excellent photo by Cheryl M. Bennett

Group Tours, Family Reunions & Docents

The Rigby Family Celebration Tour



Tidally United Summit Tour



Keeping the Light Shining - Membership Musings

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We went from 2023 to 2024 in the blink of an eye! Now that the holidays are behind us, we have a full year to accomplish those things that may have been overlooked in '23, such as taking time to relax. Sounds like a good idea, so to all of you Relax, and have a very Happy New Year!

The Member/Volunteer Appreciation picnic was held the end of October with beautiful weather, making it much more comfortable than the summer events of past years. Since our President was out of town for the event, we thank our 2nd VP, Todd McDowell, for welcoming and recognizing our members and volunteers; he did a great job. We also thank Jody Yeomans who entertained everyone; we hope he'll consider a return engagement at our next picnic.

The Membership Committee is looking ahead to schedule the Member/Volunteer picnic again in late fall. As for the next convoy, mark your calendar for 16 March 2024 and think green (no, not the grinch, but we do love the grinch). We try to make each convoy a little different so it never gets old. The Committee will be meeting in January to look at the next 12 months and think about when to schedule our convoys; March has already been scheduled, of course. Let us know if there is a special activity you would like the Membership Committee to consider.

Now for the numbers: As of 22 December, the [Cape Canaveral Lighthouse](#) Foundation (CCLF) has 562 members, which includes 4 new members who joined as **LIFE MEMBERS**, and 46 renewals. Thank you to all our members, with special thanks to **Liz & Scott Cooper**, and **Joe & Barb Mihelcic**, our newest Lifetime members! The last few months have been "slow" for new members, but our established members keep renewing, and keep us going. You are Fantastic! We have the best members because you all have an appreciation for the lighthouse and sharing the history of our area.

Thank you for your membership and all you do to keep our light shining!



And next time you visit, please notice only three benches remain for some generous donor to recognize a loved one or family with a charitable contribution to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation at the reduced price of only \$1500. Huge thanks to the Kelley Family - Bob, Karen, Stephen and Dog Dixie for your generosity. For further information, please contact us at info@canaverallight.org.

Precautionary Note

As a member, volunteer, or docent of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF), care must be exercised when expressing personal views in public and social media venues not to mention the CCLF as part of your affiliations. An innocent statement that you are affiliated with the CCLF can be mistaken by others that your personal views are the views of the CCLF.

To be on the safe side, get prior consent of the CCLF Board of Directors before you involve the CCLF. Only the current and past presidents, public relations/media director and social media guru have received prior approval to express CCLF views to the media.

***Welcoming the newest members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Family!***

NEW MEMBERS 21 October 2023 - 22 December 2023

Lifetime Family Membership (\$1,500 = 2 Lifetime Member)

**Liz & Scott Cooper
Joe & Barb Mihelcic**

***...And celebrating our renewing members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Family!***

RENEWALS 21 October 2023 - 22 December 2023

Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)

Gina Grey Barbara Hardy Patricia Lautner
Kathy Neff Emma Richard Don Stukey

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)

Russell & Deborah Allison Gary & Karen Barrows Gary Castner
Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar (Sponsor - Rusty & Sherrell Fischer)
Kelly Guldi Linda Halpin Judy & Joe Qualls
Rancho Relaxo (Sponsor - Jim & Kathie Underwood)
Terry Ryan Shane & Marian Smith
The Viera Company (Sponsor - Charlene Spangler)
The Ostarly's (Sponsor - Larry & Elva Ostarly)
GD Enterprises (Sponsor - Ginny Davis)
Kim & Salvatore Zocco

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)

Marcel P. Bedard & Margaret Talbot-Bedard
Jim & Mary Clamons
Bill & Mary Lou Heink
Rick & Michele Rohrmann
Curt & Linda Smith
Mark & Nancy Tomassone



Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Lifetime Members

Pierre & Kathy Alix Titusville, FL	Gene Johnson Merritt Island, FL	Rose Marie Wiley Cocoa Beach, FL
Julia & Joseph (Jett) Black, III Cocoa Beach, FL	Rocky & Lisa Johnson Cocoa, FL	Dr. Elbert (Sonny) & Kay Witt Melbourne FL
Carolyn Burby Port St. John, FL	Larry Kaczor & Caroline Kaczor Elliott Cocoa Beach, FL	Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates Melbourne, FL
Lloyce Campbell Merritt Island, FL	Al & Carol Koller, Jr. Titusville, FL	
Barry & Sheila Compagnoni Melbourne Beach, FL	[Eric Kucera] Merritt Island, FL	
Scott & Liz Cooper Greenwood, IN	Lynn & Mike Mariotti Naples, FL	
Preston A., Jr & Nancy C. Creech North Augusta, SC	Jeanna & Mike Merrifield Titusville, FL	
Sharon Crockett Rockledge, FL	[RADM Robert] & Beverly Merrilees Merritt Island, FL	
[Charles] & Ginny Davis Manvel, TX	Joe & Barb Mihelcic Cocoa Beach, FL	
Robert Davis Merritt Island, FL	Cal & Virginia Myer Naples, FL	
Jill & Jim Dooley Merritt Island, FL	[Donald] Ellen Myer Washington DC	
Cynthia Dropeski Melbourne, FL	Jamie & Jessica Myer Los Angeles, CA	
Ron & Christine Ecker Satellite Beach, FL	Jeff & Cathi Myer Burlington, MA	
Albert & Marie Elebash Melbourne, FL	Larry & Elva Ostarly Rockledge, FL	
Rodger S. Fowler Merritt Island, FL	Caroline & Jimmy Raleigh Merritt Island, FL	
Ric & Nancy Garwood Merritt Island, FL	Jim Ravitch Merritt Island, FL	
Rep. Tom Goodson Rockledge, FL	Dixie & Jerry Sansom Cocoa, FL	
(Bud)/Liz Gravuer Cocoa, FL	Michael & Susan Schwarz Port Canaveral, FL	
Beth & Dwight Greenberg Cocoa, FL	David Spain Merritt Island, FL	
[Bobbie Grine] Tuscaloosa, AL	[Yvonne]/Bob Thornton Titusville, FL	
Bob & Dianne Heidersbach Cape Canaveral, FL	James Trammell Melbourne, FL	
Christy & Randy Horn Oviedo, FL	RADM James and Kathie Underwood Merritt Island, FL	
Jerry & Darleen Hunt Merritt Island, FL		
Bill Jelen Merritt Island, FL		

***** CCLF Membership Application Form *****

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & JOIN CCLF TODAY!

Completed forms should be submitted along with payment to:
CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Yes, please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

Please select a membership level from the categories below:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Lighthouse Keeper | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper (Family) | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual) | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Lighthouse Keeper | \$15 |

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Family-2 member) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Single) | \$1,000 |

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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

To pay your membership dues online via PayPal, visit CanaveralLight.org

CCLF Member Benefits

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- 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 restore the lighthouse grounds and resurrect history!

**MEMBERS SAVE 10% AT
KEEPER'S CLOSET**

Stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the lighthouse. Browse our selection of souvenirs, books, apparel, jewelry, children's items and other lighthouse memorabilia. Proceeds support Foundation initiatives and community events. Members who present their membership card when shopping will receive a 10 percent discount on their purchase.

Volunteer Spotlight on Michele Giger Rohrmann

Look at the landscape around the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse keeper's cottage and you will see a bit of Michele Giger Rohrmann's touch.

She is pleased to have helped to add a bit of magic at the lighthouse after ending a 35-year career as a manager of some of the beautiful gardens at Walt Disney World. There she helped produce topiaries, containers and hanging baskets.

Rohrmann still has a deep desire to continue to ensure a great experience for guests through her many roles with the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. It is an attribute she brings from her Disney experience in a career she loved. That drive is noticeable in her volunteer work. She is co-chair of the lighthouse tours committee.

In addition, Rohrmann contributes to the lighthouse educational tours, climbs to the top of the lighthouse and assists with group tours by working with a great team of escorts.

"I especially appreciate the diverse group of people that I have met, who share their amazing stories of military, space and history of this wonderful property," she said.

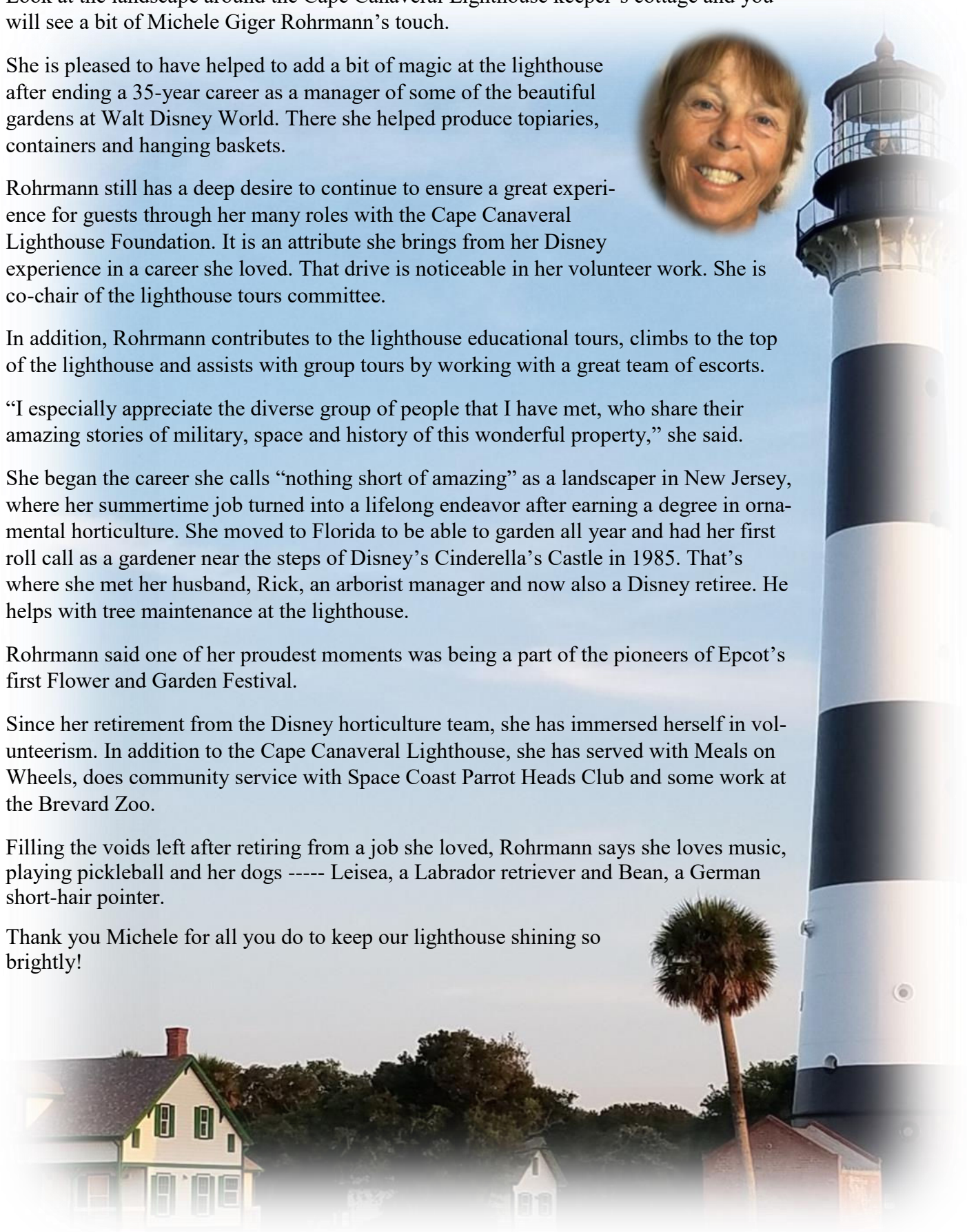
She began the career she calls "nothing short of amazing" as a landscaper in New Jersey, where her summertime job turned into a lifelong endeavor after earning a degree in ornamental horticulture. She moved to Florida to be able to garden all year and had her first roll call as a gardener near the steps of Disney's Cinderella's Castle in 1985. That's where she met her husband, Rick, an arborist manager and now also a Disney retiree. He helps with tree maintenance at the lighthouse.

Rohrmann said one of her proudest moments was being a part of the pioneers of Epcot's first Flower and Garden Festival.

Since her retirement from the Disney horticulture team, she has immersed herself in volunteerism. In addition to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, she has served with Meals on Wheels, does community service with Space Coast Parrot Heads Club and some work at the Brevard Zoo.

Filling the voids left after retiring from a job she loved, Rohrmann says she loves music, playing pickleball and her dogs ----- Leisea, a Labrador retriever and Bean, a German short-hair pointer.

Thank you Michele for all you do to keep our lighthouse shining so brightly!



Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

BRICK WALKWAY NEWS

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.

You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Purchase includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line *as well as insignias and art designs, such as a lighthouse or heart and a matted 5 x 7 inch picture of your brick ready for framing - all at no additional charge.* 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.



**Restore a Part of Florida's Space Coast History Today!
CCLF Members Receive a 10% Discount on All Bricks**

***** BRICK ORDER FORM *****

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

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Member Non-Member

Engraving Instructions: Each line is limited to 12 characters, including punctuation and spaces.
CCLF retains the right of final approval of copy.

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Florida Lighthouse Association Update



Florida Lighthouse Association

Protecting, Preserving, & Restoring Florida's Lighthouses

Make Plans to Joins us!

Friday, February 2 & Saturday, February 3

The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc

is proud to announce that our

2024 Winter Members Meeting
will be visiting the

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has stood on the Cape for over **150 years**. Situated amidst America's Premier Gateway to Space, the lighthouse is owned by the United States Space Force and maintained as an active aid to navigation by the United States Coast Guard, 7th District.

Winter Member Event

More Information Coming Soon!

**Early-Bird Member Registration Opens at 12:00 PM
on January 2, 2024**



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. REISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY 410 ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Rear Admiral G. Robert “Bob” Merrilees, USCGR (Retired)**Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation President Emeritus****Farewell Dear Friend - Rest in Peace**

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse joined all Coast Guard facilities worldwide on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 to honor Bob Merrilees, RADM (ret) US Coast Guard Reserve. Bob passed away on November 18, 2023.

He was a member of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation for over twenty years and served as President of the Board of Directors for eight years. As a visionary leader who saw what could be again, Bob led the mission to restore the light station with replica cottages, creating a museum and educational experience for residents, and future visitors to the Space Coast.

Bob will be missed by everyone who knew him.



2024 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

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Thank You to Our 2023 Annual Sponsors! Please Return for 2024!



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The Ostarly's

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Canaveral Pilots Association - 2024

Aggressive Pest Management

THE VIERA COMPANY - 2024