

# VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

35 cents

Vol. 1 / Issue 6

Friday, December 14, 2012

## 'Day that will live in infamy'



Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer

Peter Popolizio of Port St. Lucie received the proclamation made by Mayor JoAnn Faiella recognizing Pearl Harbor Day at the memorial at the boat ramp plaza on Veteran's Memorial Parkway Friday, Dec. 7. Popolizio is commander of the Korean War Veterans Chapter 106 in Port St. Lucie.

Pearl Harbor Day survivor Dick Ramsey, 89, of Port St. Lucie spoke about his experience being a sailor on board the *USS Nevada* while stationed in Hawaii the day the base was attacked in 1941 during ceremonies held at the memorial at the boat ramp plaza on Veteran's Memorial Parkway in Port St. Lucie.



Mitch Kloorfain  
chief photographer

## Akron, Macon live on in memory

By Col. Terry Yon  
For Veteran Voice

Have you ever heard of an "airborne aircraft carrier?"

Well, I had not either, until I started volunteering at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville. It is just one of the many interesting and historically strange evolutions in our nation's military aviation history. In the 1930s, the U.S. Navy designed two lighter-than-air ships, the *USS Akron* and *USS Macon*, as airborne aircraft carriers.

They could launch and recover heavier-than-air planes for use in both reconnaissance and self-defense. They were only about 20 feet shorter than the famous *Hindenburg*, however, they were among the largest flying objects in the world in terms of length (785 feet long!) and volume. Although the hydrogen-filled *Hindenburg* was longer, the two sisters still hold the world record for helium-filled airships.

The ships were equipped with hangars, approximately 75 feet by 60 feet wide by 16 feet, which could stow and service up to five aircraft in flight. Aircraft were launched and retrieved by means of a trapeze, and could enter and exit the hangar through a large T-shaped opening at the bottom of the hull. Because the giant airships made large, slow targets, which were highly vulnerable

See CARRIERS page 14

# Hearing Aid Ads Confusing You?

## A Clients True Story of Superior, Compassionate Service and Care

### St. Lucie County

It was a hot night in July, 1995 when the world went completely dark for Rachel Guild. A passenger in a vehicle involved in a rollover crash on I-95, Rachel's mom was told her daughter would likely only survive for hours, and Rachel was still in a coma when her best friend (another passenger in the car that fateful evening) was buried. Seventeen years later, Rachel Guild is a testament to persistence, miracles, and caring professionals. Though completely blind as a result of the accident, Rachel lets absolutely nothing stand in her way, and she finds beauty in the way the world can be experienced through her remaining senses. As a matter of fact, that's how Rachel became acquainted with Joe Mutter of Mutter's Hearing in St. Lucie West.

### You Too Can Experience the Mutter Difference

One of the lesser injuries Rachel suffered as a result of the crash which claimed her best friend, Sarah, and her eyesight was some hearing loss due to scar tissue in her left ear. When some close friends told her about Joe and Mutter's Hearing, Rachel and her mom set up a free clinical hearing evaluation with Joe, a Florida Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist and retired law enforcement officer with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. Joe was ranked Top Cop in the State of Florida by the Florida Fraternal Order of Police and highly honored for his accomplishments and Commitment to the community through volunteerism. Mutter performed several tests on Rachel to determine the level of her hearing loss and then broke the news. "He didn't think I needed hearing aids," Rachel said. "He said I had a mild hearing loss and it may not be great enough to warrant the considerable expense that I would incur with hearing aids. Even though he could have easily made a big profit, that's

not the way he is. I explain to Joe that if I am ever going to regain total independence, I need to be able to hear everything with great clarity." For Rachel, the way that Mutter compassionately listened to her concerns, asked her questions about her needs, lifestyle, and was hesitant to make a sale simply for the sake of making a sale were the deciding factors in doing business with him. "I had consulted with other hearing aid dealers and I was very disappointed that their only concern was how I would be making payment," Rachel says. "Joe was the opposite; he wasn't just trying to make a sale he actually cared about me and my special needs!"

evaluations and he utilizes state-of-the-art technology. He even includes a hearing loss simulator to replicate for family members what their voices sound like to someone with a hearing loss because, of course, a hearing loss is invisible and affects every member of the family. "What I deal with is a very precious commodity – "my clients' trust and their hearing," says Mutter. "I care about my clients, not their pocketbook."

### Stop Chasing Deals That Don't Exist

Mutter's Hearing Center is conveniently located at 1420 SW St. Lucie West Boulevard, just west of the Wells Fargo bank, in St. Lucie West. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening and weekend appointments available, as well as home visits can be arranged by appointment. Mutter's Hearing Center will guide you through your insurance options and assist you with financing your hearing aids if necessary. The initial consultations and clinical evaluations are absolutely free. Call Mutter's Hearing Center today at (772) 871-1222 to arrange a your free hearing consultation. Mutter's Hearing Center has been voted the Readers Choice #1 Hearing Center in St. Lucie West since 2004 and is the ONLY full time hearing center in St. Lucie West.

### Deal With the Owner- He Can Make it Right

Being blind is difficult, but for Rachel Guild, losing her hearing would be so much worse. "I think it would be a very lonely world," she says. "Being deaf makes you feel so isolated; everyone has a conversation going, but when they try to talk to you, you cannot understand them. It's hard for people who haven't been there to realize, but being able to participate in the conversation when your loved ones and friends are talking is a way to keep from being isolated and alone. I am so grateful to Joe and Mutter's Hearing Center for helping me rejoin the conversation and regain my independence".



Joe Mutter, H.A.S. and Client Rachel Guild Share a Moment at His St. Lucie West Office

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Photo courtesy of Bill Cofield

Bill Cofield was flight director for Mission Control in Houston during Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle missions.

# Bill Cofield: The Right Stuff

By Joyce Wilden  
For Veteran Voice

BREVARD COUNTY — Granger, Mont., was so small in 1920 that locals joked the “Welcome” sign had “Come Back Soon” on the reverse. Young Bill Cofield moved with his family to Los Angeles, completing school and commercial art training. At Walt Disney Studios in 1941, Bill drew animations for Mickey Mouse and Pinocchio. Then World War II intervened. Just as he was finishing Army Air Corps basic training, Pearl Harbor was attacked. The trained aviation cadet headed to London and the 8th Air Force, where flights in his B-24 bomber took him over the skies of Germany. The war’s end brought

an engineering degree from the UCLA before a return to active duty with the Flight Test Group at Eglin Field in Florida. Later a B-36 bomber squadron commander, Bill married Molly Roy and began a family.

Assignments took Bill to Tokyo, Hawaii and advanced management studies at Yale, then back to the cockpit in the B-47 jet strategic bomber. In the early 1960s, Bill’s focus shifted to the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program. He became deputy commander of the Titan II wing in Little Rock, Ark., where 18 ICBMs slept quietly in their underground silos. In Omaha, he managed ICBM programs at Strategic Air

See COFIELD page 7

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# Marines recall

Dan DePagnier of Fort Pierce spoke to the supporters at the Pearl Harbor Day remembrance ceremony in Port St. Lucie Friday, Dec. 7. Dan is a member of the Jack Ivey Detachment #666 Marine Corps League.

Mitch Kloorfain  
chief photographer



## The Leader in Women's Wellness Has Something NEW!

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# VETERAN VOICE

## MISSION STATEMENT AND OUR OBJECTIVE

**Veteran Voice** is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of **Veteran Voice** is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

**Veteran Voice LLC** is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. **VV** is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public. To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veterans organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of **VeteranVoice**.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing [editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com](mailto:editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com) or mailing your comments to us at

1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

# Monumental memorial



Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer

The memorial for the Pearl Harbor Day remembrance ceremony in Port St. Lucie is located at the boat ramp parking plaza on Veteran's Memorial Parkway. A proclamation was made by Mayor JoAnn Faiella followed by a ceremonial tossing of flowers in the waterway.

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# CenterState Bank contributes to Military Moms Prayer Group

## For Veteran Voice

The Vero Beach Branch of CenterState Bank has dedicated November and December to recognizing hero's in the community. Based on a specially designed Community Hero's Program offering special benefits to local "community hero's" who open accounts at the bank, they have also taken steps in the community to offer financial donations for the good work that is being done.

One instance of that was a special visit branch officials made on Saturday, December 2 to the Military Moms Prayer Group. The interdenominational, not for profit circle of faith organization, supports troops through weekly prayer and annual outreach drives throughout the year. The group participated in the Family Holiday Festival at Riverside Park with a booth offering organization information. They also distributed their "box-in-a-bag" mailing kit for visitors to send to the troops

See MOMS page 7



Photo courtesy of Paris Productions

(Left to right) Carol England; (Navy E-6 Austin Saint-Vincent cardboard); Lynn Marie Saint-Vincent (Coordinator, Holidays for Heroes); Andy Beindorf, CenterState Bank President; Diana Walker Branch Manager; Pam Proctor (President, Military Moms Prayer Group); Rosemary Spellacy, Jane Fini, Denise Gates; (US Army Capt. Christina Presley Remmert-cardboard); Michele Scales (Secretary, Military Moms Prayer Group). Michele Scales and Pam Proctor were among the five founders of the Military Moms Prayer Group in August 2006 that included (not pictured) Linda Colontrelle, Margy Kulczycki, and Gail Reams.

## VA registers 'GI Bill' as a trademark

### For Veteran Voice

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that GI Bill is now a registered trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and VA is the sole owner of the mark.

"We will continue to support our Veterans by helping them obtain the best education of their choosing—a right for which they have bravely served, and which they have truly earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We all want Veterans to be informed consumers in their educational pursuit."

On April 26, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607, directing the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education to undertake a number of measures to "stop deceptive and misleading" promotional efforts that target the GI Bill educational benefits of Servicemembers, Veterans,

**On April 26, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607, directing the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education to undertake a number of measures to "stop deceptive and misleading" promotional efforts that target the GI Bill educational benefits of Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible family members and survivors.**

ans, and eligible family members and survivors. One of the key components of the order was for VA to register the term "GI Bill" as a trademark in order to protect individuals and ensure they are directed to the right resources to make informed decisions.

In addition, VA obtained the rights to the GIBill.com website after the original owners agreed to give up the site. VA is taking a proactive approach in continuously taking action to eliminate fraudulent marketing and recruiting practices.

"Trademarking 'GI Bill' is a great step for-

ward in continuing our mission to better serve this nation's Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families," said Allison A. Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits.

VA will issue terms of use for "GI Bill" within the next six months.

"We want to ensure the right balance with these new guidelines so that our stakeholders can still promote GI Bill and we can prohibit others from using it fraudulently," said Curtis L. Coy, deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity.

Since August 2009, VA has paid over \$23.8 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to over 866,000 Veterans, Servicemembers, and dependents. VA received over 478,000 Fall 2012 enrollments for Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For more information on GI Bill programs, please visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a GI Bill representative.

## VA releases new PSA targeting women

'The Right Place' assures female vets of high-quality VA Care

### For Veteran Voice

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new public service announcement (PSA) to let wom-

en Veterans know they've come to "The Right Place" when seeking VA health care.

"We want to send a very clear message to women Veterans that VA is here to meet your health

care needs," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It is important that women Veterans receive the high-quality health care and benefits they have earned through their service."

The number of women using VA health care has doubled in the past decade and that number is expected to double again soon. The 30-second video PSA, pro

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**COFIELD from page 3**

Command headquarters before his career took another turn.

NASA wanted an aerospace engineer with the right stuff for their Apollo program. Based in Washington, D.C., and flying between Houston Mission Control and Kennedy Space Center, Bill supervised the training programs and mission planning of the Apollo astronauts. Skylab followed Apollo, where Bill oversaw the flights to America's first space station.

Retired from the Air Force and rehired by NASA, Bill managed flight test operations for the

first Space Shuttle flights. For a total of eight manned space flights, he was flight director for Mission Control in Houston and part of the Mission Management Team. After retirement from the "grand adventure" in 1982, he lost Molly to breast cancer.

Years alone followed, before Bill took pretty Rose Marie for his bride. Honeymooning in Florida, they met a couple from Indian River Colony Club in Viera. After one look, the newlyweds bought a home overlooking the IRCC golf course. Twenty-two years later, they are living happily ever after.

**MOMS from page 6**

filled with special treats and gifts for their son or daughter in the service.

CenterState Bank President Andy Beindorf with Branch Manager Diana Walker met with the Military Moms and presented a check for \$250 from the Bank to enable the organization to continue their services to families of troops.

Last month, Branch Manager

Diana Walker visited with Marty Zickert, President of the Indian River County Veterans Council and Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 1038) at Memorial Island to present the Veteran's Council with a check of \$250.

For more information on Military Moms, contact President Pam Proctor at 772-231-2221. For more information on the Community Heroes Program at CenterState Bank, contact Walker at (772) 229-6860 or visit her at 855 21st St. in Vero Beach.

**WOMEN from page 6**

duced by VA's Women's Health Services office, addresses key themes defined by Secretary Shinseki.

Key messages in the PSA include: assuring women Veterans that VA is ready to serve them; encouraging viewers to rethink assumptions that all Veterans are male; and reminding Americans that women Veterans are coming home, separating from service, or returning to Guard or Reserve status.

The PSA was developed for nationwide release along with a new employee awareness video created as part of VA's ongoing efforts to change its culture to be more understanding and accommodating of women Veterans. It also promotes the recognition of women Veterans around Veterans Day, honoring their service to our country.

"Not all women who served their country identify as Veterans and many women Veterans are unaware that VA offers high quality women's health care," said Dr. Robert Petzel, Undersecretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration. "One of the most important aspects of our efforts to serve women Veterans is to make sure each one of them knows we're here."

Women serve in every branch of the military, representing 15 percent of today's active duty military and nearly 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. By 2020, VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population.

VA is disseminating its culture-of-change message to employees and Veterans through a multi-faceted campaign, which includes a toolkit for outreach to women Veterans. To access additional campaign materials, visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov/culture\\_change.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/culture_change.asp). To access the toolkit, visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov/toolkits.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/toolkits.asp).

The PSA is available for viewing on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5F-GlZ2uYiU> and [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov). Broadcast organizations interested in obtaining a broadcast-quality version of the PSA can download it by accessing the following link: [https://downloads.va.gov/files/VA\\_OPIA/VDPDVAPSA/](https://downloads.va.gov/files/VA_OPIA/VDPDVAPSA/), then right clicking on "VDPDVAPSA5H.mov" and selecting "save target as."

Visit [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet) and [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov) to learn more about VA programs and services for women Veterans.

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## Fort Pierce PAL Toy Run 2012



Photo courtesy of Ron Nelson

Steve 'Doc' Toryak of Stuart participated in the 6th Annual Toy Run in Fort Pierce. The annual event benefits children of St. Lucie County. Steve served as a US Navy Hospital Corpsman Respiratory Therapist in Bethesda, Md., from Jul 1985 to May 1997.



Photo courtesy of Ron Nelson

Denis Petrinic of Port St. Lucie and his wife Linda participated in the 6th Annual Toy Run in Fort Pierce. The annual event benefits children of St. Lucie County. Denis served as a platoon sergeant, drill sergeant and a combat medic.



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# VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

*Veteran Voice is a weekly newspaper for veterans, active military, their families and their friends.*

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**Photo courtesy of Pete Sayles**  
 Pete Sayles, first vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038 and Jr. vice commandant for the Marine Corps League, Detachment 058, and Lt. Colonel Eric 'Rip' Wieler doing a Toys for Tots function at the Indian River Mall earlier this month for Simon Mall's 'Giving Tuesday.' They collected toys and also raised some money for the Victory Center Military Store in the mall, along with raising awareness and exposure for each organization.

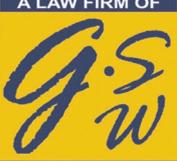
## VETERAN VOICE

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# VA broadening scope of traumatic brain injury as service-connected condition

By Patrick McCallister  
For Veteran Voice

Local veteran James “J” Rednour hesitates often when he talks. He has to stop and form his words.

“That’s the (traumatic brain injury),” he said. “I used to be very articulate with my words. I wrote all the time.”

Whether or not Mr. Rednour knows it, he’s still articulate. He’s just a little slower in his speech than before he was injured on Dec. 7, 2003. He was serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Slowed speech isn’t the biggest of his concerns. There’s emerging evidence that due to the TBI, Mr. Rednour is more susceptible to Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases, and a host of other medical problems.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on Friday, Dec. 7 — the ninth anniversary of Mr. Rednour’s injury — it’s looking to add five medical conditions that seem related to TBI as presumptive service-connected conditions. The move should make getting broader Veterans Health Administration treatment easier for Mr. Rednour and many other veterans.

Mr. Rednour’s mother, Cindy Rednour, is pleased with the announcement.

“I’m glad the VA is opening up this idea of what an injury is,” she said.

She said that the VA seems to be making strides in understanding and treating TBI, but society is still largely lagging behind.

“When J was given 100-percent



James Rednour

disabled, they were expecting missing limbs or something like that,” Ms. Rednour said. “Looking at him, you don’t see that.”

Dr. Ramon L. Cuevas-Trisan, chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, said many veterans with TBIs aren’t aware of it, and the department is making efforts to identify and treat them.

“I think (TBI) is a little more common than it was originally thought,” he said.

Dr. Cuevas-Trisan said all veterans treated at VA medical facilities are now getting TBI screenings. He said about 35 to 40 percent of those screened show some possible signs of TBI. Additional testing, he said, narrows it

See BRAIN page 13

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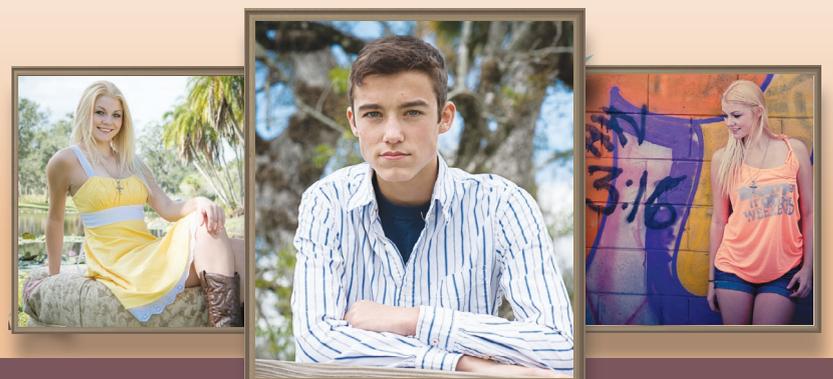
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Photo courtesy of the Naval History & Heritage Command Crew's mess on board *USS Akron*, October 1931. The Navy's helium-filled 'airborne aircraft carrier' didn't make it through a 1933 thunderstorm off the coast of New Jersey, and only three of the 76 people on board survived.

**CARRIERS from page 14**

other missions.

Later in 1934, Lieutenant Commander Herbert Wiley, one of the three survivors of the *USS Akron* crash on April 3, 1933, and now captain of the *USS Macon*, surprised President Franklin D. Roosevelt (and the Navy), when *Macon* searched for and located the heavy cruiser *Houston*, which was then carrying the president back from a trip to Hawaii.

On Feb. 12, 1935, returning fleet maneuvers, *Macon* ran into a storm off Point Sur, Calif. During the storm, she was caught in a wind shear, which caused structural failure of the upper tailfin. Control was lost and tail-heavy and with engines running full speed ahead, the *Macon* eventually settled gently into the sea and sank off Monterey Bay. However, this time only two crew members died from her complement of 76, thanks to the warm conditions and the introduction of life jackets and inflatable rafts after the *Akron* tragedy.

With the death of the second airship, the concept of an airborne aircraft became unacceptable to the Navy, the public and Congress. This ended a short, but interesting chapter of a unique and interesting experiment in military aviation history.

*Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Terry Yon is the public relations officer of the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville.*

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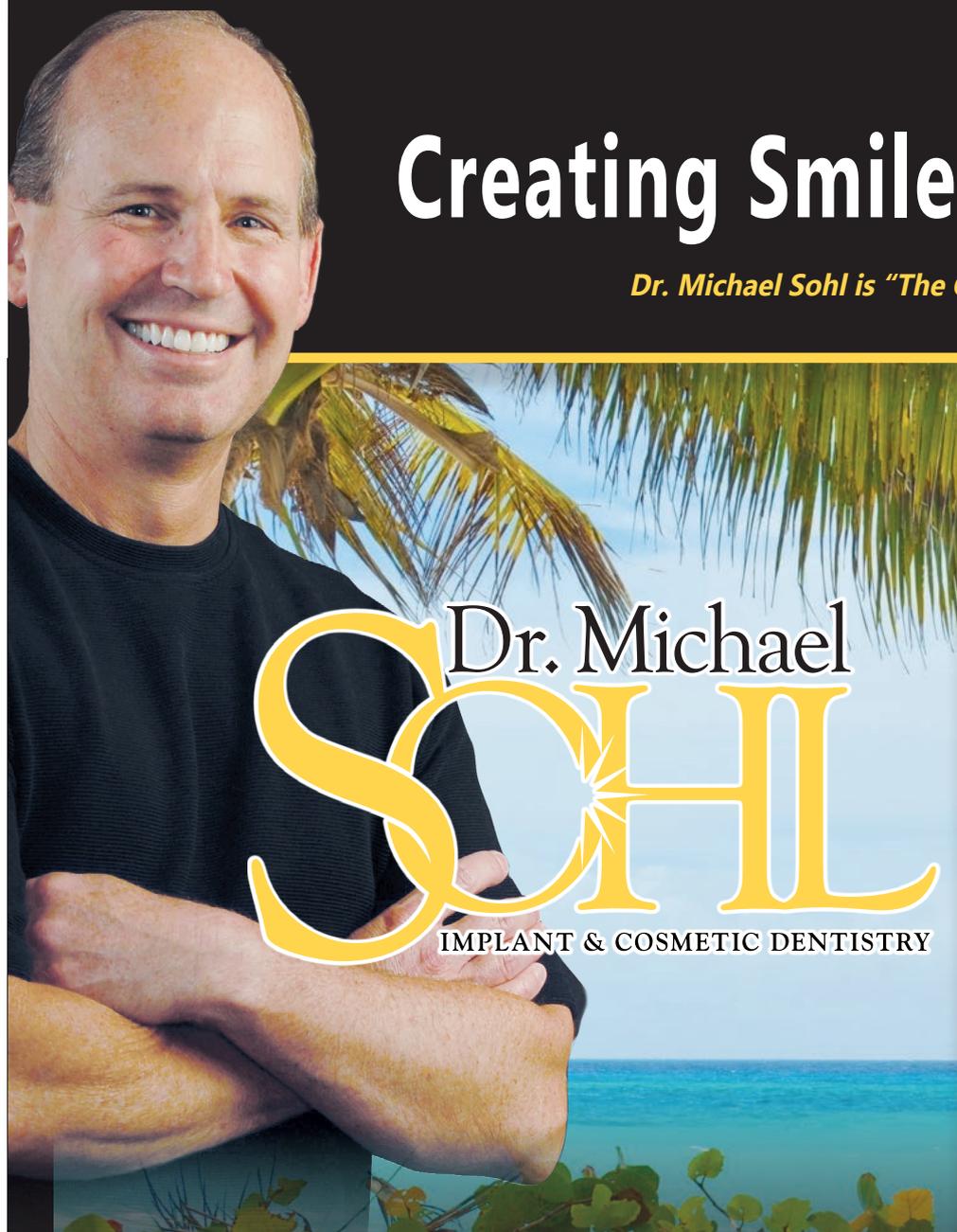
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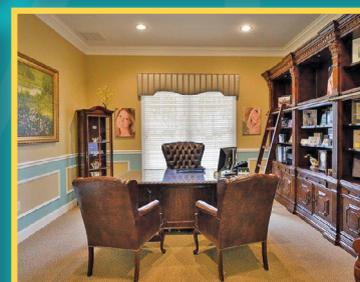
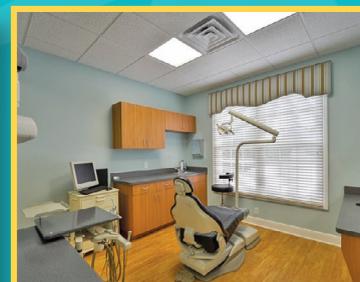
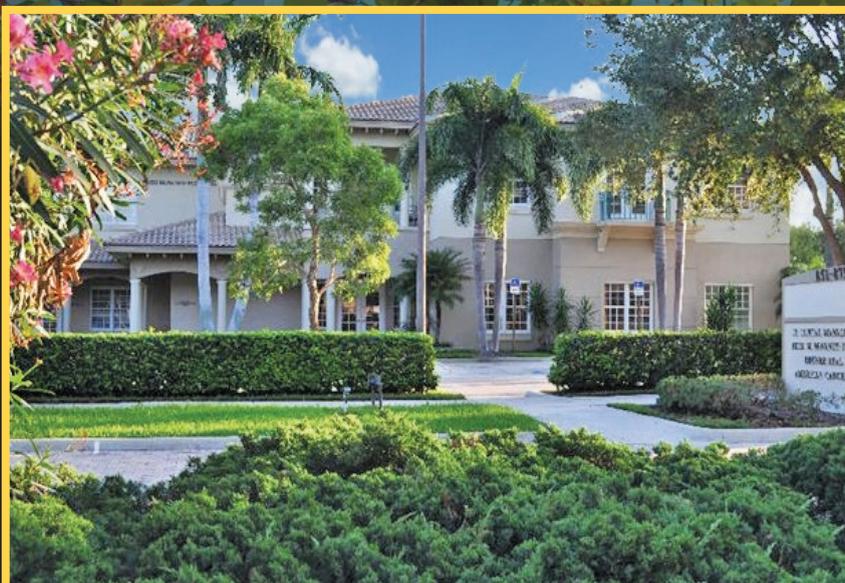
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## Your Oral Health Tip of the Month

### BRIGHTENING YOUR SMILE, OUTLOOK

During the holidays, people might feel overwhelmed by the added stress and anxiety. Holiday travels, gift planning, and preparing for holiday feasts can take a toll on people's outlook. Sometimes the only thing needed to boost your mood involves smiling. Flashing a smile can release endorphins which results in mood elevation. Additionally, smiling is infectious and can impact the mood of surrounding family members, friends, or coworkers. Your Stuart cosmetic dentist, Dr. Michael Sohl, discusses how to brighten your smile and your outlook.

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