



# HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL JAN 2024



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### ~MISSION STATEMENT~

- **Halifax Area Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America.**
- **Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families.**



## President's Message

*Andrew (Drew) Hoffman, Capt., USAF (Ret).*



Welcome and a very Happy New Year to everyone. I am humbled and honored to serve as your chapter's President in 2024! As you are all aware, I cannot guide our chapter without the assistance of a strong team.

I thank you for providing me with the following volunteer leadership: Don Needham, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Casey Lancaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Tina Dixon-Barlett, Secretary;

Lon Gardner, Treasurer; Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison; David Wheel, Newsletter/Web Master; Jon Bateman, Membership Chair; Glenn Harmon, Awards Chair; Directors – Kim Ramos, Skip Keating, and Steve Maas; Bancroft McKittrick, Immediate Past President. New members of the Board of Directors were installed or reconfirmed at our December Holiday Gala. Congratulations, welcome, and thank you to these volunteers.

It is my intention to continue using two critical chapter tools to keep us strong and moving forward. These two documents: Chapter Planning Guide and Chapter Action Plan have been critical to our prior successes and will guide us into the future. They will also provide you with easy-access tools to keep you abreast of where we are and where we are going. If you see (or don't see) something in error or missing, please email or call me with your input. These documents will be generated during the planning sessions of the January Board of Directors meeting. A first draft is included later in this Officers Call.

Finally, if you haven't noticed, the Halifax River Yacht Club informed us in November that they had no choice but to raise the cost of our meals to keep up with inflation. The new cost is \$27.00 per meal for the regular luncheons through the first half of 2024. The HRYC will negotiate the second half of year 2024. Please don't let this small increase in price be the reason you don't attend our luncheon meetings – our chapter can only remain active if you participate in the meetings and activities. If you haven't attended a meeting recently, why not make every attempt to join your fellow officers at the next meeting.

Together, let's work towards making the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA a strong organization and advocate for all our veterans.

**NEVER STOP SERVING! Drew**

	<i>Chapter Officers</i>		
<b>President</b>	<b>Drew Hoffman, Capt. USAF (Ret)</b>	<b>386-562-3325</b>	<a href="mailto:drewhoffman49@gmail.com"><b>drewhoffman49@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Don Needham, LCDR, USN, (Ret)</b>	<b>386-383-8423</b>	<a href="mailto:fitron84@gmail.com"><b>fitron84@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	<b>Casey Lancaster, LT, USN (Ret)</b>	<b>386-956-5218</b>	<a href="mailto:StephenCason.Lancaster@gmail.com"><b>StephenCason.Lancaster@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lonnie R. Gardner, LTC, USA, (Ret)</b>	<b>386-672-4578</b>	<a href="mailto:lrgardner@att.net"><b>lrgardner@att.net</b></a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC USA (Ret)</b>	<b>352-476-8032</b>	<a href="mailto:joyfultina@aol.com"><b>joyfultina@aol.com</b></a>

## Secretary's Report – December Board of Directors' Meeting

### Secretary's Report – December 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting

The December 2023 Board of Director's Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on December 5, 2023, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Bancroft McKittrick at 10 a.m.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) and guests were present: Bancroft McKittrick\*, Billie Krueger\*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett\*, Lon Gardener\*, Skip Keating\*, Steve Maas\*, John Higgins\*, Patti Higgins\*, Pierre Louis, Jon Bateman, Don Needham, Carl Krueger, and Casey Lancaster.

**Quorum requirements met.**

### Old Business

The following items were discussed:

1. **The minutes of the November 2023, Board of Directors meeting** - were distributed by email during October. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - Lon summarized the report and said that the current checking balance is \$5654.26. There is \$500 in uncashed checks, \$150 in petty cash, making a total balance of \$5804.26. Lon pointed out that we only have \$1720 in the scholarship, and \$3000 is needed when we present the scholarships. Steve Maas led a discussion which recommended that we advertise, more prominently, the need for scholarship funds. Pierre recommended a bar graph in the OC and the BOD agreed. Steve Maas made a motion to accept, John Higgins seconded, and all approved.
3. **Membership** – Steve Becker was absent and Jon Bateman, who has agreed to be the Membership chair for 2024 discussed his report (previously emailed to the members). At the end of 2023, we have a total of 127 members, and have lost eighteen members due to relocation or passing. John Higgins made a motion to accept, and Steve Maas seconded, all approved.
4. **Officer Call** – Pierre stated that David Wheel will take on more newsletter/webmaster duties in January 2024 when Pierre becomes the new **FCOC Legislative Liaison**.
5. **Surviving Spouse Update** – Patti stated that there was nothing new to discuss. She mentioned that virtual surviving spouse training will begin in January.
6. **Bagels and Bingo** – Skip stated that this activity took place yesterday. There were 7 MOAA members and eighteen veterans present. The veterans were given double bingo cards and a \$10 gift card. This activity takes place at Emory Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home in Daytona Beach at 10 am on the first Monday of each month.
7. **VCVC Update** – Skip stated that there was nothing new from VCVC.
8. **VA Coffee and Donuts** – John and Patti provided coffee and donuts at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic last Wednesday. They are still awaiting information on a place to store their equipment when the new clinic opens next year.
9. **Holiday Gala Update** – Lon stated that forty-four people have paid to attend the gala. Members of the Deland MOAA chapter have expressed wanting to join us for the gala. Billie and Lon will be meeting with them next Friday, to find out how many will be attending their chapter.
10. **January Luncheon Speaker** – For the January 2024 luncheon, Dr. Johnson will be speaking on Hyperbaric Therapy. Dr. Johnson was a member of the National Guard and was the state surgeon of Missouri. Billie stated that there is lots of interest and excitement about his visit. She also mentioned that the price of the monthly luncheons will be increased to \$27.
11. **Gifts from Billie** – Billie will not be on the board in 2024 so she presented Christmas gifts to the members and expressed her gratitude for all their support the last two years. Bancroft and Steve acknowledged and

complimented Billie for her outstanding work as a board member. Billie will be missed by all the board members.

### New Business

12. **Leadership Books** – There are only three leadership books remaining. Kim will be asked to reorder more books.
13. **FCOC Leadership Seminar Attendees** – Bancroft mentioned that the leadership seminar will be held the last weekend in January. He states that the seminar would be beneficial for all members.
14. **Chapter Officers for 2024 Installation**  
The potential board members and/or candidates are:  
**President** – Andrew Hoffman; **1<sup>st</sup> VP** – Don Needham; **2<sup>nd</sup> VP** – Casey Lancaster.  
**Secretary** – Tina Dixon-Bartlett; **Treasurer** -- Lon Gardner.  
**Surviving Spouse** – Patti Higgins; **Past President** – Bancroft McKittrick.  
**Directors** – Kim Ramos, Skip Keating, Stephen Maas.  
Other positions: **Membership Chair** – Jon Bateman; **Awards** – Glenn Harmon.  
**Newsletter/Webmaster** – Pierre Louis and David Wheel.  
**Bagels and Bingo** – Skip Keating; **Coffee and Donuts** – John and Patti Higgins.

### From the Floor

15. Skip invited us to participate in “Wreaths Across America” at Lohman Cemetery on December 16, 2023, at 12 noon. Pierre will send an email to the membership.
16. Skip also mentioned that there is a WWII exhibit at the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS), 352 S. Nova Rd, Daytona Beach. It will be here through January 21, 2024, and is FREE.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. Our next meeting is on 2 January 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Dixon-Bartlett  
Secretary, Halifax Chapter of MOAA



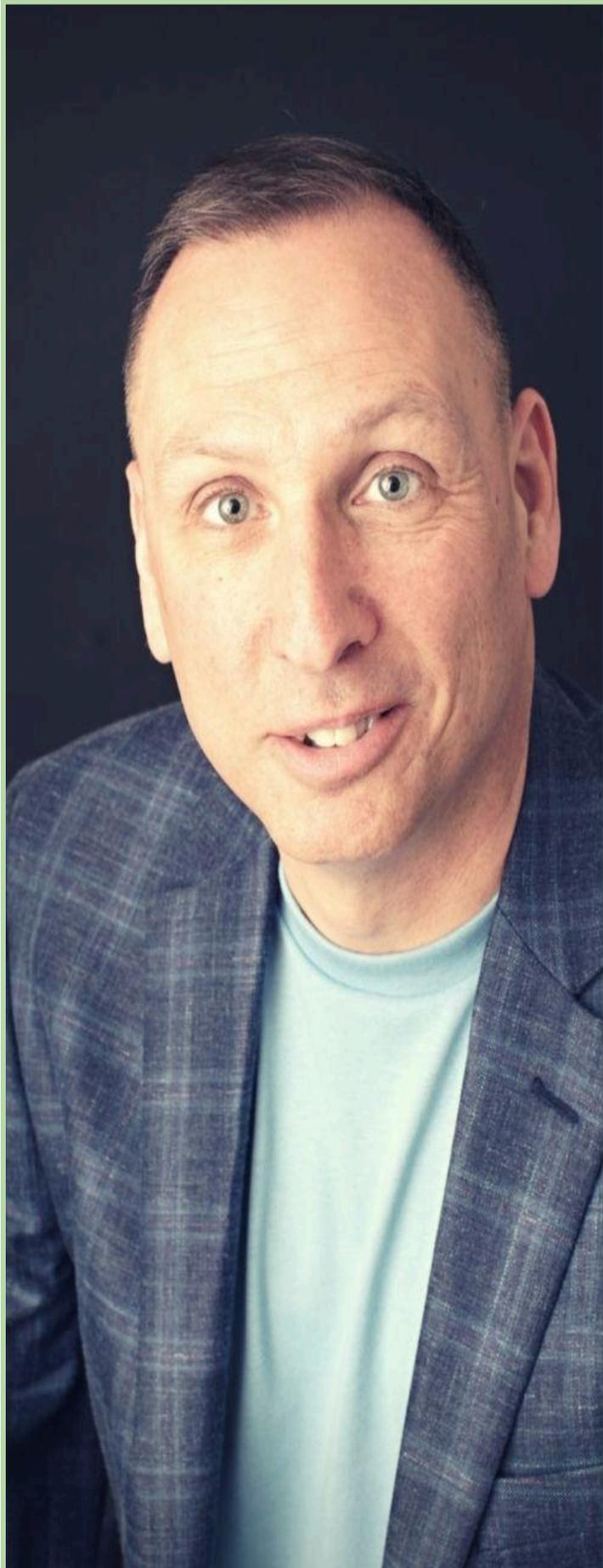
**\*2023-2024 Outstanding Support to Veterans for Profit Award Winner\***



**\*2023-2024 Outstanding Support to Veterans Nonprofit Award Winner\***

## Halifax Area 2024 Chapter Planning Board

<b>BOD Date</b>	<b>Luncheon Date</b>	<b>Speaker and/or Event</b>	<b>Supporting Elements /P.O.C.'s</b>
January 2, 2024	Thursday, January 25, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr. Paul Johnson – Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FCOC Leadership Forum</li> <li>- Initiate the write-up of Level of Chapter Excellence submission--Due May 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>- Start Ordering Gold Bars</li> <li>- Submit Marvin Harris Communication Award – Due February 1, 2023</li> </ul>
February 6, 2024	Thursday, February 22, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>– Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA</li> <li>- Submit Mercer Ad</li> </ul>
March 5, 2024	Thursday, March 28, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>– Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sign Entertainment Contract for Gala</li> </ul>
April 2, 2024	Thursday, April 25, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROTC Scholarship Dinner</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cadet Introductions and Recognition</li> <li>- Obtain 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024 Menus from HRYC</li> </ul>
May 7, 2024	Thursday, May 23, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level, of Excellence Submission - May 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>- FCOC FL State Conference, Daytona Beach, FL</li> </ul>
	****	<b>***Chapter on Summer Break***</b>	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade
September 3, 2024	Thursday, September 26, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>– Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out)</li> <li>- Obtain 2024 – 2025 Lunch Menu</li> <li>- Obtain Holiday Menu</li> </ul>
October 1, 2024	Thursday, October 24, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>– Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Begin Toys for Tots Campaign. Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meeting</li> <li>- Announce the Holiday Gala</li> </ul>
November 5, 2024	Thursday, November 21, 2024 <b>Date moved due to Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>– Guest Speaker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advertise the “Holiday Gala” Membership Month</li> </ul>
December 3, 2024	Thursday December 19, 2024 <b>Date moved due to Christmas Holiday</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Holiday Gala Dinner Dance”</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music and Entertainment</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Price: TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns and 2ndLt’s</li> <li>- “Holiday Gala”</li> </ul>



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## Halifax Area 2024 Action Plan

<b>Chapter Goals and Objectives</b>		<b>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</b>
<b>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</b>		
1	Expand the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business and health and wellness	January: Col. Paul Johnson, MD – Hyperbaric Medicine
2	Publish a local veteran related article in local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts	Pierre Louis, David Wheel
<b>RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</b>		
3	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan=, Feb=, Mar=, Apr=, May=, Sep= , Oct=, Nov= , Dec=
4	Net gain of 15 members for 2024	Everyone xx new members as of 1-01-2024
5	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	Bancroft McKittrick and committee
6	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Pierre Louis/David Wheel
<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>		
7	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins
8	Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Members; Transfers; Special Events
<b>BASE COMMUNITY</b>		
9	Present an annual "Outstanding Support for Veterans Award" to a local business or organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor
10	Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.	Kim Ramos
11	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Drew Hoffman
12	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home	Skip Keating
13	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	John Higgins
14	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos
15	Host an annual "Holiday Gala"; Invite Guest Chapters	tbd
16	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick
<b>OTHER</b>		
17	Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/David Wheel
18	Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone/Pierre Louis

# Largest Pay Raise in 2 Decades Part of Final Defense Authorization Bill

DECEMBER 12, 2023

Updated with details on House passage.

By [MOAA's Government Relations Team](#)

The final conference report on the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes the largest pay raise for servicemembers in two decades and addresses more than a dozen key MOAA priorities, including TRICARE improvements and increased support for military families.



The [3,000-plus-page report](#) was released late Dec. 6. The bill passed the Senate Dec. 13 by an 87-13 margin and passed the House 310-118 on Dec. 14, and now moves to the president's desk [for signature](#). The NDAA would authorize \$886 billion for DoD and national security elements within the Department of Energy; for comparison, the FY 2023 NDAA authorized [\\$816.7 billion](#).

The authorization still requires appropriated dollars from Congress, with deadlines of Jan. 19 and Feb. 2 approaching for the current "laddered" [continuing resolutions](#). Appropriations must pass to prevent the next government shutdown and fund the NDAA.

MOAA's focus on the NDAA is to protect the pay, benefits, and quality of life for servicemembers past and present, as well as their families and survivors. We engage Congress year-round to advocate for our community on the Hill and through our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Here's a look at what's in, and [what's out](#), of the final report in terms of MOAA priorities:

## **TRICARE**

Pharmacy network report: Senate report language directs the Comptroller General to review the beneficiary impact of TRICARE pharmacy network cuts, including effects on rural families; compound medication access; long-term care residents; and patients with chronic conditions, including children with rare complex conditions as well as cancer patients. MOAA will leverage this information as part of ongoing efforts to reverse pharmacy network cuts.

Partial TRICARE fixes: MOAA has long advocated for legislation to ensure TRICARE evolves with changing technologies, treatment protocols, and commercial plan benchmarks. We appreciate efforts to address some of these parity issues in the FY 2024 NDAA but strongly oppose excluding beneficiary segments, including non-DoD services (Coast Guard/U.S. Public Health Service/NOAA) and uniformed services retirees and their families, from TRICARE coverage updates. We appreciate Congress did not include partial benefit expansions in the final bill.

To ensure TRICARE coverage is comprehensive and up to date for all beneficiaries, Congress must find a solution to the direct spending impacts associated with funding health care for a sliver of the beneficiary population – without cutting TRICARE or reducing other military benefits and resources as an offset. Allowing TRICARE coverage to continue to lag benchmarks not only betrays our Nation's obligation to those who have earned the benefit, but it also

raises the risk that servicemembers, retirees, and their families – key influencers in the recruiting process – will be less likely to recommend military service to current and future generations.

### **Pay and Allowances**

The NDAA includes a 5.2% [pay raise](#) consistent with the Employment Cost Index (ECI). It's the largest boost since a 6.9% increase in 2002.

Other compensation-related NDAA measures tracked by MOAA include:

- Family Separation Allowance (FSA) update: The bill would allow the monthly FSA to increase from the current \$250 up to \$400, with recommendation on further increases included in each Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) for presidential consideration.
- Improved CONUS COLA: Servicemembers in areas of the continental U.S. with non-housing costs 5% higher than the national average would be eligible for a cost-of-living allowance – down from the current 8%.
- Bonus authorization for junior members: The bill would create a bonus system for E-6s and below for 2024 that the secretary of defense can use when “prevailing economic conditions may adversely affect an eligible member.” This would be awarded as a percentage of their pay.
- BNA modification: The bill authorizes service secretaries additional flexibility in determining eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance, which has yet to reach anywhere near the number of servicemembers who could benefit from the assistance.

### **Guard and Reserve**

- Incentive pay improvements: The legislation would modify DoD's certification requirement for full special and incentive (S&I) pay parity for reserve-component members – instead of reporting a blanket approval, each S&I pay will be evaluated individually.
- Parental leave parity: The NDAA would allow parental leave for the duration of up to 12 inactive-duty training periods during the one-year period following the birth, adoption, or long-term foster placement of a child.

### **Housing**

- Improved BAH calculation: The bill would remove Basic Allowance for Housing calculation requirements for servicemembers E-1 to E-4. These requirements adversely affect final BAH payments.
- Housing working group: The legislation would establish the Military Family Readiness Working Group for Military Housing, a group tasked with recommending ways to improve awareness and promotion of accurate and timely information about military housing, as well as accommodations available through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and other support services. It would also be asked to find ways to enhance collaboration among policy makers and targeted beneficiaries.

### **Military Families**

- Non-medical counseling services: The bill would allow mental health professionals at any location to provide non-medical counseling services to military families anywhere in the U.S., including Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories.
- Impact Aid increase: The bill would provide \$50 million in assistance to local educational agencies and \$20 million for local educational agencies with higher concentrations of children with severe disabilities.
- Improved surviving spouse benefits: The bill would open commissary and exchange privileges to remarried surviving spouses.
- Student loan deferment for dislocated military spouses: The bill would allow military spouses who become unemployed as a result of a PCS move to defer federal student loan debt for an aggregate period of 180 days without interest accrual.
- Better FMLA eligibility: The bill would ensure veterans or retirees with at least 12 months of “honorable” active services who transfer to federal employment are covered under FMLA upon hiring.

## The Fight Continues

While the NDAA addresses many MOAA priorities, a number of long-held goals did not make the final version. Here's a quick update on where those priorities stand as the year ends, and what you can do to urge your lawmakers to push further toward the finish line in 2024.

- [Concurrent receipt for combat-injured veterans](#): For two years in a row, two-thirds of Congress has supported the Major Richard Star Act ([H.R. 1282](#) | [S. 344](#)). Even the new House speaker and the Senate majority leader, representing different parties, support the legislation, which would reverse an unjust offset requiring these combat-injured retirees to give up a dollar of DoD-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA-provided disability benefits they receive. This level of support across Congress represents an opportunity for inclusion in the next NDAA as we approach a contentious election year.
- [BAH restoration](#): The BAH Restoration Act ([H.R. 2537](#) | [S. 1823](#)) would restore the housing allowance to cover 100% of housing costs (It was reduced to 95% in 2019 as a cost-saving measure). BAH cuts increased the burden on our servicemembers and families. In addition to continued high rates of military spouse unemployment, skyrocketing housing costs have outpaced BAH, leaving many military families struggling to make ends meet.
- [Arlington eligibility](#): Although a report is expected in March on the “next Arlington National Cemetery,” growing support for [H.R. 1413, the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act](#), is still needed to ensure a long-term solution is included in the next NDAA to prevent an eligibility reduction.
- [Dental care for reservists](#) ([H.R. 4220](#) | [S. 2046](#)): The dental health of Selected Reserve servicemembers is a readiness issue, and enhanced coverage would allow National Guard and Reserve members to maintain their dental readiness without incurring out-of-pocket costs. The Dental Care for Our Troops Act would establish zero out-of-pocket cost dental care for reserve component servicemembers – a timely initiative as the active component relies on the Guard and Reserve to keep pace with [deployment operational tempo](#).
- [‘180-Day Rule’](#): The Retain Skilled Veterans Act ([H.R. 939](#) | [S. 334](#)) would repeal the mandatory six-month cooling-off period for servicemembers to apply for DoD civilian positions (GS-13 and below) and support DoD civilian talent management. Most servicemembers can't wait six months to secure a job after retirement. The current rule is particularly frustrating not only for officers who want to continue to serve, but also for members of our skilled non-commissioned officer corps who have exceptional technical skills and the security clearances to go with them.

***“The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed service members and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.”***

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## Coins on Veterans' Headstones – What Do They Mean?



Have you ever been in a cemetery & noticed coins laying on a headstone? A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased Veteran's family know that someone stopped by to pay their respects.

A **penny** means you visited. A **nickel** means you & the Veteran trained at boot camp together. A **dime** means you & the Veteran served together. A **quarter** is very significant because it means that you were there when the Veteran died. If

you leave a coin, please read their headstone & recite their name to honor their service & sacrifice for the freedom we cherish.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men & women can be traced as far back as the Roman Empire. Soldiers would insert a coin into the mouth of a fallen Soldier to ensure they could cross the "River Styx" into the afterlife. In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war due to the political divide over the war. Leaving a coin was seen as a practical way to communicate that you visited the grave, rather than contacting the Soldier's family which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics. Another tradition is leaving "challenge coins" by fellow Veterans who served in the same unit.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in National and state Veterans Cemeteries is collected & the funds are put toward burial costs for indigent Veterans.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Changes to TRICARE Prescription Drug Copayments in 2024

Copayment changes for prescription drugs will go into effect 1 January 2024. There is still a \$0 copay for prescriptions filled at military pharmacies.

**TRICARE Home Delivery (Up to a 90-day supply).** Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$12 to \$13, Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$34 to \$38, and Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$68 to \$76.

**Retail network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply).** Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$14 to \$16, Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$38 to \$43, and Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$68 to \$76.

Female Veterans  
attending the  
MOAA Gala 2023!



**Speaker: Dr. Paul Johnson, M.D.**

Paul Johnson, MD attended Jamestown College in North Dakota where he majored in Biology and History/Political Science and played football. He attended medical school at the University of North Dakota and completed a residency in Family Medicine at Saint Joseph Hospital in South Bend, Indiana. Afterwards, he obtained his Fellowship in Sports Medicine at the Sports Medicine Institute/Notre Dame.



Dr. Johnson practiced medicine in Montana for 17 years providing care to communities, schools, sports teams, and law enforcement agencies. He deployed overseas while in the Army Reserve and currently, he is a Flight Surgeon and State Surgeon (COL) for the Montana Army National Guard and is passionate about veteran's health, especially TBI/PTSD.

After experiencing the healing power of hyperbaric himself, he attended Hyperbaric and Dive Medicine Fellowship at LSU in New Orleans. Dr. Johnson recently transitioned to Medical Director of Hyperbaric Medicine at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach, Florida.

He brings his expertise in Hyperbaric Medicine to help treat ailments such as chronic wounds, infections, CO poisoning, decompression sickness, and sudden sensorineural hearing loss. Other injuries that benefit from the healing effects of hyperbaric oxygen are concussions, PTSD, TBI and various sports-related injuries.

**Date: JAN 25, 2024**

**Social Hour starts at 1100**  
**Lunch served at 1130**

Location: Halifax River Yacht Club  
331 S. Beach St. Daytona Beach, FL

Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees  
Reservations are due by 1800 JAN 19, 2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**FOLLOW LINK FOR  
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or

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**P.O. BOX 2093**  
**DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093**

**EMAIL:**

[lrgardner@att.net](mailto:lrgardner@att.net)  
Or call 775-721-0967

**1. Spinach Salad w/Coconut Shrimp** with fresh spinach, walnuts, goat cheese, sundried fruits & cucumbers w/ honey lime dressing. Topped w/ lightly floured coconut shrimp

# \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Chicken Bruschetta** (GF) Sauteed chicken breast w/ lemon beurre blanc sauce. Topped w/chopped tomato, basil & red onion drizzled w/balsamic reduction Served w/garlic mashed and vegetable du jour

# \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Vegetable Pesto Primavera** (V) (GF) Assorted vegetables tossed in pesto & white wine. Served over penne pasta w/ Parmesan cheese

**Total Food:\$27**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans Outreach Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fund Donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA Membership Application



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle Initial, Last, Suffix if applicable)

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

(MM/DD/YYYY)

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

Active, Reserve, Retired,  
Former Officer, Auxiliary,  
Surviving spouse of eligible officer  
Show deceased's rank/service

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (indicate (H)ome or (C)ell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I  AM  AM NOT a member of National MOAA. My Membership No. is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Shown on line 2 of the "Military Officer" magazine mailing label or visit MOAA website at  
<http://www.moaa.org/>)

Not a member of the National MOAA? Become part of our nationwide "One Powerful Voice" organization. Join now at <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-moaa/Why-join-moaa.aspx>

I am applying for  CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

(Select electronically and indicate the number of years of dues you wish to pay (1-3)).

Chapter Dues for membership with "Officers Call" is \$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years.  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application with a CHECK payable to "**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA**" to:

**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093**

Application can also be completed on our website at: <http://www.moaafl.org/Chapters/Halifax/JoinUs.aspx>

**\*WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERISM\***

***\*Contact information listed below\****

<p><b>Membership Chair</b> Lt Col Jon Bateman USA (Ret) 309-678-5359</p>	<p><b>Immediate Past President</b> <b>Bancroft McKittrick, Col., USMC, (Ret)</b> 603-548-6558</p>	<p><b>Personal Affairs/Benefits</b> CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239</p>
<p><b>Chaplain</b> Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) 386-451-1008</p> <p><b>Transition Liaison</b> Maj David Wheel USA (Ret.) 802-272-5509</p>	<p><b>“Officer Call” Publisher/Webmaster</b> Maj David Wheel, USA (Ret.) 802-272-5509</p> <p><b>Awards Committee Chair</b> Lt Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret) 386 682-3064</p>	<p><b>Surviving Spouse Team</b> Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison Maj David Wheel USA (Ret.) Spousal Affairs Officer, 802-272-5509 Billie Krueger, Lt., USN (Ret.)-Chair Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) Joan Jankauskas, Surviving Spouse</p>
<p><b>Directors</b> RADM Steven Maas, USN (Ret.) 386-847-1356 COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>	<p><b>Legislative Liaison</b> CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283</p> <p><b>Veterans Council Representative</b> COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p>	<p><b>ROTC Liaison</b> CDR John Higgins, USN (Ret) 914-589-9036 COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>

**Donations**

**Scholarships**


**Vet Outreach**


**Membership**

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## Salute

To our membership; we have created our new **Salute Section** to better serve you with recent **Veterans' interest stories, Veterans' Outreach**, and many other events happening in our area. If you are aware of a Veteran event/story you feel should be highlighted to the membership, please submit information to [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com)



*\*All submissions will be reviewed by the President/1st VP before submission and must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the event\**

*Article should be no more than 230 words in length and all photos should be in .jpg, .bmp or .jpeg format.*

### ~LOOKING AHEAD/HELPFUL LINKS~

**FEB 2024**

**Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**  
**First Tuesday of each month**  
**Halifax River Yacht Club**  
**Starts at 1000**

**Coffee & Doughnuts**  
**First Thursday of each month**  
**William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans'**  
**Outpatient Clinic**  
**Starts at 0830**

**Bagels & Bingo**  
**First Monday of each month**  
**Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home**  
**Starts at 1000**

**National MOAA Website**

**Florida Council of Chapters**  
**Website**

**Halifax MOAA Website**



Today was National Wreaths Across America Day. Halifax MOAA (Military Officers Association of America, Daytona Chapter), participated in this event. Two thousand wreaths were laid next to each departed Veteran gravesite at Lohman's Cemetery on Bellevue Avenue. The Civil Air Patrol Cadets conducted the ceremony and Color guard. The cadets were an impressive group of youth who reminded us to cherish our freedom because our Vets made this possible. Even our weather (light drizzle) cooperated with this mission. All wreaths were respectfully laid. Skip Keating



**Wreathes continued**



**2023 CHRISTMAS GALA**



**Click on the following link for >>> [MORE PICTURES](#)**

Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



**386-269-5554**

1451 N. NOVA RD • HOLLY HILL, FL



FOLLOW US ON  
**FACEBOOK**

Email us at [ericssuperwash@gmail.com](mailto:ericssuperwash@gmail.com)

## ***Our chapter is seeking partners by advertising in our Officers Call!***

Our chapter is composed of active, retired, and former officers, their spouses, and auxiliary members. The OFFICERS CALL and our website are the primary means to reach the 350,000 members of the non-partisan national Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). In addition, this communication is used to direct value-added content to other MOAA Chapters and military professionals throughout Volusia County and the state of Florida.

### **ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM**

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Size</i></b>	<b><i>Yearly</i></b>	<b><i>Selection</i></b>
Red	3" x 3"	\$150	
White	Half Page	\$200	
Blue	Full Page	\$250	

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Company Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel#:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
- Email the Ad & completed order form to [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com)
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make a check payable to HALIFAX AREA MOAA.
- Mail check and order form to ***HALIFAX CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093***
- For assistance, please contact [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com).

***Thank You For Your Support!!!***

**NEVER STOP SERVING.®**

## [Why Join Our Chapter?](#) **[BENEFITS of Chapter Membership](#)**

Halifax Area Chapter membership is open to all men and women who are or have ever been commissioned or warrant officers in any component of the seven uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Individuals can elect to become life members of the Association or to renew their membership yearly. Surviving Spouses are automatically eligible for membership in the Association. The Board of Directors may grant Honorary Membership to foreign officers who apply for such membership. Membership in National MOAA The basic National MOAA membership is free. We encourage anyone that is not a member, to take the time to register. To sign up for National Basic Membership, all you need is a valid email address and, of course, the desire to join National MOAA. To join, follow this link: [National MOAA Basic Membership](#)

Chapter Dues -\$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years. Dues for Chapter membership with electronic distribution of "Officers Call" can also be paid online via credit card at [CHAPTER DUES](#)

### Halifax Area Chapter Talking Points

- Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families.
- Meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month.
- Luncheons are from Sept to May at the Halifax River Yacht Club at 331 S. Beach Street, in Daytona Beach.
- At our luncheon, our social hour starts at 1100/lunch at 1200. For dinner events, normally meets at 1700/dinner at 1800.
- We conduct 2 monthly Community Outreach efforts, one at the local Emory L. Bennett Memorial Nursing Home by providing Bagels and Bingo and one at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic by providing Coffee and Doughnuts.
- We publish a monthly newsletter called the Officers' Call (except June thru Aug)
- Our website is [www.moaaf.org/chapters/halifax](http://www.moaaf.org/chapters/halifax)
- We have a designated Legislative Chair that keeps us informed of ongoing and upcoming military legislation.
- We have chapter members serving on the Volusia County Veterans Council. Our representative is VSkip Keating
- Sometimes we are listed in the News Journal, Hometown News, Orlando Sentinel, and the Florida Courier newspapers.
- Our chapter is an active member of the Florida Council of Chapters
- We support 3 Reserve Officer Training Corp Units ( Army/Navy/Air Force at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- We award 6 scholarships a year to deserving cadets/midshipmen
- Each year we award a National MOAA Medal and a Challenger award at the Spring Color Parade Awards Ceremony
- Our chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America
- Our chapter is the first Military Organization to spearhead the efforts of the Tom Staed Veterans Memorial Bridge and Plaza
- Each year we host our annual Christmas Gala to support veterans advocacy and to build camaraderie

### Scholarship Information:

The Chapter supports the 3 Reserve Officer Training Corps Units (Army/Naval/Air Force) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

The Chapter runs a scholarship program that donates 2 scholarships each year to a deserving aspiring officer of each of the 3 ROTC Units. These are \$600 awards.

We award 2 in the Fall ( 1 Air Force and 1 Navy) and 4 in the Spring (1 Air Force, 1 Navy, and 2 Army)

The Chapter has a separate Scholarship program sponsored by a Chapter member which makes an additional scholarship donation each year to a deserving Army ROTC student in memory of LTC Daniel Redner, USA (a former Chapter President).

Funding for the Chapter's 6 ROTC annual Scholarships is raised through regular donations at luncheon/dinner meetings, with dues contributions (by check and online) as well as through our major fundraising event the ROTC Recognition Dinner which is held each April.

The Chapter distributes the National MOAA Medals and a "Challenger Plaque" to deserving midshipmen/cadets at each of the unit's Spring Color Parade and Awards Ceremonies.

The Chapter supports 3 JROTC Units at Mainland High, Spruce Creek High, and Atlantic High. ROTC Liaison Officers present MOAA Medals/certificates annually at each unit.

## READY REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

**Air Force Retiree Services:** (800) 531-7502; [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

**Arlington National Cemetery:** (703) 607-8000;

[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

**Armed Forces Retirement Home:** (800) 422-9988; [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

**Army & Air Force Exchange Service:** (214) 312-2011;

[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

**Army Retired Services:** (703) 571-7232;

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

**Burial at Sea Information:** (866) 787-0081;

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**

[www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/](http://www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/)

**DEERS:** (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

**Defense Commissary Agency:** [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

**DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch:** (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

**Fleet Reserve Association:** (703) 683-1400; [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

**Gulf War homepage:** [www.gulflink.osd.mil](http://www.gulflink.osd.mil)

**I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility:** (866) 827-5672;

**Internal Revenue Service:** (800) 829-1040; [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Marine Corps Retired Affairs:** (800) 336-4649; [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

**Medicare:** (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Military Officers Assoc. of America:** (800) 234-6622; [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**National Burial Services:** (800) 697-6940

**Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9):** (866) 827-5672;

**Navy Casualty Assistance:** (800) 368-3202

After duty hours call (901) 634-9279 for Casualty Watch Officer

**Navy Retired Activities:** (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)

Email: [MLL\\_RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:MLL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil)

**Navy Retired Activities Offices**

**Navy Uniform Shop:** (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

**Report the Death of a Retiree:** (800) 321-1080

**Reserve Component SBP:** (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

**Retiree Dental — Delta Dental:** (888) 838-8737; [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

**Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI):** (800) 419-1473;

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Naval Historical Center:** (202) 433-2210; [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

**Social Security Administration:** (800) 772-1213; [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**TRICARE:** [www.mytricare.com/mtc](http://www.mytricare.com/mtc)

**TRICARE East:** [www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary](http://www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary)

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, FL, GA, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN (except 35 Western zips), TX (except the extreme Western area) VT, VA, WI, and WV

**TRICARE West:** [www.tricare-west.com](http://www.tricare-west.com)

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY some zips in IA, MO, TN

**TRICARE Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com)

**TRICARE For Life:** (866) 773-0404; [www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl)

**TRICARE mail order pharmacy:** (877) 363-1303;

[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

[www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

**VA:** [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Regional offices:** (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

**Insurance:**

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Burial information:** (800) 827-1000; [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

**GI Bill:** (888) 442-4551; [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

**Records:**

**For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:**

**Retired prior to 1995:**

[www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)

**Retired after 1995:**

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

**Gray-area reservists:** (866) 827-5672