



MAY 2023
National Military Appreciation Month

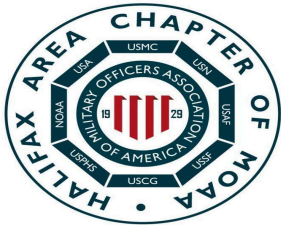


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~MISSION STATEMENT~

- **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

Hello, Halifax Area Chapter MOAA Members. May is National Military Appreciation month and it is fitting that at the May Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, May 25th, the Chapter will be awarding the 3rd annual Outstanding Support to Veterans Award and a second Award of Recognition. The Chapter created this award to recognize a local company that has made significant contributions to veterans, their spouses and families. The winner for 2021 was Sparton Electronics. The luncheon meeting was a resounding success. The Chapter invited representatives from the local Congressperson's office, and county and local officials who attended and provided comments congratulating Sparton Electronics, echoing their support for veterans, their spouses and families. There was local newspaper coverage of the award ceremony. The Outstanding Support for Veterans Award developed community awareness for the Chapter, encouraged local companies to support veterans and was a positive influence in the Chapter's recruiting efforts. Come join us for the luncheon and find out who the award winners are for 2022!

As we prepare to take our summer luncheon meetings break, be assured that your Board of Directors will work through the summer ensuring that the Chapter continues its community engagement activities, its support for MOAA's Advocacy in Action – state and legislative goals and objectives, planning for the fall Luncheon Meetings and the recruitment of new members. Of note, the Chapter's recruitment goal for the year is 15 new members and so far, 14 new members have joined!! Well done!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and see you when we meet again in September.

Semper fi

[Bancroft McKittrick, Col, USMC \(Ret\) President Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA](#)

Chapter Officers

President	Bancroft McKittrick, Col., USMC, (Ret)	603-548-6558	<u>rbancroftmc@gmail.com</u>
1st Vice President	Billie Krueger, LT, USN, (Ret)	386-672-2480	<u>billiekrueger@hotmail.com</u>
2nd Vice President	Casey Lancaster, LT, USN (Ret)	386-956-5218	<u>StephenCason.Lancaster@gmail.com</u>
Treasurer	Lonnie R. Gardner, LTC, USA, (Ret)	386-672-4578	<u>lrgardner@worldnet.att.net</u>
Secretary	Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC USA (Ret)	352-476-8032	<u>joyfultina@aol.com</u>

Secretary's Minutes

Secretary's Report – April 4, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting

The April 2023 Board of Director's Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on April 4, 2023, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Bancroft McKittrick, President, at 10 a.m.

The following board members (indicated with an asterisk) and guests were present: Bancroft McKittrick*, Billie Krueger*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett*, Lon Gardener*, Steve Becker*, Patty Higgins*, Steve Maas, Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, John Higgins. Carl Krueger, and Stephen Casey Lancaster were also present.

Quorum requirements met.

The following items were discussed:

1. **The minutes of the March 2023, Board of Directors meeting** - were distributed by email during the month. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - Lon summarized the report and stated that the current checking balance is \$8191.88 with an additional \$150 in petty cash, making a total balance of \$8341.88. Tina made a motion to accept, Kim seconded, and all approved.
3. **Membership** – Steve Becker discussed his report (previously emailed to the members). We have had 12 new members join this year, making a total of 111 chapter members. Kim moved to accept the report, Steve Maas seconded, and all approved.
4. **OC** – Pierre stated that he was still receiving pictures from members of the group and that all was going well as it relates to the OC.
5. **Visit to the Veterans Museum** – Bancroft stated that more than 30 people attended the tour to the museum and there were great reviews. The lunch was also excellent.
6. **Bagels and Bingo** – Billie stated that there were 7-8 volunteers and a good showing of veterans. The veterans were given T-shirts. This activity takes place at Emory Bennett Veteran Nursing Home in Daytona Beach, at 10 am on the first Monday of each month.
7. **VA Coffee and Donuts** – This event is on the first Thursday of the month, at 8:30 am, at the VA Clinic, Daytona Beach, and will occur this coming Thursday. John and Patti stated that there was a great turn-out at the last event.
8. **ROTC Scholarship Dinner Letter** – Bancroft stated that he sent the letter regarding the April Cadet's dinner. The Army and Air Force will have cadets attending but not the Navy due to scheduling conflict.
9. **Identify Companies for Outstanding Support to Veterans Award** -- Bancroft, Skip, and Ben Taylor are in the process of reviewing provided information about several companies and they will choose a winner. Bancroft recommended that two awards be given this year: one to a company and one to a non-profit. There was a discussion, and a motion was made by Kim that an award be given to the company and a certificate of appreciation and donation be given to the non-profit. The motion was seconded by Patti and all approved.
10. **West Volusia Chapter Operation Camaraderie Picnic 27 April 2023** – Bancroft reminded us that our chapter is invited to West Volusia Picnic in April. However, it is on the same day as our monthly luncheon.
11. **Register for Luncheon Meetings online** – Bancroft stated that there have been challenges with registering for luncheon meetings online. Several members reported that they had registered online and when they arrived at the luncheon there was no information on their registration. Pierre agreed that, at the next meeting, he will review the process of registering online.
12. **Register for FCOC Convention, St Augustine, 19-21 May 2023** – Bancroft stated that so far 53 people have registered for the convention.

13. **FCOC Convention – 2024, The Shores Resort and Spa**, 12-15 May 2024 – Bancroft reported that West Volusia MOAA chapter has agreed to host the 2024 convention. It will be held in Daytona Beach Shores.
14. **LOE** – Bancroft stated that he is finalizing the Level of Excellence which is due the first of May.
15. **ROTC Scholarship Dinner Update** - Billie reported that the Yacht Club has a new manager, and with that, some changes in the choices of meals. Billie met with the new manager to select new meal choices especially for the cadet dinner and the gala in December. The cadet dinner and gala are evening affairs and there is an increase in cost. The vegan meal will be \$29, and the other meals will be \$41. There will be an open bar.
16. **Cadet Commissioning Ceremony** – Kim stated that 60 Air Force cadets will be commissioned on 5 May. On 7 May, the other services will have their commission ceremony. We are all invited.
17. **Planning Board & Action Plan** – Bancroft reviewed our chapter's goals and objectives for the year to see how we are progressing. So far, we have met or are on the road to meeting our goals and objectives as projected.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting. There being no further business, Bancroft adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

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



~In honor of Memorial Day~

Veterans Memorial Bridge and Proposed Future Memorial Plaza

The bridge was named after Tom Staed, a prominent area hotelier and Korean War veteran who passed away in 2013. Staed's widow, Barbara Staed, accompanied by her daughter and two grandchildren, led the inaugural group of cars over the bridge August 6, 2020, in a vehicle processional that also included Volusia County Council members past and present as well as representatives from the City of Daytona Beach, local veterans groups, the Daytona Regional

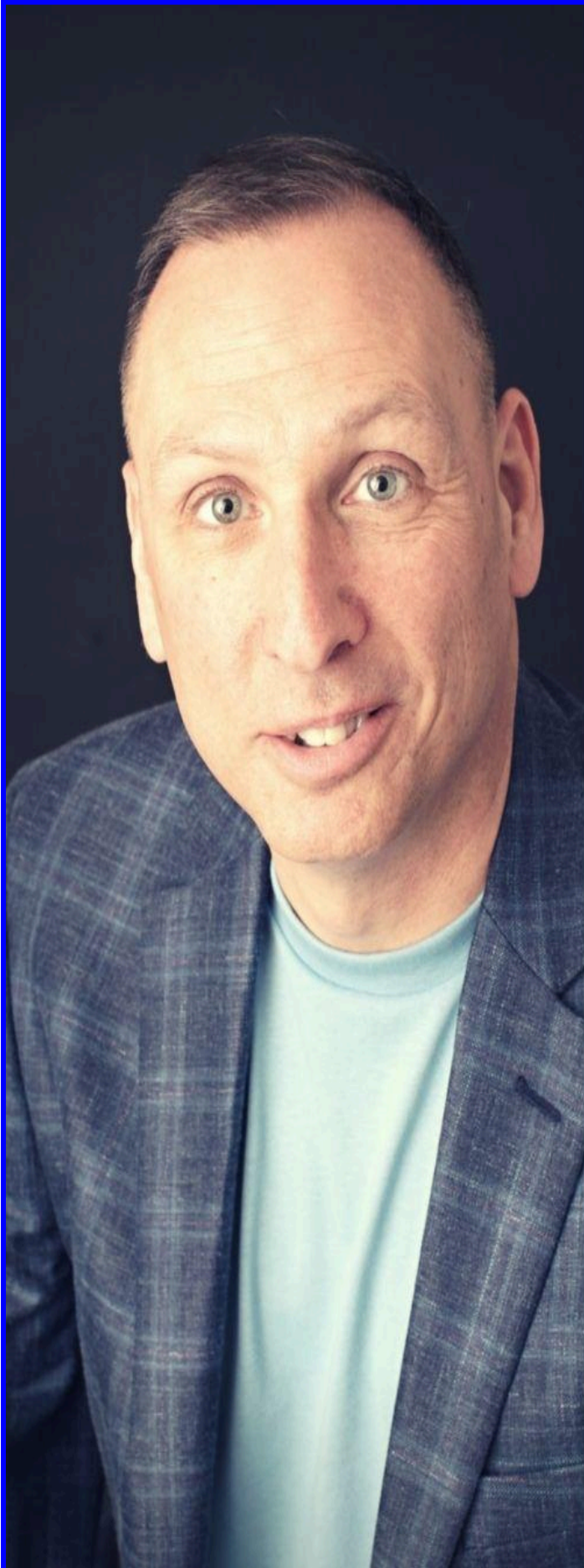
Chamber and the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Among the dignitaries was former County Council member Josh Wagner, who is credited with helping to get the bridge project started when he served on the council.

Designed to be a commemorative for the country's military, the bridge features handicap accessibility, eight-foot sidewalks, fishing piers on both sides of the Halifax River, and plaques at 28 scenic overlooks commemorating conflicts in America's military history. The plaques include descriptions of conflicts and outcomes; the number of killed, wounded and missing in action; a QR code linked to additional data; and a Braille plate with information.

Due to its unique open-spandrel arch approach design, the \$38 million dollar Veterans Memorial Bridge was recently recognized as the No. 3 bridge constructed in 2020 by *Road & Bridge Magazine*.

Halifax Area 2023 Chapter Planning Board

BOD Date	Luncheon Date	Speaker and/or Event <i>*Information and Location to attend meetings*</i>	Supporting Elements /P.O.C.'s
Jan 3, 2023	Thursday, January 26, 2023	Sheriff Mike Chitwood – Guest Speaker Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FCOC Leadership Forum - Initiate the write-up of Level of Chapter Excellence submission--Due May 1st - Start Ordering Gold Bars - Submit Marvin Harris Communication Award – Due February 1, 2023
Feb 7, 2023	Thursday, February 23, 2023	K9 for Warriors Ashley, Warrior and dog Hope - Guest Speaker Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA - Submit Mercer Ad
Mar 7, 2023	Thursday, March 23, 2023	Scott Olson, VC Veterans Services, Ssgt, USMC, - Guest Speaker Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign Entertainment Contract for Gala
Apr 4, 2023	Thursday, April 27, 2023	ROTC Scholarship <u>Dinner</u> Price: Regular-41.00/Vegetarian-\$29.00 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	Cadet Introductions and Recognition
May 2, 2023	Thursday, May 25, 2023	Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of Excellence Submission - May 1st - FCOC FL State Conference, St Augustine, FL
	****	***Chapter on Summer Break***	****
Sep 5, 2023	Thursday, September 28, 2023	– James Tyre, Major General, USA Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out) - Obtain 2023 – 2024 Lunch Menu - Obtain Holiday Menu
Oct 3, 2023	Thursday, October 26, 2023	Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program – Paul Loschiavo, Col, USMCR Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin Toys for Tots Campaign. Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meeting Agenda - Advertise the Holiday Gala Dinner Dance
Nov 7, 2023	Thursday, November 16, 2023 Date moved due to Thanksgiving Holiday	- Guest Speaker TBA Price: \$25 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bancroft/Steve/Joe - Advertise the "Holiday Gala" Membership Month
Dec 5, 2023	Thursday, December 14, 2023 Date moved due to Christmas Holiday	"Holiday Gala Dinner Dance" Music and Entertainment Price: \$50-\$40 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- "Holiday Gala"



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MOAA MEMBER
ARMY VETERAN



Halifax Area 2023 Action Plan

	Chapter Goals and Objectives	Sponsor/Update/Follow-up
	LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
1	Expand the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business and health and wellness	January: Sheriff Michael Chitwood February: Ms. Carly Braun March: Scott Olson
2	Publish a local veteran-related article in the local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts	Pierre Louis
	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION	
3	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Steve Becker/Billie Krueger/Everyone Jan=66, Feb=50, Mar=53, Apr=XX, May=XX, Sep=XX , Oct=XX, Nov=XX , Dec=XX
4	Net gain of 15 members for 2023	Everyone 20 new members as of Mar 25, 2023
5	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	Kim Ramos
6	Feature new Chapter members, New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Pierre Louis/Billie Krueger
	PERSONAL AFFAIRS	
7	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins/ David Wheel/Billie Krueger and Spouse Team
8	Maintain joint meetings with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Membership
	BASE COMMUNITY	
9	Present an annual "Outstanding Support for Veterans Award" to a local business or organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Billie Krueger
10	Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.	Kim Ramos/Glen Harmon
11	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	All
12	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennett Nursing Home	Skip Keating
13	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	John Higgins – Suspended for COVID
14	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Kim Ramos
15	Host an annual "Holiday Gala" ; Invite Guest Chapters	Billie Krueger/Joint Chapter Representatives
16	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick
	OTHER	
17	Amend the Chapter By-laws to include Surviving Spouse Liaison(Patti Higgins)	BOD Vote. Chapter Membership
18	Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Steve Becker/Bancroft McKittrick
19	Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone/Pierre Louis

Membership, this month we wanted to highlight a few state legislative issues that are provided to military residents of Florida.

Source: <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

~State Legislative Issues

Veterans with Service-Connected, Total and Permanent Disability or Confined to a Wheelchair Property Tax Exemption: Veterans with a service-connected total and permanent disability or who are confined to a wheelchair are eligible for a total exemption from property taxes on their homesteads. Surviving Spouses can receive the exemption if they do not remarry. If the Surviving Spouse sells the property, they are only eligible for an exemption up to the amount they received on their previous property. Use [Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501](#) to apply. [Florida Statutes 196.08, 196.091](#)

War Time Veteran Disabled 10% or More Property Tax Discount: Veterans who have a combat related disability of 10% or more are eligible for up to a \$5,000 discount on their homestead property taxes. The discount is equal to the Veteran's VA disability percentage. Surviving Spouses can receive the discount as long as they do not remarry. If the Surviving Spouse sells the property, they are only eligible for a discount up to the amount they received on their previous property. Use [Florida Department of Revenue, Application for Homestead and Related Tax Exemptions Form DR-501](#) to apply. [Florida Statutes 196.081, 196.082](#)

"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."

**Please click on the following link to
[TAKE ACTION](#)**

**Veterans & Gold Star Families get free
Lifetime Pass to National Parks**

The National Park Service now offers a FREE lifetime pass to [National Parks](#) for Veterans & their families. The *Interagency Military Lifetime Pass* waives entrance fees for the National Park Service & the US Fish & Wildlife Service and standard recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service & US Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members & their dependents, Veterans, and Gold Star Families. The free pass waives entrance fees but does not cover user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits, reservation fees or special tours.



The free Military Pass is a way to thank current US military members and their dependents, Gold Star Families, and Veterans for their service to our country and encourage them to explore more than 2,000 federal recreation areas.

Interagency Passes can be obtained in person while visiting participating sites. Visit [Places to Get Interagency Passes](#) for a searchable list. Existing passes remain valid. The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration & commemoration: the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr, National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day & the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

So let's spend some time outdoors in Mother Nature for improved health by way of a stronger immune system, better sleep, and reduced stress. You don't have to spend hours at a time outside before these benefits kick in, either.



**Happy 106th Birthday to the NOAA
Commissioned Officer Corps!**

Veterans Support Award Winner

Please join us for our annual Outstanding Support to Veterans Award! The award is presented to a local area company making the most significant contribution to veterans and their families. In the past, our chapter has given one award. This year we will be presenting two awards. One award presented to a for-profit company and one award to a nonprofit. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

- Such contribution may be in providing services that directly result in improving the health, morale, and welfare of individual service members and their families.
- Such contribution may be in providing US military forces with new and/or improved systems that significantly improve US military capability.

Date: MAY 25, 2023

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 May 19, 2023

Name _____

**FOLLOW LINK FOR
ONLINE RESERVATION**

or

Make checks payable to
HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA
P.O. BOX 2093
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093

EMAIL:

lr Gardner@worldnet.att.net

Or call 775-721-0967

1. Grilled Salmon & Tomato Mozzarella Salad, Grilled Salmon on top of Mixed Greens, Cherry tomatoes and whole milk Mozzarella cheese and a fresh pesto vinaigrette

2. Pork Loin, served with apple brandy cream sauce

3. Stuffed Bell Pepper, stuffed with Jasmine Rice, assorted vegetables and basil. Served with a Red Pepper Hummus Sauce

Total Food: \$25.00

\$ _____

Scholarship Donation

\$ _____

Veterans Outreach Donation

\$ _____

Membership Fund Donation

\$ _____

Total

\$ _____

MAY
NATIONAL
MILITARY
APPRECIATION
MONTH

WE HONOR
YOUR SERVICE

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month as a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. May is characterized by six national observances highlighting the contributions of those who have served.

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 of "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****

Membership Chair Col Steve Becker, USMC (Ret.) 386-265-5180	Immediate Past President Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802	Personal Affairs/Benefits CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239
Chaplain Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) 386-451-1008	"Officer Call" Publisher/Webmaster CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283	Surviving Spouse Team 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
Transition Liaison6 Maj David Wheel USA (Ret.) 802-272-5509	Awards Committee Chair LCDR John Needham, USN (Ret.) 386-383-8423	
Directors RADM Steven Maas, USN (Ret.) 386-847-1356 COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 CDR John Higgins, USN (Ret.) 914-589-9036	Legislative Liaison CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283 Veterans Council Representative COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536	ROTC Liaison CDR John Higgins, USN (Ret.) 914-589-9036 COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802

Donations

Scholarships

Rommain Bastian	John Higgins	On Time Prime, LLC
Steve Becker	Edward Kufeldt	Tina Dixon-Bartlett
Bancroft McKittrick		

Vet Outreach

John Higgins		
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Membership

John Higgins		
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Officers Call is published by the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

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

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~

JUN 2023

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



~Memorial Day Speaker~



CDR John Higgins, USN (Ret), Chapter ROTC Liaison Officer will be the guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day Remembrance Service. The service will be take place at the Rockefeller Gardens Park, 26 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach



New Member Spotlight: Welcome aboard Casey, Jenn, Ellody and Ollie

Lieutenant Stephen Casey Lancaster is a Daytona Beach, FL native. He joined the Navy in September 2000. After attending Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, IL he completed the Enlisted Nuclear Propulsion Program as a Nuclear Electrician's Mate in 2002.

From 2002 to 2008, he served aboard USS George Washington CVN-73 in Reactor Department completing two Persian Gulf deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. Shore duty assignments include Southwest Regional Maintenance Center in San Diego, CA where he promoted to Chief Petty Officer, served as the Quality Assurance Department Leading Chief Petty Officer, and was selected for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program in 2010.



LT Lancaster earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 2013, he commissioned as an Ensign in the Nurse Corps.

Upon commissioning, LT Lancaster completed assignments at Naval Medical Center San Diego and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton as a critical care nurse. He served in multiple leadership roles including Intensive Care Unit Manager, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program Director, and Nursing House Supervisor.



In 2017, LT Lancaster completed a deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis-Response Central Command as an en-route critical care nurse providing critical care nursing during multi-casualty events as part of a damage-control resuscitation team in Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

From October 2019 to 2023, he completed an operational assignment with 1st Medical Battalion onboard Camp Pendleton providing expeditionary health service support to I Marine Expeditionary Forces. During this period, he served as Company Commander, Battalion Adjutant, and deployed as Officer In Charge of a medical team in support of Central Command Military Prepositioning Force operations.

LT Lancaster is a qualified Fleet Marine Force Officer and maintains professional certification as a Critical Care Registered Nurse. In July 2023 he will retire from Active Duty and transition into financial services with Northwestern Mutual. He is married to his wife Jenn and they have two young children Ellody and Ollie.



Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



386-269-5554

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Email us at 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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Selection</i>
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
- 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.

Thank You For Your Support!!!

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

President's Message: Advocacy in Action Returns to the Hill

By: Brian T. Kelly

April 18, 2023



In April 1945, our association printed its first bulletin to the membership. The focus then, as it is now, was to inform members on matters critical to their health and welfare.

The inaugural issue of the quarterly publication shared details on a “hospitalization reduction in retired pay” and a recommendation for subsistence allowances for dependents of active duty officers and retirees.

Our mission has grown in scope since 1945, but in flipping through this 78-year-old publication, the topics of their day mirror our own.

In getting back to our association roots, I noticed the publication declared itself a “rallying point” for membership. Nearly four decades later, I’m asking you to rally this month for [our Advocacy in Action campaign](#). We rally not as an association of officers for officers, but as an association of officers who recognize and continue to fulfill our obligations to represent and take care of all uniformed service members, veterans, families, and survivors. Particularly those who may not be as able to take care of themselves.



This year symbolizes MOAA's resiliency as we return to the Hill with over a hundred MOAA members traveling from around the country to meet with lawmakers April 26. Our online-focused advocacy campaigns these past three years have proven effective, but truth be told, we're excited to again advocate alongside MOAA members traveling to D.C. to support our mission.

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) meets with MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), left, and Gen. Gary North, USAF (Ret), chairman of MOAA's board of directors, at a MOAA-hosted March 29 reception on Capitol Hill. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

Our advocate teams will visit lawmakers' offices with two calls to action:

1. [Restore Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%](#).
2. [Reverse TRICARE Pharmacy network cuts](#).

These topics feed into a broader topic of eroding benefits for our servicemembers, veterans, military families, survivors, and caregivers. Erosions like copay increases in 2018, which as much as doubled. And the TRICARE Select enrollment fees for retirees and their families, which took effect in 2021.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the All-Volunteer Force](#)]

These individual reductions, like death by a thousand cuts, compound over time. They create hardships for already sacrificing service members and families and major recruiting challenges as influencers recount the erosion to their benefits to the next generation of potential servicemembers. These impacts put our all-volunteer force and ultimately our national security at risk.



MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), left, meets with Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, right, Jan. 9 on Capitol Hill. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

We've faced challenges like these before as an association, and I'm asking you today to band together again. Please visit MOAA.org/AiA for updates in the weeks to come.

Please also visit our [Legislative Action Center](#); if you are a first-time visitor, please create a login. From there, you will be able to send advocacy messages to your district representative and senators. In addition to AiA, you can act on our [priorities for the 118th Congress](#)

by endorsing concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers and opposing TRICARE For Life fee Increases.

Thank you sincerely for supporting Advocacy in Action this year. Now let's rally and get moving.

~Local Service Projects~



This month, we are showcasing our chapter's community services efforts. Members continue our tradition of supporting Veterans at the Emory L Bennett Veterans Nursing Home with our Bagels and Bingo program. Also, our volunteers provided Coffee & Donuts at the VA Outpatient Clinic.



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](http://www.moaaf.org/chapters/halifax)

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 Jun thru Aug)
- Our website is 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.

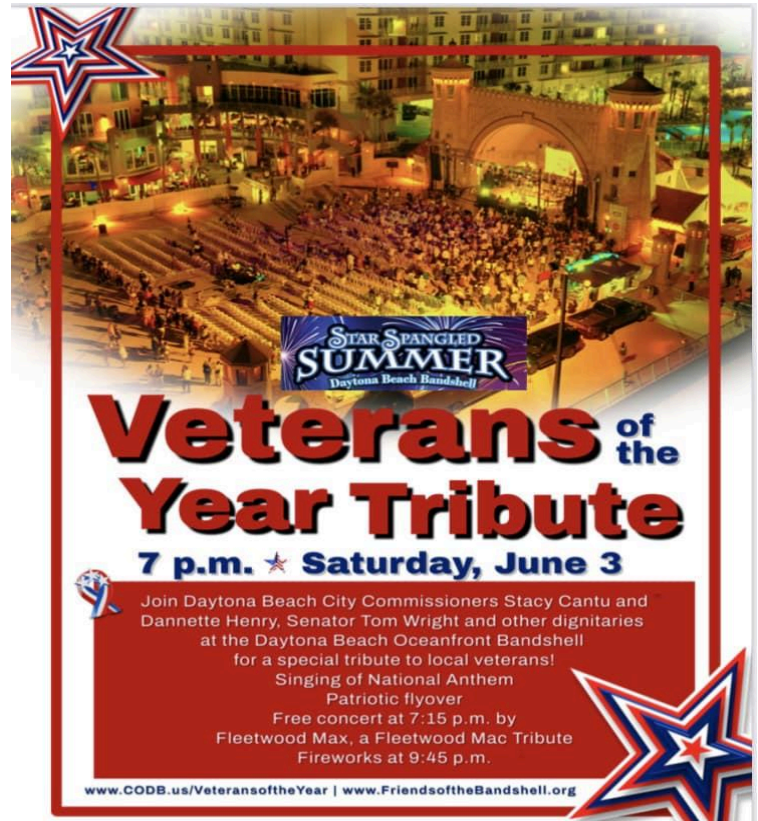
The Chapter distributes the National MOAA Medals and a "Challenger Plaque" to deserving midshipmen/cadets at each of the unit's Spring Color Parade and Awards Ceremonies.

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.

2023 ROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



More photos can be found by clicking on the following link>>>[MORE PHOTOS](#)



READY REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502; www.retirees.af.mil
Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;
www.arlingtoncemetery.org
Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; www.afrh.gov
Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011;
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-csrc/
DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;
www.tricare.osd.mil/deers
Defense Commissary Agency: 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
Gulf War homepage: www.gulfink.osd.mil
I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672;
Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov
Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649; www.usmc.mil
 (Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")
Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; www.medicare.gov
Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; www.mcaa.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: MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil
Navy Retired Activities Offices
Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; 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
Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800) 419-1473;
www.insurance.va.gov
Naval Historical Center: (202) 433-2210; www.history.navy.mil
Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213; www.ssa.gov

Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil

Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Retirement Pay
 8899 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200
 (800) 321-1080 / Fax: (800) 469-6559.

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Annuity Pay
 8899 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis IN 46249-1300
 (800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

TRICARE East: 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

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

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

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

www.tricare.mil/pharmacy

www.express-scripts.com

VA: 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

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; 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

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

Sister service retiree publications:

Air Force Afterburner: www.retiree.af.mil

Army Echoes: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

Coast Guard Evening Colors: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras

Marine Corps' Semper Fidelis: [Semper Fidelis](http://SemperFidelis)