



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL *April 2024*



In this Issue

<u>President's Message</u>	<u>Page 1</u>
<u>Chapter Minutes</u>	<u>Page 2</u>
<u>Chapter Planning Board</u>	<u>Page 4</u>
<u>Chapter Action Plan</u>	<u>Page 6</u>
<u>Legislative Affairs</u>	<u>Page 7</u>
<u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u>	<u>Page 9</u>
<u>Speaker/Reservations</u>	<u>Page 10</u>
<u>Membership Application</u>	<u>Page 11</u>
<u>Contact List/Donations</u>	<u>Page 12</u>
<u>Salute/Looking Ahead</u>	<u>Page 13</u>
<u>Chapter Benefits</u>	<u>Page 16</u>

~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).



Happy Easter to all and may a wonderful Spring bring us all a little peace and joy into our lives!

At the March Board of Directors' meeting, I announced to the board members that our Second Vice President, Casey Lancaster asked to be relieved of his duties and the position as his personal life (family and work) needed his time. The Board accepted, regretfully, Casey's resignation. Our most recent new member, Anita Williams, graciously accepted the position and was in attendance at the board meeting. All welcomed Anita in her new role.

The chapter will be holding a night out at the Tortugas baseball game. This will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Game time is 5:00 pm as our local team takes on The Palm Beach Cardinals. Tickets are still available so come out and route for the home team! Contact Mary McLendon or Lon Garnder if interested.

We will have a special table available at the next membership meeting (March 28th) as we continue to try to keep our membership list current. You are invited to stop by the table and verify your information.

The annual Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) convention is right around the corner. This year we are fortunate to have this very popular business/pleasure meeting right here at Daytona Shores. Our chapter looks to be very well represented but there is always room for more attendees.

Finally, a very special thanks to our Outstanding Support to Veterans awards committee. They have been working diligently, again, to select two recipients – A Not-for-Profit and a for-profit entity to be recognized and honored at our May 23rd Luncheon.

We are still looking for a Chairman for the Holiday Gala Dinner Dance. Will someone please step up and meet the challenge...Remember:

NEVER STOP SERVING! *Drew*

	<i>Chapter Officers</i>		
President	Drew Hoffman, Capt. USAF (Ret)	386-562-3325	drewhoffman49@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Don Needham, LCDR, USN, (Ret)	386-383-8423	fitron84@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR (RET)	954-650-9532	williams.aann@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lonnie R. Gardner, LTC, USA, (Ret)	386-672-4578	lrgardner@att.net
Secretary	Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC USA (Ret)	352-476-8032	joyfultina@aol.com

Secretary's Report – March Board of Directors' Meeting

Secretary's Report – March 5, 2024 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The March 2024 Board of Director's Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on March 5, 2024, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Hoffman at 10:00 a.m. The following board members (showed with an asterisk) and guests were present: Andrew Hoffman*, Bancroft McKittrick*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett*, Kim Ramos*, Lon Gardener*, Skip Keating*, Steve Maas*, Patti Higgins*, Steve Becker, Pierre Louis, Jon Bateman, and Anita Williams. Reports of Officers/Committees.

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officer/Committees

The following items were discussed:

1. The minutes of the February 6, Board of Directors meeting - were distributed by email during February. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.

2. Treasurer's Report - Lon Gardener summarized the report and said that the current checking balance is \$ 6144.84. There is \$150 in petty cash, making a total balance of \$6294.84. He also stated that he has been unable to find out who has renewed their annual dues through the National MOAA because that link is not working. Lon presented a copy of our chapter logo that he is sending to FCOC, with a check for \$150, for placement of our chapter's ad in the conference program. Bancroft asked how the money donated, for the VA clinic plaque, would be managed now that we would not be providing the plaque. There was some discussion, and it was suggested that if the donors were ok with it, the money would go into the scholarship funds. Bancroft made a motion to accept; Steve M. seconded, and all approved.

3. Membership – Steve Becker stated that last month one new member joined, and one member passed. Patti asked if Alma McMillan had been added to the surviving spouse list. Steve stated he would check to see if her spouse had been a life member and get back to her. Steve stated that there are still sixty people that have not renewed their dues.

4. Officer Call Report – Pierre stated that the “OC” newsletter is doing well. He also mentioned that there are two positions needing to be filled in the Salute section of the newsletter. It was also brought up that Casey would not be able to serve as 2nd Vice President at this time. Our new member, Anita Williams, CDR USCG, offered and was appointed to fill that position. Bancroft stated that he would talk with her about what the duties of the position entails.

5. Surviving Spouse Update – Patti stated that she spoke with Mrs. McMillan, and she is getting the assistance she needs with estate planning. Patti also stated that she had contacted and invited Pat Green, Florida MOAA Surviving Spouse Coordinator, to be our guest speaker for October 2024. She is still awaiting an answer.

Old Business

6. Bagels and Bingo – Skip stated they met yesterday and there were twenty-three veterans, seven MOAA volunteers, and one DAR volunteer. He also stated that they have been running out of bingo cards, and that more are needed. He researched and found the best price is through Amazon for \$45. He asked that we provide the funds to purchase the cards. The request was approved. This activity takes place at Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach at 10 am on the first Monday of each month.

7. VCVC Update – Skip Keating stated that there were several checks presented to the Barracks of Hope for the portable medicine cart that they needed. We were able to donate \$100 towards the cart. They also need eight straight-back dining chairs.

8. VA Coffee and Donuts – Patti Higgins stated they will serve donuts and coffee this Thursday. They received a letter from Tony, Volunteer Specialist, at the clinic, to let them know that this activity will be placed on hold until after the clinic has moved to the new building which is projected for late April-early May. Patti also mentioned that March is National Women's History Month.

New Business

9. Outstanding Dues – Drew stated that there are still sixty members who have not renewed their annual dues. There was a discussion on what the best method would be to reach these people. It was agreed that Steve and Jon would create a list for the board members to call five people each. Steve M. suggested that we also send letters with a stamped pre-addressed envelope included to assist them in returning their dues. Everyone agreed. Steve B. stated he would create the letter.

10. Membership List – Drew stated he had been asked by a member if the membership list could be given to all the members. Pierre and Kim stated that there is a privacy issue with providing the list as designed. We would need to remove some information before that can be done. Jon mentioned that we could annually create a roster with each member’s name, email address, phone number, and dues renewal date. Anita agreed to work with Steve and Jon on creating the roster.

11. Baseball Game Outing – Kim stated that we have thirty seats reserved for April 14 at 5 p.m. and 21 folks have already signed up. The tickets are \$11, and we will be sitting behind first base.

From The Floor.

12. Halifax Gala Chair – Drew stated that we still do not have a chairperson for the holiday gala. He stated that he has asked several members if they would be able to perform this job, but so far no one has accepted.

13. Gold Bars/Rank – Kim stated she would be stopping by the detachment to find out how many gold bars will be needed for the cadets graduating this year.

14. Outstanding Vendors—Bancroft stated that the winner of the non-profit vendor’s award is Vitas. The committee is still seeking nominees for the for-profit Outstanding Support to Veterans Award. The award is presented at the May Luncheon Meeting. Committee members include Ben Taylor, Skip Keating, and Bancroft McKittrick.

15. FCOC – Pierre is one of MOAA’s “Advocacy in Action” members and he will be in D.C. on April 14, 2024, for that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Our next meeting is on April 2, 2024, HRYC.

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



Halifax Area
2024 Chapter Planning Board (As of 3/23/2024)

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

LOOKING FOR A REAL ESTATE AGENT?



JOE PEABODY
BROKER ASSOCIATE/MOAA MEMBER
(913) 244-2564
EXP REALTY, LLC

www.joepeabody@exprealty.com

Halifax Area 2024 Action Plan (As of 3/24/2024)

	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: Col. Paul Johnson, MD – Hyperbaric Medicine; February: Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood, March – Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette
2	Publish a local veteran-related article in 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.	Everyone Jan=51, Feb=49, Mar=41, Apr=, May=, Sep= , Oct=, Nov= , Dec=
4	Net gain of 15 members for 2024	Everyone 2 new members as of 2-29--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/Joe Peabody
	PERSONAL AFFAIRS	
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
	BASE COMMUNITY	
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, Glenn Harmon
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	To Be Determined
16	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick
	OTHER	
17	Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams
18	Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone

Commentary on the upcoming Advocacy In Action Event (AiA)

Last week, the latest edition of the Military Officers (MO) magazine arrived in the mail. Ms. Hope Hodge Seck's commendable essay on page 40 highlights the importance of April for our organization. This article focuses on the upcoming Advocacy in Action (AiA) event in Washington, DC. Each year, the leaders of the Council and Chapters volunteer to make the trip and provide support for the predetermined goals outlined by our national MOAA headquarters. In recent times, I have been excited to participate firsthand with team members in this effort. In the past few weeks, I have been able to participate in multiple Zoom meetings involving Council leadership, national advisory teams, and colleagues who attended the event previously. These interactions have provided valuable insights and best practices. During the event, we have a robust timetable to actively interact with a total of 30 legislators, consisting of 28 House of Representatives and 2 Senators. If a legislator is already a cosponsor on the bill, we will still meet with them and/or their staff to express gratitude for their endorsement. On a Zoom call, Col. Dan Merry's comment, "Never forget that collective effort is more important than individual effort," resonated with me. For me, that really summed up why we are attending this event, and that is to work on the hill for each and every one of YOU with our advocacy efforts. Within our packets, we received an abbreviated background on the goals and I have pasted them, so you, the reader, can see them firsthand.

Support the Major Richard Star Act The Star Act will support 52,000 combat-injured veterans who are ineligible for concurrent receipt. Concurrent receipt might sound complicated, but it isn't:

- DoD is responsible for retired pay, earned through vested years of service.
- The VA is responsible for disability compensation for lifelong injury, earned through personal sacrifice.
- These are two different payments for two different purposes. Servicemembers who were injured in combat and forced to retire early face an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of disability compensation received from the VA. Congress acknowledged this as an injustice in the FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act and partially fixed it, but more needs to be done. To cut retirement pay because of combat-related disability remains an injustice. Combat-injured veterans earned retirement pay through their service. Reducing service-earned retirement to yield savings is shortsighted and fosters negative narratives about how our government treats combat-injured servicemembers. I kindly urge you to include the Star Act in your official request for the FY 2025 NDAA. With over two-thirds of Congress backing this crucial legislation, it is evident that there is widespread bipartisan support to aid our heroes who have made immense sacrifices for our nation.

*****We appreciate the great bipartisan support of S.344/H.R.1282 the Major Richard Star Act****

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Reform In 2015, DoD began reducing BAH to "balance the growth in compensation costs." The BAH reduction was essentially a cost-savings measure on the backs of servicemembers and their families, many of whom endured multiple deployments during the previous decade consumed by the war on terror. They still face frequent moves and a continuously fluctuating housing market. DoD remains focused on improving financial security and stability across the force. But even though DoD has authority to restore BAH without permission from Congress, servicemembers are

still subject to a 5% cost share. Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers, and Congress should ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance. Support BAH restoration and pass the BAH Restoration Act.

*****We are seeking our lawmakers to cosponsor the BAH Restoration Act, S. 1823, either as standalone legislation or as a part of the FY 2025 NDAA. ****

Protect TRICARE For Life TRICARE For Life (TFL) provides Medicare wraparound coverage for military retirees. Congress created TFL 20 years ago to address a broken commitment for lifetime health care after DoD closed more than half of military treatment facilities, leaving many seniors with no military health care benefit. TFL became a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war. MOAA takes a balanced approach to TRICARE fee increases — we understand health care costs are rising and don't oppose indexing existing TRICARE fees by annual military retired pay COLA. Our mission is to preserve and protect earned benefits, so MOAA opposes TFL fees because that would change the terms of the health care benefit after it has been earned, violating our nation's obligation to those who served and putting at risk their endorsement of military service to future generations. Congress has been instrumental in blocking various past proposals for TFL fees that would slash the benefit for seniors. There are currently no active proposals for TFL fees, but we know the military health system budget faces continued pressure. The small percentage of citizens who handle 100% of our national defense have earned the benefit through service and sacrifice. We are counting on Congress to protect TFL.

*****Currently a bill has not been put forth, however, your stories can be presented in the Legislative Action Center. These stories will assist when the cost differential is factored in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) ****

Pierre Louis, Legislative Chair

Source: www.moaa.org

“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](#)

Veteran Burial Benefits

Burial in a National Cemetery is important. It honors your military service, plus it can decrease the cost of your final arrangements. Your burial benefits include a gravesite in any of 131 VA National cemeteries with available space, perpetual care, a government headstone, a flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, all at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Eligible spouses & dependents may be buried in the National cemetery, even if they predecease the veteran.



Determining your eligibility now can make it easier for your survivors later. If you choose, you can obtain a Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery. Filling out this form in advance is optional and can be done online (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>). You will need your DD 214 or other separation documents. Once the VA has reviewed your application, you will receive a written determination via mail which you should add to your burial planning paperwork.



Who doesn't love a good baseball game?

Calling everyone to the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona to eat, drink, be merry and cheer the Tortugas on to victory over the Cardinals!

The game is 14 April at 1700, the tickets are \$11. Tickets must be purchased by 8 April to sit in the MOAA / Team RWB section.

You can purchase tickets through Lon Garner, (386) 672-4578, or Mary McLendon, (386) 847-3239.



Remember everyone deployed.

ROTC APPRECIATION DINNER Speakers: ROTC Cadets



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

Date: April 25, 2024

- 5:00 - 5:45: Social Time with Cadets**
 - 5:45 - 6:30: Dinner**
 - 6:30 - 7:30: Commanders Introduce Cadets**
 - 7:30: Adjourn**
- “CASH” bar available

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

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:

lrgardner@att.net

Or call 775-721-0967

1. Salmon Salad: GF-Grilled salmon on a bed of mixed greens w/strawberrys, craisins, walnuts, cherry tomatoes & goat cheese. Tossed in a cider vinaigrette. Topped with a strawberry balsamic reduction

2. Stuffed Pork Loin

3. 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 & vegetable du jour.

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>Membership Chair Lt Col Jon Bateman USA (Ret.) 309-678-5359</p>	<p>Immediate Past President Bancroft McKittrick, Col., USMC, (Ret) 603-548-6558</p>	<p>Personal Affairs/Benefits CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239</p>
<p>Chaplain Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) 386-451-1008</p> <p>Transition Liaison* TBA*</p> <p>Awards Committee Chair Lt. Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret.) 386 682-3064</p>	<p>“Officers Call” Editor Capt. Joe Peabody, USA (Ret.) 913-244-2564</p> <p>Webmaster CDR Anita Williams, USCGR (Ret.) 954-650-9532</p>	<p>Surviving Spouse Team Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison 386-341-5035 Spousal Affairs Officer, TBD Billie Krueger, Lt., USN (Ret.)-Chair Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) Joan Jankauskas, Surviving Spouse</p>
<p>Directors 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>Legislative Liaison CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283</p> <p>Veterans Council Representative COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p>	<p>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</p>

Donations

Scholarships

Vet Outreach

Membership

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~

MAY 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](#)



Batter up!!!!

Come join us for some fun and relaxation on **14 April at 5 PM for a baseball outing.** We have reserved seats behind first base at a Daytona Tortugas game. The Tortugas are a minor league team for the Cincinnati Reds. Tickets are \$11. Provide cash or check payable to Halifax Area MOAA to Lon Gardner. Payment must be received no later than 9 April. If you have any questions contact **Kim Ramos at 228-447-7802 or karamos@att.net**.



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

<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.®

[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
- 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 Skip 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/Navy/Air Force) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

The chapter sponsors two \$500 scholarships each year to a deserving, aspiring officer in each of the 3 ROTC Units.

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).

The Chapter also supports the JROTC Unit at Mainland High School each spring with a \$250 scholarship along with a MOAA Medal and Challenger Plaque.

Funding for the Chapter's 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 held each April.

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

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-crsc/

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.gulflink.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.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: 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

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

Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire by contacting our Chapter President at drewhoffman49@gmail.com
Thank you in advance for assisting in this effort



Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator -The transition liaison's responsibilities are:

- provide transition assistance to servicemembers;
- serve as primary point of contact in the chapter for MOAA members and their spouses who are in the process of relocating to the chapter's geographic area;
- share all job opportunities with the state council's transition liaison and national MOAA; and
- perform other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the transition liaison, such as:
 - serving as chapter point of contact for the transition liaison;
 - forwarding information deemed appropriate for dissemination to chapter members;
 - providing articles for chapter newsletter on transition news and issues; and
 - performing other duties the president might assign.

