



# HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL February 2025



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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).*

As we enter the shortest month of the year, I am reminded of a couple of key military dates worth noting ... February 4, 1941 – the USO was formed providing a service beyond imaginable for our military personnel around the world. Happy 84<sup>th</sup> birthday!

The Gulf War ground offensive began February 24th, 1991. Operation Desert Storm was conducted by an international coalition under the command of U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf and featured forces from 32 nations, including Britain, Egypt, France, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. During the next six weeks, the allied force engaged in a massive air war against Iraq's military and civil infrastructure, encountering little effective resistance from the Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, we just completed a month celebrating the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) annual training seminars in Orlando. This year the training program was combined with the annual FCOC Convention. Our chapter was well represented by myself along with my wife Mary Lou; Col. Bancroft McKittrick and his wife Kathleen; John and Patti Higgins; Pierre Louis and Jon Bateman. During these sessions, FCOC recognized key members of the chapters for their contributions in 2024. Three members of our chapter were recognized with Certificates of Leadership. Anita Williams, Joe Peabody and Pierre Louis were individually pointed out for their efforts. I was honored to accept their awards which were passed on to these individuals at the January Luncheon.

Speaking of luncheon meetings ... our next two months will be featuring discussions from two of our own members. Why not take a break from everyday living and come hear from your fellow members. Look for details in other parts of this OC and remember

NEVER STOP SERVING!

## Drew

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

## Secretary's Report – January 7, 2025 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The January Board of Director's Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on January 7, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Hoffman at 10 a.m.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) and guests were present: Drew Hoffman\*, Kim Ramos\*, Bancroft McKittrick\*, Don Needham\*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett\*, Lon Gardener\*, Patti Higgins\*, Joe Peabody, Jon Bateman, Skip Keating, and Steve Maas.

### Quorum requirements met.

### Reports of Officer/Committees

The following items were discussed:

1. **Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the December Board of Directors meeting were distributed by email during the month of December 2024. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Joe Peabody provided a copy of the annual audit which showed the current checking account balance is \$5321.95. There is \$150 in petty cash, making a total balance of \$5471.95. Lon stated that he is in the process of creating a treasurer's manual to ensure that we are following state and federal requirements.
3. **Membership** – Jon stated that there 93 regular members and 14 surviving spouses, totaling 107 members. Jon has reviewed the membership list and states that there 53 memberships that expired at the end of 2024 and we have had 15 membership renewals to date, and 1 loss who has moved from the area. So, we have 37 members who still need to renew their memberships. There are 3 members without a good contact email address. Jon is asking anyone with an updated contact email address for the following people to let him know; CAPT John Williams, CDR Dennis Sobeck, and Ellie Dittmar. Otherwise, a letter will be sent to these three regarding their need to renew their memberships. It was noted that Ellie Dittmar does not have email, and a letter will be sent to her. Jon has also received 4 applications for new officers who just graduated, and he is not sure how to process them. He was advised to take them to the FCOC Training/Convention at the end of the month.
4. **Surviving Spouse Update** – Patti mentioned that we had a great Christmas gala. She also praised Pat Green and Anita Williams for the job that they did that evening. Patti stated that the surviving spouse virtual meetings are growing and that they are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
5. **Scholarship Presentation** – Kim provided the scholarship presentation in December and pictures are in the Officer's Call.
6. **Bagels and Bingo** – Skip stated that they met yesterday. There were fourteen veterans and 12 volunteers: 4 MOAA members, 2 DARs, and 4 Vitas Hospice volunteers. He stated that he tried donut holes this month and they were also not well received. He stated that donuts, donuts holes and bagels are all expensive and the Veterans do not seem to be too fond of any of them. At the bingo game there are 10 -\$5 Walmart gift cards given to the Veterans. 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 reported there was no meeting due to the holiday. He stated that Bancroft would be at the Veteran Museum today. He informed the group that he only has 4 second lieutenant bars and will need approximately 20 for the spring ceremony.
8. **VA Coffee and Donuts** – Patti and John had a good turnout this month. They are bringing an extra pot of coffee from home to supplement what is made at the facility. Patti stated that John went to Embry-Riddle University for the change of command and graduation ceremony for the Navy candidates.
9. **2025 FCOC Dues** – Drew stated that FCOC dues are \$0.75 per member, therefore we will need to send a check to FCOC for \$81.

**10. Christmas Holiday Gala Silent Auction** – Drew stated that the gala was outstanding. Anita did an exceptional job chairing this committee. She was able to get twenty-one items donated for auction and the grand total for the chapter was \$2055. There was a question as to whether to have a silent auction at the next gala and Drew stated the gala committee will discuss fund making ideas at their meeting.

**11. 2024 Audit** – Joe completed the 2024 audit and provided a copy to the board. The audit reconciled with the checking account. Joe, thank you for your impressive work.

**12. 2025 – 2026 Financial Budget** – Joe presented the 2025-2026 budget and suggested that we increase the lunch cost to \$30 dollars which will give an additional \$1269 and would help with any shortfall in the scholarship fund. A motion was made by Joe and seconded by Kim to increase the cost. There was a discussion, and it was felt that there would be members who would stop coming if the price increased. When all were asked to vote the nays outweigh the ayes and the motion was not carried. We will revisit this issue monthly.

**13. FCOC Training and Convention** – The combined convention with training is meeting in Orlando January 16-19, 2025. There will be several members from our chapter attending. The FCOC is pushing for all transactions to be online.

**From The Floor**

**14.** Skip stated that he had been given tickets to the Buccaneer’s game but was unable to attend. He also informed us the Mary McLendon and Bill Waters have been giving him \$100 for Walmart gift cards. Skip has a voucher for \$300 from Postcard Travel. He recommends that Postcard Travel give a presentation to the membership on the services they provide.

**15.** Steve Maas was the speaker at Advent Health New Smyrna Beach in November, and he was able to meet 3 Veterans that were hospitalized there.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. Our next meeting is on February 3, 2025, HRYC.

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**  
**2025 Chapter Planning Board (As of 02/01/2025)**

<b>BOD Date</b>	<b>Luncheon Date</b>	<b>Speaker and/or Event</b>	<b>Supporting Elements/P.O.C.'s</b>
January 7, 2025	Thursday, January 23, 2025	<b>Ben Eby, Halifax Health – Guest Speaker</b>  Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- 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 15,, 2025
February 4, 2025	Thursday, February 27, 2025	- Gary Anderson, Col (RET), USMC  Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA - Submit Mercer Ad
March 4, 2025	Thursday, March 27, 2025	- John “Satan” Higgins, Captain (RET)  Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Negotiate Entertainment Contract for Holiday Gala
April 1, 2025	Thursday, April 24, 2025	<b>ROTC Scholarship Dinner</b>  Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	Cadet Introductions and Recognition Obtain 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2024 Menus from HRYC
May 6, 2025	Thursday, May 22, 2025	<b>Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award</b> Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Level Excellence Submission - May 1, 2025 Obtain Sep-Dec Lunch Menus Obtain Holiday Menu
	*****	<b>CHAPTER on SUMMER Break</b>	*****
September 23, 2025	Thursday, September 25, 2025	- <b>Speaker TBD</b> Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out) - Obtain 2025-2026 Lunch Menu - Obtain Holiday Menu
October 7, 2025	Thursday, October 23, 2025	<b>Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program</b> - <b>Speaker TBD</b> Price \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Begin Toys for Tots Campaign, Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meeting - Announce the Holiday Gala
November 4, 2025	Thursday, November 20, 2025 <b>Date moved due to Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	-Guest Speaker TBD Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Advertise the “Holiday Gala” - Membership Month Launch Silent Auction for Christmas Gala
December 2, 2025	Thursday, December 18, 2025 1700 hrs Date moved due to Christmas Holiday	<b>“Christmas Holiday Gala Dinner Dance”</b> <b>Music and Entertainment</b> Price \$56 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns & 2nd LT's -MOAA “CM” Modifications



**Buying or  
selling a home?**

**Free home  
valuations!!**

***I can help.***

**Army Veteran  
MOAA Member**

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**Joe Peabody**

**BROKER ASSOCIATE**

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**913-244-2564 | EXP REALTY, LLC**



**contact us at [jpeabody65@gmail.com](mailto:jpeabody65@gmail.com) and  
request to be added to our real estate blog  
where we talk about the latest trends in the real  
estate market.**

## Halifax Area 2025 Action Plan (As of 2/01/2025)

<b><i>Halifax Area Chapter – 2025 Action Plan</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><i>As of 2/1//2025</i></span>		
	<b><u>Chapter Goals and Objectives</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</u></b>
	<b><u>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</u></b>	
<b>1</b>	Continue the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business and health and wellness	<u>January: Ben Eby, Director of Hospice -Halifax Health, February, Gary Anderson, Col USMC (RET), March, John “Satan” Higgins, USN, Captain, (RET)</u>
<b>2</b>	Publish a local veteran related article in local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts	<u>Board of Directors</u>
	<b><u>RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</u></b>	
<b>3</b>	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	<u>Everyone</u> <u>Jan= 36</u>
<b>4</b>	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	<u>Everyone</u>
<b>5</b>	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	<u>Bancroft McKittrick and committee. Need new slate NLT October 2025... Selection process in progress</u>
<b>6</b>	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	<u>Joe Peabody , Jan- Anita Williams</u>
	<b><u>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</u></b>	
<b>7</b>	<u>Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer</u>	<u>Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM</u>
<b>8</b>	<u>Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters</u>	<u>Chapter Members; Transfers; Special Events.. LDA &amp; FCOC Convention, January 2-25</u>
	<b><u>BASE COMMUNITY</u></b>	
<b>9</b>	Present an annual “Outstanding Support for Veterans Award”: one to a local business or organization and one to a Not-for-Profit Organization	<u>Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor – Completed May 2025</u>
<b>10</b>	<u>Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.</u>	<u>Kim Ramos, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, John Higgins</u>
<b>11</b>	<u>Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program</u>	<u>Drew Hoffman, Skip Keating</u>
<b>12</b>	<u>Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home</u>	<u>Skip Keating</u>
<b>13</b>	<u>Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic</u>	<u>John and Patti Higgins</u>
<b>14</b>	<u>Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s</u>	<u>Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos</u>
<b>15</b>	<u>Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters</u>	<u>Drew Hoffman, Board of Directors</u>
<b>16</b>	<u>Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested</u>	<u>Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick</u>
	<b><u>OTHER</u></b>	
<b>17</b>	<u>Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter</u>	<u>Pierre Louis/Anita Williams</u>
<b>18</b>	<u>Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements</u>	<u>Everyone</u>

## Legislative Affairs/National MOAA Advocacy in Action CWO2 Pierre Louis, Legislative Affairs Chair

Members, I want to personally encourage each of you to take an active role in MOAA's advocacy efforts by signing up for the **Legislative Action Center**. This powerful tool allows you to stay informed about key legislation affecting our military community and take direct action by contacting your elected officials. I gave a short presentation at our January luncheon to spur on support for our members to ensure they are registered online in the Legislative Action Center.

Currently, out of our **107** chapter members, only **24** are registered in the Legislative Action Center. We need more voices to amplify our advocacy! If you haven't signed up yet or need assistance, I would be happy to walk you through the process. Feel free to **call me at 386.320.3283** or **email me at [pierre@pierrelouisspeaks.com](mailto:pierre@pierrelouisspeaks.com)** — I'm here to help!

Previously, the Active Campaign Section of the Legislative Center was on hold until new legislation was reviewed. Our first is listed below:

### Take Action Now: Protect Military Spouses' Employment

At the time of this writing, MOAA has just launched its **first Active Legislative Campaign for the 119th Congress**, and it requires **your immediate attention**. Recent executive actions — specifically, “Return to In-Person Work” and the “Federal Hiring Freeze” — could **unintentionally harm military spouses employed by the federal government**.

#### Active Legislative Campaigns

##### Federal Employment Protections for Military Spouses

Urge your lawmakers to ensure the valued contributions of military spouses to the federal workforce are protected by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget as they implement recent executive actions.



We are calling on the **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** and the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** to create **exemptions** for military spouses, ensuring that those with remote work agreements and **Domestic Employee Teleworking Overseas (DETO) agreements** are protected.

### What You Can Do:

Click **TAKE ACTION** in the **Legislative Action Center** to **send a message** to your congressional representatives, urging them to:

- ✓ **Adopt reallocation measures** within agencies to retain federally employed military spouses.
- ✓ **Use existing flexibilities**, such as extended leave without pay and letters of reinstatement eligibility, to keep spouses in the workforce.
- ✓ **Recognize the federal government's role** in helping military spouses overcome employment challenges, especially in **remote duty station locations**.

Military spouses already face significant hurdles in the job market — 44% live in areas with **negative job availability**. By taking action, we can **ensure they are not further disadvantaged**.

*“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**

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

★ ★ ★ ★ MOAA.ORG/AIA ★ ★ ★ ★



SERVICEMEMBERS MAKE A LOT OF SACRIFICES. THEIR BENEFITS SHOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM.



## MOAA ADVOCATES FOR ALL RANKS ACROSS ALL SERVICES.

The Military Officers Association of America is the nation's largest military service association. With more than 360,000 members, we're able to support and advocate for all ranks across the eight uniformed services.

On April 17, MOAA members from across the U.S. are visiting Capitol Hill to maintain the viability of the all-volunteer force – today and in the future. We'll ask lawmakers to ensure our nation keeps its promises to servicemembers and their families by supporting combat-injured veterans through the Major Richard Star Act, restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% of rental and utility costs, and protecting the TRICARE For Life health benefit.

Learn more about these issues and other ways MOAA supports those who serve and have served, along with their families and survivors, at [MOAA.org/AIA](http://MOAA.org/AIA).



MOAA Advocacy in Action Ad appearing in *The Hill*, April 17th

## **Are You Ready for the VA Sign-In Changes?**



The US Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing free health care for conditions related to military service & for Veterans with catastrophic disabilities with ratings of at least 50%. The VA is also committed to caring for Veterans who can't afford to pay for care.

The VA is making changes to their online sign-in process. The VA is moving to 2 modern, secure sign-in options, **Login.gov** and **ID.me**. If you don't have a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account yet, don't delay; these changes are happening soon. The **My HealtheVet** sign-in option will no longer be available on 31 Jan 25, and the **DS Logon** option will be deleted on 30 Sept 25. Once you set up a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account, you'll be able to use it to sign in to My HealtheVet. You'll also be able to use it to sign in to any other VA website or mobile app. With your modern sign-in account, you can continue to manage your VA benefits and health care, while keeping your information & benefits secure.

Now that you have a login, check out the new **VA Health Chat app!**

The **VA Health Chat** app enables Veterans to quickly connect with VA staff members; no need to travel to a VA facility. Just sign in to the app & start receiving services. With VA Health Chat, you can chat with VA staff when you have a question about a non-life-threatening health issue, want to schedule a VA appointment, or refill a VA prescription, and more.



**Use VA Health Chat for immediate answers when:** You feel ill & are unsure about going to an ER or clinic, you have a reaction to a medication, you have questions about your VA prescriptions, you need medical advice for a non-life-threatening injury or illness. The VA staff is here for you.

### **\*\*\*\*\* February is Black History Month \*\*\*\*\***



Every Tuesday in February, in honor of Black History Month, the Smithsonian Channel will present a series of powerful documentaries, including *Black Panthers of WW2*, *Obama Years: The Power of Words*, *The Lost Tapes*, and *One Thousand Years of Slavery – The Untold Story*, shining a light on pivotal moments & figures in history whose legacies continue to shape the world today.

**Black Panthers of WW2:** 4 Feb, 10pm. This 1-hour special tells the story of the 761st Tank Battalion, the 1st African American armored unit to enter combat in WWII. Known as the Black Panthers, they embodied their motto, "Come Out Fighting," proving their resilience both on the battlefield & against the racism they faced at home. Through dramatic reenactments & interviews with veterans & families, *Black Panthers of WWII* uncovers the untold story of these brave men & their historic contributions.

**Obama Years: The Power of Words:** 11 Feb, 9pm. A new hour-long special tells the story of Barack Obama, "writer in chief," and takes viewers inside the defining moments of his political career through the prism of his most memorable speeches.

**Guest Speaker: Gary Anderson (RET), USMC**



*Gary Anderson is a retired Marine Corps Colonel. He commanded at every level from lieutenant to colonel. He served in Lebanon and Somalia. He was the Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab when he retired.*

*Upon retirement, he was the first Director of the Marine Corps Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities and later as a Vice President of Hicks and Associates (now SAIC). During that time, he served as a pro-bono advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense traveling to Iraq and Afghanistan in that capacity.*

*From 2009-2012, he worked for the State Department as a Senior Governance Advisor in Iraq and as a District Support Team Leader and Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader in Afghanistan.*

*He lectures on Alternative Analysis and Wargaming at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University.*

*He has been married to his wife, Anne for fifty-five years. They have two children and five grandchildren.*

**Date: February 27, 2025**

**11:00 Social**

**11:30 Lunch Served**

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

Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees  
Reservations are due by February 21, 2025.

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:**

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

**Choice 1: Mediterranean Salad, GF:** Mixed greens and spinach with olives, tomatoes, red onion, pepperoncini and feta cheese. Tossed with a greek dressing. Topped with grilled chicken.

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 2: Chicken Tuscan Bowl:** Grilled Chicken, sundried tomatoes, wilted spinach and shiitake mushrooms. Tossed with penne pasta in a creamy parmesan sauce.

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 3: Pork Loin, GF:** Stuffed with spinach, cheese and herbs. Served with wild rice pilaf.

# \_\_\_\_\_

**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)

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

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

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

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

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

**Donations**

**Scholarships**

Romain Bastian	Joe Favalro	John & Patti Higgins	Ed Kufeldt
Bancroft McKittrick	Mary McLendon	Robert Martin	

**Vet Outreach**

John & Patti Higgins		

**Membership**

John & Patti Higgins		

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](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 ~

**MAR 2025**

**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



### January MOAA Luncheon!!

*The Halifax Chapter of MOAA held their monthly meeting on, Thursday, January 23, 2025 at the Halifax River Yacht Club. Approximately 40 members were in attendance. The meeting began with presentations made by Drew Hoffman to outstanding volunteers Joe Peabody, Pierre Louis, and Anita Williams. A lunch of chicken and salmon was served, followed by a presentation by Ben Eby of Halifax Health on their Hospice Care Program. Kathleen McKittrick won the 50/50 raffle and donated the money back to the scholarship fund!*



Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



**386-269-5554**

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## ***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.

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- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
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- 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!!!***

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## [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 from June through August)
- Our website is <https://halifaxchaptermoaa.wordpress.com/>
- 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
- Frequently 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
- The Chapter's Outstanding Support to Veterans Award is presented annually to the local area company or organization making the most significant contributions to veterans and their families.

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 an 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](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)

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**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

Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire  
By contacting our Chapter President at [drewhoffman49@gmail.com](mailto: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 the 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.

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# **SOLDIERS' ANGELS HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAM**

Soldiers' Angels Hunger Relief Program is proud to be hosting a Military and Veteran Food Distribution to supply low-income veteran and military families with food assistance. Each Month they feed appromitaley 220 food challenged veterans with about 75lbs per veteran at the Lake Baldwin VA. Next month, they are branching out to the Daytona VA Clinic. Here is the the information:

**When:** Friday, February 14, 2025, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Where:** Daytona Beach VA Clinic, 1776 North Williamson BLVD, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

**How you can help:** If you know of any veteran struggling to meet their basic food needs assist them filling out the application below:

[Hunger Relief Program](#)

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO KROGER FOR SPONSORING THIS PROGRAM!**



# MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training

