



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL March 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.**



HEADLINES: **CHAPTER DUES REMINDER**

Reminder to all members: Please make sure to pay your 2025 chapter dues of \$20 as soon as possible to maintain your active status and access to all chapter benefits. Timely payment is essential for supporting our activities and ensuring the continued success of our chapter. Thank you for your continued support!

Mailing Address: Please send checks payable to "Halifax Chapter of MOAA" P.O. Box 2093, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-2093.

MARCH EVENTS AROUND THE AREA

FRIDAY, MARCH 7th: Community Health Fair at the Port Orange Adult Center, Time 3 pm, FREE.

Saturday, March 8th: East Coast Cruisers Car Show at the Port Orange City Center, Time 3-5 pm, FREE.

Thursday, March 20th: Birds & Brews. CICI & Hyatt Museum of Art. Enjoy beer "flights" while learning about the various birds painted by John James Audubon. Enjoy local Florida beers from six different breweries. Time 5-8 pm. Cost \$50 Members, \$60 Non-Members.

February 22 - March 3, 2025: American Revolution Experience. 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach. Location: Anderson-Price Memorial Bldg. Recurring daily. Free and ticketed events.

Tuesday, March 25th: U.S. Navy Concert Band. Peabody Auditorium. Time 7:00 pm, Free event.

For more events use this link: [Daytona Beach Events](#)

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Officers</i>	
President	Drew Hoffman, Capt. USAF (Ret)	386-562-3325	<u>drewhoffman49@gmail.com</u>
1st Vice President	Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR (RET)	954-650-9532	<u>williams.aann@gmail.com</u>
2nd Vice President	Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET)	913-244-2564	<u>jpeabody65@gmail.com</u>
Treasurer	Lonnie R. Gardner, LTC, USA, (Ret)	386-672-4578	<u>lrgardner@att.net</u>
Secretary	Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC USA (Ret)	352-476-8032	<u>joyfultina@aol.com</u>

[VA NEWS](#)

[Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors handbook online](#)

[Tax season guidance for Veterans](#)

[National Identity Theft Prevention & Awareness Month: Protecting Veterans and their families](#)

For Veterans especially, the risk of identity theft is high, as criminals target recurring monthly benefits payments. Bad actors utilize stolen privacy information to exploit VA benefits, health care, and pensions.

[Veterans may be eligible for one more year of G.I. Bill benefits](#)

VA has updated its process for awarding G.I. Bill benefits. This means that many Veterans who served multiple periods of military service (for example, Veterans who reenlisted) may be eligible for additional benefits for themselves or their beneficiaries.

[President's Message](#)

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



Welcome to another beautiful month in Florida. With all of the storms, floods, and weather issues throughout the United States we can count our blessings that we've only had to deal with chilly days!

If you missed the February luncheon you missed the announcement of a major shift in the Halifax Area Chapter's Board of Directors. Due to personal issues, our First Vice President, Don Needham, had to step down with immediate effect. We will sorely miss his sage wisdom and advice. At my request and with the approval of the Board of Directors, Anita Williams, who was just installed as our Second Vice President in December stepped forward and assumed the position of First Vice President. This left us without a Second Vice President. I approached Joe Peabody, who readily agreed and immediately took over as Second Vice President. A huge thank you to both Anita and Joe – they certainly exemplify our motto of "NEVER STOP SERVING"!

As I write this message, I am reminded that today, February 19th is the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve's birthday. Happy Birthday, "Coasties"!

We have several military events and celebrations in March. On March 3, 1915, the U.S. Navy Reserve was formed to support the U.S. World War I efforts – Happy birthday to all, and thank you for your service. On March 13, 1942, the United States K9 Corps was officially established. The recipients of the Medal of Honor are celebrated on March 25th, and a day honoring many of our current MOAA members who served in the Vietnam War is celebrated on March 25th.

Just a gentle reminder, April's meeting is an evening event when we honor and recognize our ROTC and JROTC scholarship recipients. Please make an effort to attend this event and congratulate the cadets on their accomplishments.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

Drew

Secretary's Report – February Board of Directors' Meeting

Secretary's Report – February 4, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting

The February Board of Directors Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on February 4, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Hoffman at 10:00 am.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) and guests were present: Drew Hoffman*, Joe Peabody, Bancroft McKittrick*, Patti Higgins*, Skip Keating*, Lon Gardner*, Steve Maas, Kim Ramos*, Anita Williams* and Jon Bateman.

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officers/Committees

The following items were discussed:

1. Secretary's Report - The minutes of the January Board of Directors meeting were distributed by email during January 2024. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. Treasurer's Report – There is \$5380.66 in the checking account along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$5530.66. Lon stated donation notices were completed. He needs to pay Pierre \$99.00 for paying for the WorldPress.com site. He also notified the Yacht Club to stop the coffee for our Board Meetings. He has been having issues with the key at the PO Box, but hopefully, it is fixed now. A motion to accept this report was made by Bancroft and, seconded by Steve Maas and approved.
3. Membership – There are 107 members on the roster vs 108. Patti Higgins was on twice, Jon corrected that. 29 members have not renewed their dues. Billie has volunteered to call these members. Don Needham has resigned from his position as 1st VP and membership. There were 36 members at the January luncheon.
4. Officers Call Report – Joe is following up on ads for this year with Super Wash Car Wash, Krispy Kreme, and Watson Real Estate. Anita and Joe are working on the Harris Awards.
5. Surviving Spouse Update – The FCOC Convention in Orlando was great this year. Pierre's presentation was especially good, and casino night was fun. Pat Green's Surviving Spouse training is always informative, with a good turnout and some new faces. She had some handouts and a copy of the new publication, Preparing for the Loss of A Military Spouse. Ann Micara, one of our Surviving Spouses, has donated her husband's (Francis Micara) sword, uniform, pictures, and books to the Veterans Museum. They are on display now.

Old Business

1. Bagels and Bingo –Skip said they had a good turnout with 3 MOAA volunteers and Vita volunteers. He also stated they ran out of Walmart gift cards but will be purchasing more. This activity takes place at Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach at 10 am on the first Monday of each month.
2. VCVC Update – There will be a sign-up on February 14th from 11 am-1 pm at the VA Clinic on Williamson, sponsored by Kroger for any Veterans struggling to meet their basic food needs.

3. **VA Coffee and Donuts** – John and Patti Higgins had a great turnout for January. Coffee and donuts were very appreciated and consumed in about an hour and a half.

New Business

4. **New Board of Directors Appointments** – Anita Williams will be taking over as our new 1st VP and then move on to President next year. Joe Peabody will be our new 1st VP next year.

5. **New Fund-Raising Opportunity** – The Silent Auction was an enormous success at our Christmas Gala. Drew brought up the idea of a \$100 per raffle ticket with a big prize. Lots of discussion and ideas were tossed around and the discussion will continue.

6. **New Chapter Working Group Suggestions** – Anita Williams and Glenn Harmon are forming a working group to recruit local Veterans groups, recruits from Embry-Riddle, and possibly recruiting centers to get new members and to outreach with more Veterans in the area. Several board members said they would be interested in helping.

From The Floor

7. Drew suggested a Dinner Cruise for the members. Jon Bateman requested a copy of the By-Laws. The Prince of Peace Catholic Church asked Kim to do a Cyber 101 class. Skip and Bancroft had their 1st meeting on the Veterans Award. They are considering Wounded Warriors Umpire School as a candidate and as a potential speaker for one of our luncheons.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Our next meeting is on March 4th, 2025, at HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Higgins
Acting 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 03/01/2025)

BOD Date	Luncheon Date	Speaker and/or Event	Supporting Elements/P.O.C.'s
January 7, 2025	Thursday, January 23, 2025	Ben Eby, Halifax Health – Guest Speaker 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 Level of Excellence, Surviving Spouse, Legislative liaison and Web/Newsletter nominations
March 4, 2025	Thursday, March 27, 2025	John "Satan" Higgins, Captain (RET) USN Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Negotiate Entertainment Contract for Holiday Gala - National MOAA CM Modifications
April 1, 2025	Thursday, April 24, 2025	ROTC Scholarship Dinner Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	Cadet Introductions and Recognition Obtain 2 nd half of 2025 Menus from HRYC
May 6, 2025	Thursday, May 22, 2025	Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Price: \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Obtain Sep-Dec menus from HRYC
	*****	CHAPTER on SUMMER Break	*****
September 23, 2025	Thursday, September 25, 2025	- Speaker TBD 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	Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program - Speaker TBD Price \$27 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Begin Toys for Tots Campaign, Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meetings - Announce the Holiday Gala
November 4, 2025	Thursday, November 20, 2025 <i>Date moved due to The Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	-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 <i>Date moved due to Christmas Holiday</i>	"Christmas Holiday Gala Dinner Dance" Music and Entertainment 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**

Joe Peabody

BROKER ASSOCIATE

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**contact us at 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.**

23
Halifax Area 2025 Action Plan (As of 3/01/2025)

<u>Halifax Area Chapter – 2025 Action Plan</u> <i>As of 3/1/2025</i>		
	<u>Chapter Goals and Objectives</u>	<u>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</u>
	<i>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</i>	
<u>1</u>	Continue the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business, and health and wellness	January: Ben Eby, Director of Hospice -Halifax Health, February, Gary Anderson, Col USMC (RET), March, John “Satan” Higgins, USN, Captain, (RET), Sep, Gary Wilson- Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy
<u>2</u>	Publish a local veteran-related article in a local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts. Increase AIA participation	Board of Directors
	<i>RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</i>	Anita Williams, Joe Peabody & Glenn Harmon
<u>3</u>	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan= 36, Feb=39
<u>4</u>	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	Everyone
<u>5</u>	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	Bancroft McKittrick and committee. Need new slate NLT October 2025... Selection process in progress
<u>6</u>	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Joe Peabody, Jan- Anita Williams, Feb - Gary Anderson(Speaker)
	<i>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</i>	
<u>7</u>	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM
<u>8</u>	Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Members; Transfers; Special Events.. LDA & FCOC Convention, January 2-25
	<i>BASE COMMUNITY</i>	
<u>9</u>	Present an annual “Outstanding Support for Veterans Award”: one to a local business or organization and one to a Not-for-Profit Organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor – Scheduled May 2025
<u>10</u>	Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.	Kim Ramos, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, John Higgins
<u>11</u>	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Drew Hoffman, Skip Keating
<u>12</u>	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home	Ongoing all year - Skip Keating
<u>13</u>	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	Ongoing all year - John and Patti Higgins
<u>14</u>	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos
<u>15</u>	Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters	Drew Hoffman, Board of Directors
<u>16</u>	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested.	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick
	<i>OTHER</i>	
<u>17</u>	Standardize electronic media for ease of communication within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams
<u>18</u>	The goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone

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

“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](#)

I have created our Advocacy Planning Board to assist in keeping us on track with our legislative efforts. Please help us by visiting the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/> and urge your Congressman to support the following alerts. If you have any questions on using the LAC, don't hesitate to call me at 386.320.3283

Advocacy Planning Board

Item Click below 	Summary Notes
Share Your Story: Have TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes Impacted You?	MOAA members' feedback is crucial for advocacy with DoD leaders and Capitol Hill to preserve military health care benefits.
Share Your Story: Tell MOAA About Your Recent PCS Move	Servicemembers have reported issues with the privatized military moving system. MOAA is seeking detailed accounts of these experiences to advance advocacy efforts on behalf of those served and their families.
ACCESS Act Would Expand Veterans' Community Care Options	The Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act of 2025 (S. 275 H.R. 740) would codify standards for veterans to receive community-based care: Veterans who cannot be provided by the VA with a primary care, mental health care, or extended care appointment within a 30-minute drive or within 20 days (or shorter, as prescribed by the VA secretary). Veterans who cannot be provided by the VA with a specialty care appointment within an hour's drive or within 28 days (or shorter, per the VA secretary).
Love Lives On: Protect Surviving Spouses' Right to Remarry	The Love Lives On Act (H.R. 1004/S. 410) aims to provide financial stability to surviving military spouses who lose loved ones due to combat, service-related illnesses, or suicide. Current law revokes benefits if remarried before age 55, leaving many, especially those with young children, without essential support.
Urge Lawmakers to Resume CFPB Operations for Servicemembers	Contact your representative and urge them to advocate for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to resume supervisory examinations for the Military Lending Act (MLA) and allow the Office of Servicemember Affairs to continue its important work protecting military families from predatory financial practices.

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.



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

Building Your Battle Plan for Life's 'What-If' Moments

From: MOAA Magazine

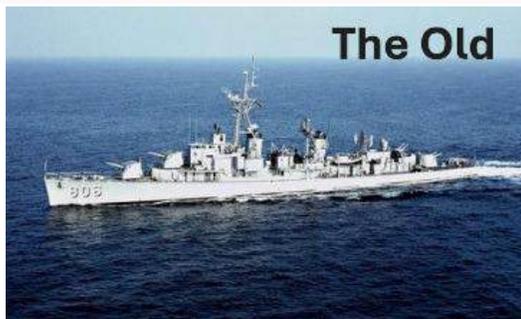


Learning how to live again without a loved one is a very complicated process. Preparation can offer survivors a “battle plan” to navigate this stressful time. Conversation about death is never a pleasant topic, but it is a gift of love that each member of a family makes to others. MOAA has a range of resources to assist with this preparation. Join the upcoming [March 12 survivorship webinar](#) that will help you remove uncertainty and find peace of mind.

This event will benefit those of all ages and in all life stages – currently serving members & families, retirees, Veterans, and surviving spouses. This seminar will guide you through the steps you & your family must take after a loved one's death. Attendees will: Learn about the little things that can be taken care of now, easily ... before they become bigger things. Cover an array of important topics, from Social Security & military benefits to insurance, funeral costs, and more. Allow you access to the newly updated Survivor Checklist from MOAA.

**Do not put off your “battle plan” because of uncomfortable subject matters.
Take action to prepare your family for the future.**

In Honor of Women's History Month



The first US Navy ship to be named after a woman was named after **Lenah S. Higbee**, the first woman to receive the Navy Cross while still living. The USS HIGBEE (DD 806) was launched in 1944 by Bath Iron Works; sister of the late Mrs. Lenah S. Higbee was her sponsor. Mrs. Higbee was born in Canada in 1874. After completing nurses' training in NY, she married a US Marine but was widowed at a young 36-years-old in 1908. She entered the US Navy Nurse Corps that same year as part of “The Sacred Twenty,” the first group of women forming the Navy Nurse Corps. She became the 2nd superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps in January 1911,

served in the Navy for 14 years, leading the Nurse Corps through World War I & the 1918 influenza pandemic. She died in 1941 in Winter Park & is buried alongside her husband at Arlington National Cemetery. USS Higbee was decommissioned and struck from the Navy list in 1979.

Almost 45 years later, the new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123) was commissioned in Key West, FL in 2023. Arleigh Burke-class destroyers are the backbone of the US Navy surface fleet. These highly capable, multi-mission ships conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence to National security providing a wide range of warfighting capabilities in the air, surface and subsurface AORs.



Guest Speaker: John Higgins, CDR, USN (RET)



CDR Higgins's Naval career started in September 1969 at NTC/RTC Sandiego, CA. After "A" school, he trained as an Aviation Machinist Mate (jet engines) in Memphis, TN. His first fleet assignment was A-4's with Attack Squadron Forty Four, at Cecil Field, FL, followed by Attack Squadron One Two Seven in Lemoore, CA. He was later assigned to VQ4 at NAS Patuxent River, MD, where his "flying career" began and logged over 2500 hours in the EC-1300 Hercules. His love for flying flourished and he became the NATOPS Evaluator for TACAMO Inflight Technicians and VQ-4's "1980 Sea Sailor of the Year". In April 1981, Petty Officer Higgins was selected for the LDO Aviator Program and transferred to AOCs, Pensacola, FL. He completed his flight training in the T-28 and T-44 aircraft in Corpus Christy, TX earning his wings on July 16, 1982. He then reported to VT-3 in Milton, FL as a Primary Flight Instructor in the T-34C to train new aviators and later as a FITC Instructor, training newly assigned instructors. LT Higgins was later recognized as a Pensacola Schools Command, Instructor of the Year, logging over 1800 hours in the T-34C. In April, 1986 he was reassigned to the USS Ranger completing four tours as the Flight Deck Officer. Immediately following he was assigned to Point Magu, CA where he completed (three) six-month deployments to Antarctica. His next set of orders sent him to CFLSW DET NOLA in New Orleans, LA operating T-39 Sabreliners as the NATOPS Officer and Wing Evaluator.

In May 1993 upon completion of Aviation Safety School at Monterey, CA, LCDR Higgins was assigned to V-54 where he flew the new C-130T as the Safety Officer and Aviation Maintenance Officer. In September 1996 he transferred to NAF Washington as VR-53's Officer in Charge. In July 1998, CDR Higgins assumed the duties as Executive Officer of VR-51 in Kaneohe, HI, and took command of the squadron in September. He retired in 2000 after 30 years of service. In civilian life, he continued to fly as a corporate pilot for another 16 years before fully retiring.

Date: March 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 March 21, 2025.

Name _____

The salad is the vegetarian option. Please specify "no meat or vegetarian" in the comments.

**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

Or call 775-721-0967

Choice 1: Salmon Salad, GF: Grilled salmon on a bed of mixed greens with strawberries, craisins, toasted walnuts, cherry tomatoes and goat cheese. Tossed in a cider vinaigrette, topped with a strawberry balsamic reduction.

Choice 2: Mediterranean Gnocchi, V: Gnocchi, asparagus, cherry tomatoes, spinach, olives, mushrooms, fresh basil, and parmesan cheese. Finished with extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice.

Choice 3: Chicken Bruschetta, GF: Sauteed chicken breast with a lemon beurre blanc sauce. Topped with chopped tomatoes, basil and red onion mix drizzled with a balsamic reduction. Served with garlic mashed and 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)

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

WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERISM

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

<p><u>Membership Chair</u> LTC Jon Bateman USA (Ret) 309-678-5359</p>	<p><u>Immediate Past President</u> Bancroft McKittrick, Col., USMC, (Ret) 603-548-6558</p>	<p><u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u> CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239</p>
<p><u>Chaplain</u> Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.) 386-451-1008</p> <p><u>Transition Liaison*</u> TBA*</p> <p><u>Awards Committee Chair</u> Lt Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret) 386 682-3064</p>	<p><u>“Officers Call” Editor & 2nd Vice President</u> CPT Joe Peabody, USA (Ret.) 913-244-2564</p> <p><u>1st Vice President & Webmaster</u> CDR Anita Williams, USCGR (Ret.) 954-650-9532</p>	<p><u>Surviving Spouse Team</u> 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><u>Directors</u> 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><u>Legislative Liaison</u> CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283</p> <p><u>Veterans Council Representative</u> COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p>	<p><u>ROTC Liaison</u> 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

Romain\$ Evelyn Bastin	Robert & Wendy Martin	Steve & Judy Becker	Tina Dixon-Bartlett
John & Patti Higgins	Drew & Mary Lou Hoffman	Ed & Kathleen Kufledt	Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick
Joe & Colette Peabody	Lon Gardner		

Vet Outreach

Tina Dixon-Bartlett	Robert & Wendy Martin	John & Patti Higgins
John & Patti Higgins		

Membership

John & Patti Higgins	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



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 ~

APR 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](#)



Cyber 101 Brief

On 11 February, MOAA provided a Cyber 101 brief to 43 Prince of Peace Church members at their monthly meeting. The group gave a \$25.00 donation to the Halifax MOAA scholarship fund.



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

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	
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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 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

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: MLL_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 the primary point of contact in the chapter for MOAA members and their spouses;
- 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 chapter transition news and issues to the newsletter and performing other duties the president might assign.

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Pierre Louis, Legislative Chair, takes 1st place in both the **International Speech Contest** and the **Table Topics Division** for Area 40 of Toastmasters International. Pierre is now vying to compete in the **World Championship of Public Speaking** in August in **Philadelphia, PA**.



Pierre Louis volunteers as a mentor at Tomoka Correctional Facility, facilitating classes on communication and leadership skills to empower inmates with valuable tools for personal growth and future success

Volusia County Veterans Stand Down Day March 21st & 22nd, 2005



Florida Veterans Foundation
@HELPFLVETS

Veterans Stand Down March 21-22 at the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach. Volusia County is proud to host its annual Veterans Stand Down, providing essential services and support for veterans in need. Address: Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach 9 AM – 2 PM



VETERANS STAND DOWN
Honoring all who served

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 21 and 22, 2025
Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach

- ★ Health and wellness screenings
- ★ Employment resources
- ★ Housing support and referrals
- ★ Free haircuts, clothing, and food
- ★ VA benefit information
- ★ VA claims raters on-site
- ★ Mobile C&P exam units
- ★ Legal assistance

 Volusia County Florida

For more information, contact Veterans Services at 386-740-5102 or VeteransInfo@volusia.org.
Volusia.org/veterans



Scan for Stand Down website