



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL April 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.

CHRISTMAS GALA & SILENT AUCTION 2025

How You Can Help:

We invite you to join us in making a difference by attending the Christmas Gala and participating in the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction will feature a variety of unique and exciting items, all generously donated by local businesses and individuals. All funds raised from the auction will directly benefit the scholarship program, ensuring that deserving students in our area have the resources they need to succeed. Whether you're looking for an opportunity to contribute a donation, bid on an auction item, or simply attend to enjoy an evening of holiday cheer, your support will make a significant impact. Your involvement will help provide scholarships to students who demonstrate excellence, dedication, and a passion for leadership through their participation in JROTC and ROTC programs.

How to Donate or Contribute Items:

If you're unable to attend but would still like to make a difference, please consider making a direct donation to the scholarship fund or contributing an item to our Silent Auction. Every contribution counts and will help ensure these future leaders have the support they need.

The POCs for your donated gifts or any questions are:

1st Vice President Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR 954-650-9532 williams.aann@gmail.com or
2nd Vice President Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET) 913-244-2564 jpeabody65@gmail.com

RSVP & Tickets:

To reserve your spot at this meaningful event, please RSVP through this website. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you while giving back to the students who will lead us into tomorrow!

Thank you for your generosity, and we can't wait to see you at the Christmas Gala!

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Officers</i>	
President	Drew Hoffman, Capt. USAF (Ret)	386-562-3325	drewhoffman49@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR	954-650-9532	williams.aann@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET)	913-244-2564	jpeabody65@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

[VA Information](#)

[Florida 2025 Veterans Budget](#)

[2024 Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

[VA Disability Bill](#)

[2025 Florida Veterans Benefit Book](#)

This annual guide helps connect Florida's veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains useful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information.

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

[Advantage Florida Military Benefits Guide](#)

This Florida Benefits Guide is full of helpful information on the many laws, programs and benefits that the state of Florida has implemented to support Veterans.

[Survivors Guide to Benefits](#)

This guide is intended to aid you as you work through the difficulty and pain of losing a loved one who served in the military

[President's Message](#)

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



It's hard to believe we are already entering the month of April. April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, particularly focusing on the experiences of military children. In 2025, the theme will be "Celebrating Military Children and Youth:

Building Stronger Character and Relationships," highlighting their bravery and resilience. Various activities and resources are available to celebrate military-connected children throughout the month. We are encouraged to wear purple to remember all the dependent military children.

We have three major celebrations this month. First, NATO was established on 4 April 1949 with the signing of the [North Atlantic Treaty](#) (Washington Treaty). The 12 founding members of the Alliance were: [Belgium](#), [Canada](#), [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Iceland](#), [Italy](#), [Luxembourg](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Portugal](#), the [United Kingdom](#), and the [United States](#). Today, there are 32 nations in NATO.

Our second celebration is the birthday of the United States Air Force Reserves on April 14th. This branch of the military was established in 1948. Thirdly, on April 23, 1908 the United States Army Reserve was established.

March was a strong month for the chapter with two new members joining us. If you were at the February meeting you would have had a chance to meet Mike O'Neil. Mike is a VietNam era helicopter pilot decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Our second new member is Dr. Itzel Harriott, a former member of the Navy Medical Corps. Dr. Harriott attended our March meeting. She was originally contacted as a speaker for our Surviving Spouse celebration in October. Come to our meetings and meet these and other members of the chapter.

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 – March 4, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting

The March Board of Directors Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on March 4, 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: Andrew Hoffman*, Anita Williams*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett*, Lon Gardener*, Patti Higgins*, Bancroft McKittrick*, Joe Peabody*, Jon Bateman, Steve Maas*, Skip Keating*, and John Higgins,

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officer/Committees

The following items were discussed:

1. **Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the March Board of Directors meeting were distributed by email during March 2025. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – There is \$5662.66 in the checking account, along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$5812.66. Lon stated that he had received several checks for membership dues. He stated that there are two checks for dues that are not in the February report. He also states the Scholarship fund has a balance of \$4060.67, and we will need approximately \$3100.
3. **Membership** – Jon stated that we have 6 people who have renewed their dues, and there are still 12 remaining. He stated that Billie had helped tremendously by making calls and reminding them. Jon mentioned that we have 103 members, and year to date, we have lost 8 members. Drew stated that we need to update our membership roster with FCOC. Jon attended the Leadership Zoom Conference on accessing the FCOC database. Steve Maas brought up the idea that we need to recruit more junior officers.
4. **Officers Call Report** – Joe stated that he has the VFW-Port Orange membership roster given to him by their commander. The commander has sent an email to his members letting them know that we are here and would like them to join us. Joe has been attempting to identify the officers on the list so he can invite them to join our chapter. Anita has agreed to assist him with this task.
5. **Surviving Spouse Update** – Patti mentioned that she has made calls to several members to check on them. One of the members has paid the yearly dues, and as a surviving spouse, she does not need to. The money will be returned to her. She informed us that on March 12th there will be a Survivor Workshop. She also mentioned that once a month, at Margaritaville, there is a Veteran Happy Hour. Patti stated that she had several items that she wanted to present today, however, her printer is down. She will present those items at another time.

Old Business

6. **Bagels and Bingo** – Skip states that they met yesterday. He had 17 veterans and 12 volunteers, including MOAA and DAR members. He was able to give ten \$5 gift cards to the veterans, due to the funds donated by Bill Waters, Mary McLendon, and Steve Maas. Kudos to them! This activity takes place at Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home Emory Bennett in Daytona Beach at 10 am on the first Monday of each month.
7. **VCVC Update** – Skip stated that the VCVC meeting is held on Saturday morning, and there are usually 12 organizations at the meeting. Skip said that the VCVC has mobility chairs that they have repaired and can give to veterans in need. He stated the new Volusia County Veteran Service officer is Scott Olson. Senator Tom Wright, District 8, was at the last VCVC meeting. Senator Wright stated that Florida has over 20 military bases, as well as smaller installations and support facilities. Skip also informed us that there is a Veteran Stand Down on 21-22 March, from 9-2, at the Ocean Center. On March 29, there will be a special Vietnam 50th anniversary celebration at the Aberdeen Clubhouse.

8. **VA Coffee and Donuts** – Patti and John Higgins provided coffee and donuts to veterans at the Veteran clinic. They stated that this Thursday, they will have a couple of MOAA members helping them. Patti also mentioned that our chapter’s plaque has been hung at the clinic. You will see it on the left wall as you enter the clinic.

From The Floor

9. Drew stated that we needed to decide if we wanted to have a silent auction at the next gala. The answer was a resounding yes from everyone. He congratulated and thanked Anita for the exceptional job she did last year. Anita has agreed to chair this activity again this year. Drew also stated that the menu for September, October, November, and January needs to be coordinated with the yacht club. Anita stated she would meet with the club to do this.

10. Bancroft stated that Kim presented a Cyber Security class to the Prince of Peace Church on February 11, and they contributed \$25. He stated that he and Skip had selected the company/group that would be receiving the chapter’s annual award at the May luncheon. The groups chosen are Team Red, White & Blue, and Halifax Health. He asked Joe to contact the Observer to have them draft an article about the award. Bancroft mentioned that Drew will be the speaker, and he will be the Master of Ceremonies, at the Ormond Beach Memorial Day Ceremony at the Casement.

11. Anita stated that there is a place on our website for comments and/or emoticons to show agreement, acknowledgment, appreciation, etc. She asked who was on the invitation list to the gala. It was mentioned that we had fewer attendees last year because Deland’s chapter did not attend. We will extend an invitation again for them to attend. Lon will check to see if Kevin, the DJ, will be able to play for us, and we will invite the people from the dance studio to also come, as well as Team Red, White & Blue members.

12. Steve mentioned that he had spoken with one of the board members from National MOAA, and the person stated that “Pierre is a treasurer to MOAA.” Pierre has also received an award at the National Toastmasters Conference. Congratulations Pierre!!

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. Our next meeting is on April 1, 2025, at 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 04/01/2025)

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: \$28 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: \$28 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: \$28 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: \$28 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	Cadet Introductions and Recognition: Obtain the 2 nd half of 2025 Menus from HRYC
May 6, 2025	Thursday, May 22, 2025	Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Price: \$28 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Obtain Sep-Dec menus from HRYC
	*****	CHAPTER on SUMMER Break	*****
September 23, 2025	Thursday, September 25, 2025	Gary Wilson, Wonder Warrior Umpire Academy Price: \$28 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 \$28 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: \$28 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?**

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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.**

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Halifax Area 2025 Action Plan (As of 4/01/2025)

Halifax Area Chapter – 2025 Action Plan		
<u>Chapter Goals and Objectives</u>		<u>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</u>
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		
1	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), Apr: ERAU Cadets, May: Vet Support Winners, Sep, Gary Wilson- Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy, Oct: Dr. Itzel Harriott, Nov: Chapter Business Meeting, Dec: Christmas Gala
2	Publish a local veteran-related article in a local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts. Increase AIA participation	Board of Directors
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION		
		Anita Williams, Joe Peabody & Glenn Harmon
3	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan= 36, Feb=43, Mar=
4	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	Everyone, 2 new in March
5	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... The selection process in progress
6	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Joe Peabody, Jan- Anita Williams, Feb - Gary Anderson(Speaker)
PERSONAL AFFAIRS		
7	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM
8	Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Members, Transfers, Special Events.. LDA & FCOC Convention, January 2-25
BASE COMMUNITY		
9	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
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, Skip Keating, John Higgins
11	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Drew Hoffman, Skip Keating
12	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennett Nursing Home	Ongoing all year - Skip Keating
13	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	Ongoing all year - John and Patti Higgins
14	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos
15	Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters	Drew Hoffman, Board of Directors
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 communication within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams
18	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](#)

As we gear up for the *Advocacy in Action* (AIA), we encourage all members to engage in MOAA's annual campaign, whether in Washington, D.C., or from home. In a recent article, our Government Relations Team mentioned the following outreach message: [“Reach Out With Tailored Communication Another approach](#)—particularly for issues that impact you personally or you feel especially passionate about—is to send a more personalized message to your representatives. A well-crafted email providing background on your service, highlighting MOAA advocacy priorities, and offering your perspective as a constituent can make a significant impact. Personal engagement sends a strong message that military issues matter to voters in the district.” To connect with your lawmakers, visit [MOAA Find Your Official](#). You will need to sign in or register, and then you will be directed to send a letter or log an interaction with your lawmaker.

Florida MOAA Council Representatives Head to Capitol Hill

From April 7-11, the Florida MOAA Council Representative Team of CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret), Legislative Affairs Chair; CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret), FCOC Council VP; COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret), WC Area Vice President; Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison; and Lt. Col. Joe Gollasch, USA (Ret), President of MOAA's Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, will visit Capitol Hill to engage directly with lawmakers on MOAA's five legislative priorities. This year's advocacy efforts will focus on five key legislative priorities aimed at improving the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The priorities that will be discussed are as follows:

MOAA's 2025 Legislative Priorities:

1. [Incentivizing Military Spouse Hiring](#)—With military spouse unemployment rates remaining high, MOAA is pushing for the passage of the Military Spouse Hiring Act, which would add military spouses as a target group for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

Quick Summary (QS): Military spouses face unique challenges in finding and maintaining consistent employment due to frequent relocations, unpredictable military service, and limited employment opportunities near remote installations. The military spouse unemployment rate is 21%, five times higher than the national average. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Program incentivizes employers to hire qualified military spouses, offering tax credits ranging from \$2,400 to \$9,600 per new hire. Incentivizing companies to hire qualified military spouses can help lower the unemployment rate, offset the costs of hiring and onboarding new employees, and increase the overall financial stability of the entire military family. Expanding the WOTC program to include military spouses would create a tangible incentive for businesses to recognize and act on the value military spouses bring to the workforce.

2. **Improving Unaccompanied Housing**—MOAA is advocating for increased transparency and accountability regarding unaccompanied housing conditions. With a \$137 billion maintenance backlog, our service members deserve better living conditions, and we urge Congress to act.

Quick Summary (QS): Military Unaccompanied Housing (UH) is a critical component of UH, housing hundreds of thousands of servicemembers at U.S. military installations worldwide. However, a lack of full funding has led to a \$137 billion backlog in deferred maintenance for the Department of Defense (DoD). UH facilities often lack standards, with mold infestations, broken systems, and inadequate sanitation. Insufficient oversight and funding transparency issues also contribute to the issue. The National Defense Authorization Act mandates uniform design standards for UH, but many facilities fall short due to insufficient funding and oversight. The Department of Defense has increasingly turned to privatization as a solution to improve UH, but there is a pressing need for enhanced transparency regarding funding streams related to UH.

3. **Expanding Access to Military Health Care**— Many military families face challenges accessing care within the Military Health System (MHS). MOAA is calling for the establishment of a Digital Access Assistance System to streamline and address access barriers.

Quick Summary (QS): The Military Health System (MHS) faces challenges in accessing care due to its complexity, which combines direct care from military treatment facilities (MTFs) with purchased care from TRICARE's network of civilian providers. Staffing shortages and staffing issues are common issues, with the Department of Defense (DoD) planning to return 7% of beneficiary care to MTFs from the TRICARE network. The TRICARE enrollment policy can trap patients in MTFs, further complicating access. The current options for redress for medical access-to-care issues vary by MTF, and the DoD's Interactive Customer Evaluation system has low awareness among beneficiaries. A digital access assistance platform and reporting requirements are recommended.

4. **Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans**— MOAA supports new legislation aimed at reducing the wait times for millions of veterans exposed to toxic substances. The goal is to ensure faster access to VA benefits and care.

Quick Summary (QS): The VA has acknowledged toxic exposures since World War I, leading to a presumptive condition. The PACT Act expanded VA healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. However, veterans have extremely long waits of over 34 years on average. MOAA recommends that Congress enact legislation to create a stronger legal framework for creating a presumptive acknowledgment, concession, and presumption of service connection. The proposed framework should include specific timelines, thresholds, decisions, and triggers.

5. **Supporting Veteran Caregivers**— The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act is a crucial initiative to assist caregivers who sacrifice to support our nation's veterans. MOAA is urging lawmakers to pass this bill to enhance caregiver benefits.

Quick Summary (QS): The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act aims to improve the economic stability and quality of life for veterans' caregivers. Key provisions include reimbursement for licensure fees, employment assistance, and a returnship program. The Act also provides retirement planning services and a retirement plan specifically for caregivers. The MOAA supports the Act, recognizing the significant economic and emotional burdens caregivers face and potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden by decreasing future reliance on government assistance programs.

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.



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

Veterans Can Now Tell Their Own Stories on the VA Veterans Memorial Website



The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website built to honor Veterans who served since the Revolutionary War will now allow former service members to tell their own stories before they die. Veterans who are eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery will now be able to log into a secure site where they can upload images, autobiographies, military achievements & life milestones. The content will go live once the Veteran passes away & after VA approval.

Providing Veterans with resources to document their stories while they are still with us ensures their voices are heard & allows family members, friends and others to better appreciate their experiences. The [Veterans Legacy Memorial \(VLM\)](#) is a website that houses the names of millions of Veterans & can be used to pay tribute to former service members. The site launched in 2019 & contains the names of nearly 10 million Veterans. This first-person narrative will have an enduring presence in VLM for family members and others to better understand the unique Veteran experience. The VA has plans to include Veterans buried in overseas cemeteries also.

To participate, Veterans may apply [online](#) to determine eligibility. For more information about VA burial benefits, Veterans can go to a [National Cemetery](#), check out the [VA burial benefits page](#), or call 800-827-1000.

Vietnam Dustoff Crews to Receive Congressional Gold Medal

Vietnam War aeromedical evacuation units & medevac crews — commonly known by their radio call sign “Dustoff” — will now be recognized by the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act, September 2024. This act will collectively award the more than 3,000 pilots, medics, and crew who flew between combat zones & field hospitals during the Vietnam war with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award Congress can bestow.



Dustoff and medevac crews flew more than 496K missions from 1962-73. Ninety pilots were killed & nearly 380 were wounded; 121 crew members were killed & 545 wounded. They flew 24/7 and did not have the luxury of waiting for a cleared landing zone, the weather to clear, or night to end, as urgent patients faced death without immediate lifesaving care. This award is a wonderful tribute to the Dustoff crews.

For more information & to enter a name into the Dustoff database, email vietnamdustoffgcm@gmail.com.

ROTC APPRECIATION DINNER Speakers: ROTC Cadets



Date: April 24, 2025
5:00 - 5:45 Social Time with Cadets
5:45 - 6:30 Dinner
6:30 - 7:30 Commanders Introduce Cadets
7:30 Adjourn
Location: Halifax River Yacht Club
331 S Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL

**FOLLOW LINK FOR
[ONLINE RESERVATION](#)**

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

Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees. Reservations are due by April 17, 2025.

EMAIL:

Irgardner@att.net
Or call 775-721-0967

Name _____

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

Choice 1: Chicken Saltimbocca, thinly sliced chicken breasts, prosciutto ham, sage, and a delightful pan sauce made with a touch of wine.

Choice 2: Pork Loin, GF: Stuffed with spinach, cheese, and herbs and served with wild rice pilaf.

Choice 3: Mediterranean Gnocchi, V Gnocchi, asparagus, cherry tomatoes, spinach, olives, mushrooms, fresh basil and Parmesan cheese. Finished with extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice.

Total Food:\$28

\$ _____

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 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 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

Jon Bateman	Robert & Wendy Martin	Richard Butler	Joe Favaloro
John & Patti Higgins	Jose Vargas	Ed & Kathleen Kufledt	Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick
Joe & Colette Peabody	Lon Gardner		

Vet Outreach

Lon Gardner	Robert & Wendy Martin	John & Patti Higgins
John & Patti Higgins	Richard Butler	Joe Favaloro

Membership

John & Patti Higgins	Richard Butler	

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Salute

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

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 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](#)



Free Service Connects Veterans with Other Local Veterans

Together We Served has launched a new free service called "Veteran Buddy Link" to assist Veterans seeking friendship and support.

[VETERANS BUDDY LINK](#)

Helping Women Veterans, Military Spouses Find Meaningful Employment

American Corporate Partners (ACP) connects post-9/11 Veterans with corporate professionals for customized career guidance. The average starting salary for Veterans who use ACP is more than \$90,000.

[Helping Veterans Find Employment](#)

Suicide Prevention Training: Learn How to Help a Veteran in Crisis

VA S.A.V.E. training is a free, brief online or in-person course that can help you learn what to do if a Veteran you know is in crisis.

[Suicide Prevention Training](#)

Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



386-269-5554

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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	
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- 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

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TRICARE West: www.tricare-west.com

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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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