



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL May 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).



As we welcome the warm days of May, we also take time to celebrate some very key dates for the military members ... Armed Forces Day: on May 17th (the third Saturday of May) we thank our military members for their service in support of their country. May 9th the Friday before Mother's Day, we celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Lastly, Remembrance Day, now commonly referred to as Memorial

Day ...

Once again, this year, the Halifax Chapter of MOAA will be a key participant at the annual Ormond Beach Memorial Day Remembrance Service. Bancroft McKittrick will be this year's Master of Ceremonies and Drew Hoffman will provide the Keynote Address. The ceremony begins promptly at 9:00 am on Monday, May 30, 2025. It will be held at Rockefeller Gardens Park (the Casements) 26 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach.

There is a flyer in this OC that provides the details for the annual Veterans Memorial Concert on May 25th at 2:00 pm. Music will be provided by the Daytona Beach Concert Band at the Ormond Performing Arts Center.

If you were unable to attend the April meeting you missed a great night during which we recognized this year's ROTC and JROTC award winners. It was refreshing to talk to these individuals about the future of our military and hear them explain where their initial careers and further training will go. These ten outstanding individuals brought the 2024-2025 recognition program to a close with stories of their time at ERAU and Mainland HS and hopes for the future. Our thanks to Glenn Hamon for another excellent program.

As a reminder, the West Volusia Chapter will be sponsoring its third annual "Operation Camaraderie Picnic" on May 17, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The event takes place at the American Legion "Adam Quinn" Post 6, 1087 Biscayne Blvd, DeLand FL. Contribution is \$10 per person (payable onsite). RSVP by May 9, 2025. 386-366-4473 or email majgonz@earthlink.net.

Our chapter has been invited to participate in the Volusia 4th of July Veterans Parade. Joe Peabody has volunteered to serve as POC for the chapter. We are looking for convertibles, a flatbed truck or pickup trucks to be in our contingent. Contact Joe if you would like to participate

Our selection committee has completed their deliberations, and we will present the "Outstanding Support to Veterans" Awards (for profit and not for profit). Come to the May luncheon and thank these two selectees for their efforts to support our veterans.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

Drew

Secretary's Report – April 1, 2025 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The April Board of Directors' Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on April 1, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Hoffman at 10:02 am.

The following board members (shown with an asterisk) and guests were present: Andrew Hoffman*, Anita Williams*, Bancroft McKittrick*, Lon Gardner*, Skip Keating*, Joe Peabody*, and Jon Bateman*.

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 the month of March 2025. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – There is \$6,818.31 in the checking account, along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$6,968.31. Lon stated that since today was the first day of the month, he couldn't get the final March bank statement until this morning. He provided a copy of the Treasurer's Report to the Board for review. Bancroft asked Lon to verify we had \$4,060 in the scholarship fund and that we were in good shape for the awards banquet. Lon verified the amount. Lon also stated the lunch price is now \$28.00.**
- 3. Membership – Jon stated that we had 3 gains so far and listed the names of the new members. He said that brings us up to 106 total members for the chapter. Jon also stated he is trying to identify the branch of two members. He also has established access to MOAA National. Drew mentioned that Jon would be the only one who would be able to update the database, and he has the only ability.**
- 4. Officers Call Report – Joe stated that he's been working with Anita and Pierre to make sure that the content in the newsletter matches what is on the website. He also asked about member spotlights for the OC. Drew said it's not for every month, but that the last two months, speakers were members. Joe also asked Bancroft for the contact information for last year's "Outstanding Support to Veterans" winners so he could contact them to renew their ads in the OC.**
- 5. Surviving Spouse Update – No report for the month.**

Old Business

- 1. Bagels and Bingo – Skip stated they were doing Bagels and Bingo next week as opposed to this week, so there is no update. 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 – Skip stated that the VCVC meeting was held on March 22nd. He said he gave them an update on all the things the Chapter is doing as far as activities, such as Bagels and Bingo, coffee and donuts, and support of the local area. He also mentioned that the Stand Down that was held at the Ocean Center was not well attended**

3. VA Coffee and Donuts – No report this month

New Business

4. Drew mentioned the West Volusia Chapter is having a picnic on Saturday, May 17th at the American Legion Post 6, which is located at the DeLand Airport. He encouraged everyone to attend if possible. Drew asked Joe to post in the May OC, and Anita commented that she would post it on the website as well.

5. Skip stated that Drew is the guest speaker for Memorial Day in Ormond Beach on May 26th and that Bancroft will be the MC.

From The Floor

6. Bancroft mentioned that he and Skip met and selected the two “Outstanding Support to Veterans” Awardees. This year, the winners are Team Red, White & Blue as well as Halifax Hospice. The plaques are already done. Bancroft also stated that he will put the press release together for Ben to send out as the event gets closer.

7. Drew asked about the Daytona July 4th Parade and whether we should sponsor it. Skip said it’s run by the City of Daytona. Bancroft asked Skip to make the initial contact, and Anita and Joe said they would assist Bancroft with the event.

8. Anita stated that she added a new page on the website for the Gala that has a place for members to RSVP as well as donate to the auction. Skip stated he has items to donate for the auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m. Our next meeting is on May 6, 2025, HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Peabody
Second Vice President, 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 05/01/2025)

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 LTs -MOAA “CM” Modifications



**Buying or
selling a home?**

**Free home
valuations!!**

I can help.

**Army Veteran
MOAA Member**

Joe Peabody

BROKER ASSOCIATE

JOEPEABODY.EXPREALTY.COM

913-244-2564 | EXP REALTY, LLC



**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 5/01/2025)

<u>Halifax Area Chapter – 2025 Action Plan</u> <i>As of 5/1/2025</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), 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
<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=43, Mar=39, APR=42
<u>4</u>	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	Everyone, 2 new in March
<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... The 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), LT Itzel Harriott (new member & Oct 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, Veterans Stand Down Day - March, West Volusia Picnic-May
	<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 – Selection Complete - Presentation May 2025, Halifax Hospital Hospice, Team Red, White & Blue
<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, Glenn Harmon
<u>12</u>	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennett 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 am pleased to inform you of the success of our Advocacy in Action 2025! On April 9, more than 150 advocates walked the halls of Congress to protect all veterans' service-earned pay and benefits. We spent the first two days in training for the action day on the hill, which took place on April 9th. Our Government Relations team equipped us with point papers outlining the priorities to be discussed with the lawmakers, and this contributed to the success of the event. The information from MOAA's final report expressed that "our dedicated teams met with lawmakers from all 50 states, visited over 325 congressional offices, and contributed a combined 1,200 hours of face-to-face advocacy!"



Check out more pictures from the event here: [\[2025 MOAA Advocacy in Action\]](#)

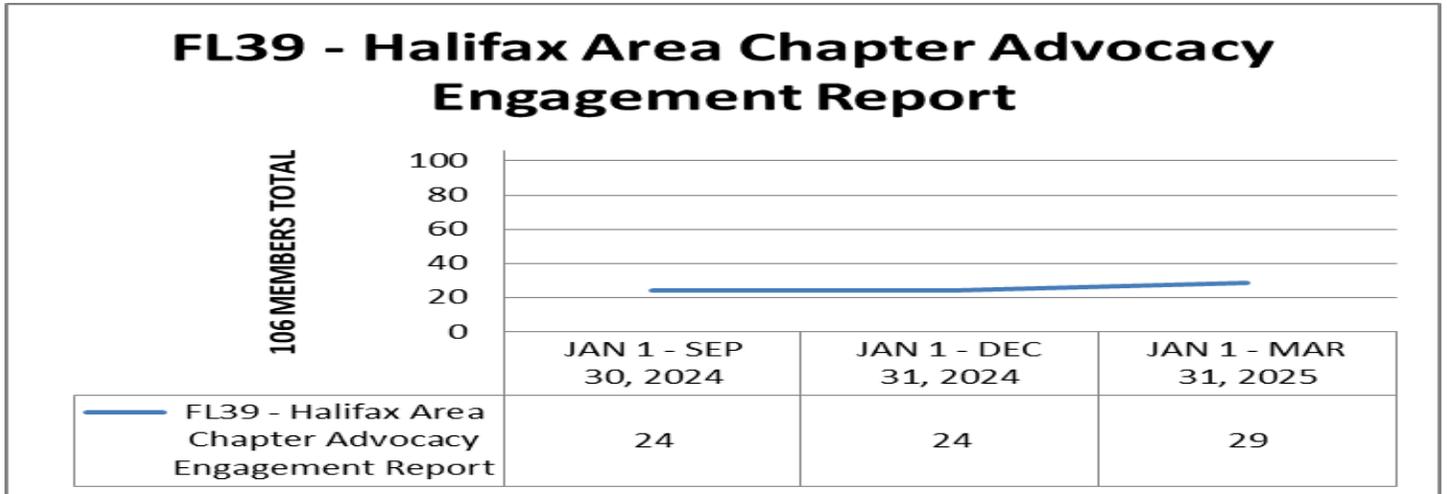
We Must Strengthen Our Voice!

While we celebrate a successful AiA event, I must highlight an important point regarding our chapter's advocacy participation:

- In our chapter of 106 members, **only 29** are currently registered as advocates on MOAA's **Legislative Action Center**.
- Our last three reports show slow progress: from **24** to **24** to now **29** registered advocates.

Please, if you have not yet registered, visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center today and become an advocate!

It's easy to sign up — and your participation makes a real difference. The chart below displays how many members we currently have signed up in the Legislative Action Center. The date is based on our last three Engagement reports from MOAA. From Sep 2024 to Mar 2025, we have increased from 24 to 29 registered advocates



The following are MOAA's top priorities that you should TAKE ACTION on

TOP PRIORITY: Military Spouses Can't Wait - Add Them to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit-Military spouses face a 21% unemployment rate, five times the national average, due to frequent moves and challenges tied to military life. Congress must incentivize employers to hire military spouses by adding them as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

TOP PRIORITY: Ask Congress to Address the Hazardous Unaccompanied Housing Conditions Rampant in the Military-Thousands of servicemembers live in unsafe, substandard military housing due to years of underfunding and lack of oversight. Congress must require DoD to publicly report the condition of unaccompanied housing and ensure funding is used for necessary improvements.

TOP PRIORITY: Stop the 34-Year Wait - Deliver Toxic-Exposed Veterans the Care They've Earned-Millions of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service are forced to wait decades –more than 34 years, on average – before they can access VA care and benefits for service-connected illnesses. Congress must pass legislation to bolster the legal framework for creating presumptive conditions, ensuring toxic-exposed veterans receive timely care.

TOP PRIORITY: Honor Veteran Caregivers - Pass the Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act-Veteran caregivers make profound personal and financial sacrifices to care for aging and disabled loved ones. Congress must pass the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act to provide these caregivers with the education, employment, and retirement support they deserve.



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

Team Red, White & Blue (RWB)



Team Red, White & Blue (RWB) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. The mission of Team RWB is to help Veterans lead healthier lives through fitness events, training, community services, and programs. Team RWB has over 250,000 members worldwide and hosts 20,000 events annually.

Team RWB was founded by Veterans. Team RWB leaders know firsthand that service members push the limits of their well-being to support the mission. That selfless dedication is necessary because service members of every era know they may be called to war. As they return to civilian life, many Veterans carry that mission-first mindset, neglecting their physical & mental health. Team RWB believes that Veterans are America's most resilient citizens — and it's time for Veterans to prioritize their physical & mental health. Team RWB exists to guide them through that journey with a myriad of physical & social opportunities.

The Team RWB community and particularly the Daytona Chapter with over 2,300 Eagles, offers Veterans, their families, friends, and supporters:

Sense of Belonging. Every Eagle is an essential part of the team, building unity and identity in their life.

Accountability. Eagles both gain & give support to fellow Eagles by working collectively toward shared goals and sticking to the Eagle Ethos of **passion, people, positivity, commitment, camaraderie, and community**.

Motivation. Eagles are motivated knowing their personal health & growth strengthen our community.

Opportunity to Serve. Team RWB Eagles help other Veterans & inspire the wider military community to stay healthy by leading from the front.

Improved Health. Eagles' health & wellness improve, because mental & physical health are at the heart of what Team RWB does.

Local Team RWB events include runs, walks, rucks, dance, pickleball, yoga, Pilates, bike rides, book club, kayaking, CrossFit, coffee socials, and of course sharing meals. Team RWB builds strong local connections between members & the community through community service projects; such as, partnering with the SE Kiwanis to install the Field of Honor – a beautiful display of patriotism with over 150 flags flying high in the month of November. Team RWB Eagles shop for Veterans in the Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home and then host a Christmas party for all.

Team RWB membership is free and is open to all Veterans, military service members, families, friends, and supporters. The Team RWB Daytona Chapter is located in Daytona Beach and serves Volusia & Flagler Counties. Check out the Team RWB website: <https://teamrwb.org/>.

PRESENTATION OF THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT TO VETERANS AWARD

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

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

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

Date: May 22, 2025
Our last luncheon before summer break!

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 May 16, 2025.

Name _____

The item denoted with V is the vegetarian option. Salads can be made without meat, please specify "no meat or vegetarian" in the comments for salad choices if desired.

**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: Classic Chicken Caesar Salad: Grilled chicken breast on romaine hearts with herb croutons and Parmesan cheese tossed with our Caesar dressing.

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: 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p> <p>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</p> <p>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p> <p>Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>

Donations

Scholarships

Joe & Colette Peabody	Drew & Mary Lou Hoffman	Tina Dixon-Bartlet	Roman & Evelyn Bastian
Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick	John & Patti Higgins	Robert Martin	

Vet Outreach

John & Patti Higgins	Roman & Evelyn Bastian	

Membership

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

Salute

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



All submissions will be reviewed by the President/1st VP before submission and must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the event.

Article should be no more than 230 words in length and all photos should be in .jpg, .bmp or .jpeg format.

~ LOOKING AHEAD/HELPFUL LINKS ~

September 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](#)

The Board of Directors has asked that you bring your cell phones to the May Luncheon for a class on privacy as well as how to register for "TAKE ACTION" in Legislation

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	
Blue	Full Page	\$250	

Company Name: _____ **Company Contact:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Tel#:** _____

- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
- Email the Ad & completed order form to halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make a check payable to HALIFAX AREA MOAA.
- Mail check and order form to ***HALIFAX CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093***
- For assistance, please contact halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com.

Thank You For Your Support!!!

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

[Why Join Our Chapter?](#) ***BENEFITS of Chapter Membership***

Halifax Area Chapter membership is open to all men and women who are or have ever been commissioned or warrant officers in any component of the seven uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Individuals can elect to become life members of the Association or to renew their membership yearly. Surviving Spouses are automatically eligible for membership in the Association. The Board of Directors may grant Honorary Membership to foreign officers who apply for such membership. Membership in National MOAA The basic National MOAA membership is free. We encourage anyone that is not a member, to take the time to register. To sign up for National Basic Membership, all you need is a valid email address and, of course, the desire to join National MOAA.

To join, follow this link: [National MOAA Basic Membership](#)

Chapter Dues -\$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years. Dues for Chapter membership with electronic distribution of "Officers Call" can also be paid online via credit card at [CHAPTER DUES](#)

Halifax Area Chapter Talking Points

- Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families.
- Meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month.
- Luncheons are from Sept to May at the Halifax River Yacht Club at 331 S. Beach Street, in Daytona Beach.
- At our luncheon, our social hour starts at 1100/lunch at 1200. For dinner events, normally meets at 1700/dinner at 1800.
- We conduct 2 monthly Community Outreach efforts, one at the local Emory L. Bennett Memorial Nursing Home by providing Bagels and Bingo and one at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic by providing Coffee and Doughnuts.
- We publish a monthly newsletter called the Officers' Call (except 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

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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2025 ROTC DINNER



ROTC THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Halifax Chapter MOAA,

I'd like to take a moment
to express my thanks for
your recognition, beautiful
dinner, and generous scholarship!
It has been an honor to be
selected as an awardee!

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Alize Gerofalo
ERAM AROTC, Eagle BN
Class of 2025

ARMY ROTC EAGLE BATTALION



To the MOAA,

I am deeply honored to have received the MOAA Challenger award. It is very meaningful to me that the MOAA members saw it fit to give me the award. I have greatly enjoyed talking to Col.(R) Skip and other MOAA members. I look forward to a continued relationship with the MOAA.

Sincerely,
Sterling Stein



Dear Military Officers Association of
America,

On behalf of myself and the Embry
Riddle Army ROTC program, I want
to extend my dearest and heartfelt
Thank you for my award. I am
truly Honored to have received this
award from such a distinguished organization.

Sincerely,

Evan vaughan



4TH *Of* JULY

VETERANS CEREMONY & PARADE

JULY 4, 2025 | CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH

9 A.M. CLOCK TOWER VETERANS CEREMONY

10 A.M. PARADE ON MAIN STREET

CEREMONY BY THE CLOCK TOWER

100 N. Atlantic Ave.

PARADE

Begin on east end of Main Street and travel west to the base of the Main Street Bridge

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ZONE 4 CITY COMMISSIONER STACY CANTU

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Memorial Concert



Daytona Beach Concert Band

Ormond Performing Arts Center

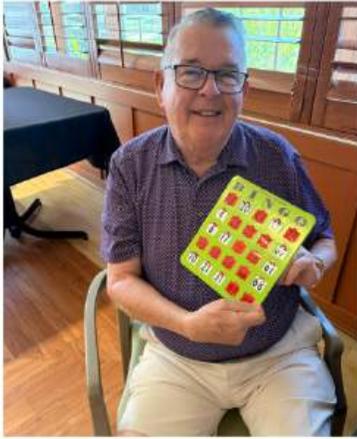


May 25, 2025, 2:00 PM

Robert Unger, Conductor



BAGELS & BINGO



**JOIN WEST VOLUSIA MOAA CHAPTER
FOR OUR THIRD OUTDOOR
OPERATION
CAMARADERIE
PICNIC**

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025, 10 AM to 3PM

**American Legion "Adam Quinn" Post 6
(1087 Biscayne Blvd, DeLand, FL 32724)**

At the DeLand Municipal Airport

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Sides & More.

Soft Drinks included.

(American Legion Post 6 Canteen will be operational)

\$10.00 per person (pay onsite)

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED

RSVP: MAJ Raul Gonzalez to 386-366-4473

Or e-mail majgonz@earthlink.net

RSVP NO LATER THAN 09 MAY 2025

