



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL SUMMER EDITION 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).



Just a quick update to let you all know we are thinking of you and let you know what's going on...Should you find yourself at a loss for something to do...join us on July 4th as we celebrate our country's independence day with the other military organizations in the annual Daytona Beach July 4th Parade. We will meet at the clock tower between 8:00am and 8:30am. You can either walk or ride. Contact Joe

Peabody if you are interested.

May was a busy month for our chapter. Recognizing members of the community who have gone above and beyond in their support of veterans was a key component of the May luncheon meeting. This year we recognized the Halifax Hospital Hospice Unit (for profit category) and Team Red, White and Blue (not for profit category). We took this opportunity to remember our fallen brethren of all services with the Ormond Beach community. Bancroft McKittrick kept the celebration going as he performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies. He was joined by Drew Hoffman who gave a moving summary of his earlier life through a keynote speech highlighting our country's "We Remember" thoughts through his "Poppy moments".

If you haven't received a call yet you will soon be contacted by one of the members of your Board of Directors. As we have in the past few years, we will be reaching out to all of our members to perform a "wellness check". It's just a friendly call to say hello and see how you are doing and solicit any thoughts for improving the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA experience.

I join the other members of the board of directors as we wish you a safe and happy summer – See you in September.

NEVER STOP SERVING,

Drew

Secretary's Report – May 6, 2025 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The MOAA Board of Directors Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on May 6, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Bancroft McKittrick at 10:00 am.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) were present: Anita Williams*, Bancroft McKittrick*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett*, Lon Gardner*, Patti Higgins*, and Joe Peabody.*

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officer/Committees

1. **Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the April Board of Directors meeting were distributed by email during the month of April 2025. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Lon stated that there is \$3140.36 in the checking account along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$3290.00. He mentioned that there is still one cadet that has not cashed their check for \$250. The scholarship account has a balance of \$1060. Joe made a motion to accept, Patti seconded, and all approved.
3. **Membership** – Jon was not at the meeting but sent his report. The report showed 3 new members giving us a total of 106 members.
4. **Officers Call Report** – Joe asked if we heard of any member participating in upcoming events during the summer months, please ask them to send him pictures to be placed in the Officer's Call newsletter. He showed us the New Hampshire chapter's newsletter which has a QR code for scanning so that their members can use it to pay for dues, luncheon, and donations. He will be looking at how we might be able to use this type of system.
5. **Surviving Spouse Update** – Patti asked Lon to return the dues paid by one of the surviving spouses who was not required to pay. He will check and return the money. She also stated that one of our members, Patti, stated that Ellie Dittmar is not doing well and asked us to keep her in our thoughts. Patti will send her a card. Patti reminded us to review our retirement statement to ensure that it is correct.
6. **Website** – Anita mentioned that we have speakers confirmed for September and October, and the one for November has not been confirmed. She asked if you go on our website please click and leave a comment. Also, please remember to go to the Advocacy in Action area and participate in the surveys that are there.
7. **Holiday Gala** – Anita is organizing the holiday gala. She stated that there is a link on our website where members can RSVP and communicate if they are donating an item for the auction and what that item is. Anita said that the luncheon menus for the rest of the year have been selected.
8. **Bagels and Bingo and VCVC Update** – No report, Skip is away on vacation.

Old Business

9. **West Volusia MOAA Picnic** – Joe will be sending out an email with information about the picnic which will be held on May 17, 2025. Please attend if you can.

New Business

10. **Contribution: Ormond Beach Memorial Day Service** -- Bancroft mentioned that several of our members have been the speaker for this service. He stated that the Daytona Beach Concert Band played at each event. He made a motion that our chapter give a donation of \$250, for the extraordinary performance that they provide. Tina seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

11. Volusia Veterans 4th of July Parade Joe is working on our participation at this event. Bancroft stated that Drew would be talking to several car dealerships to ask if they would be willing to lend us a convertible for the parade. This week, Joe will contact the coordinator for more information.

From The Floor

13. Veteran Memorial Plaza -- Bancroft mentioned that the dedication of the plaza was on April 25, 2025. The concept of the plaza is a place for people to come, remember and pay respects for fallen Volusia County veterans, as well as all veterans. It also provides a location for local Veteran organizations to host military ceremonies and celebrations. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, you can purchase a brick to honor a veteran.

14. Rotary Club, Daytona Beach-West – Bancroft stated that he spoke at their April breakfast. He stated that they have a program, Flags for Heroes, to honor the military, first respondents and veterans. There will be 200 flags displayed June 28 through July 5th at Daytona Veterans Plaza. The project website is <https://app.helpingwithflags.com/DaytonBeachWest>. Each flag is a \$50 donation, and proceeds will be donated to the Rotary Club to local community organizations.

15. Advocacy In Action – Pierre has asked that when we make our summer calls that we remind members to interface with the advocacy program. The program allows a person to contact their legislators with just a few clicks and registering ensures you are prepared to support our campaigns. The online portal allows one to find your elected officials, track legislation, and learn about key priorities like housing improvements, health care access, and pay increases. You can also send messages directly to your lawmakers urging support for MOAA-endorsed legislation.

16. Chapter Photo – Veteran Memorial Park – It is time to update our chapter’s photo. We hope to have maximum participation, and we need to coordinate a time when as many as possible can meet at the Veterans Memorial Park for this activity. Anita will work with Drew with the scheduling.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. Our next meeting is on September 2, 2025, HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC(R), ANC
Secretary

****2024-2025 Outstanding Support to Veterans for Profit Award Winner****



****2024-2025 Outstanding Support to Veterans Nonprofit Award Winner****



Memorial Day Ceremony Honors “Poppy Moments” of Sacrifice and Remembrance

May 26, 2025 – Ormond Beach

At the City of Ormond Beach’s annual Memorial Day Remembrance Service, U.S. Air Force veteran Capt. Andrew Hoffman reflected on the enduring symbol of the red poppy and its deep connection to sacrifice and honor. Citing *In Flanders Fields*, Hoffman called these moments of remembrance his “poppy moments.”

A Vietnam and Desert Storm veteran, Hoffman shared a moving story of his unit diverting to Aviano, Italy, to repatriate a fallen soldier—an act that became one of his most meaningful moments of service. “Someone had tucked a poppy into the tie-down strap,” he recalled. “It reminded us of our continued commitment to peace.”

The event featured music from the Daytona Beach Concert Band, a wreath-laying ceremony, and remarks from U.S. Marine Corps veteran Col. R. Bancroft McKittrick. “Today, we remember the fallen and the freedoms we enjoy because of them,” McKittrick said.

Hoffman closed with a powerful reminder: “It’s not the wind that makes the flag fly—it’s the final breaths of every service member who died defending you.”



 Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA is the proud recipient of both the 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award and the Harris Communications Award for 2025 

Florida again recognized as a MOAA Award Winning MOAA Council!



Each Year, MOAA recognizes the very best Councils and Chapters with Levels of Excellence and Harris Communications Awards for newsletters and websites. MOAA also recognizes leaders for their work with Legislative Advocacy and Surviving Spouses.

Florida received more awards than any other State!

* For 2024, The Florida Council was again rated as an overall “Five Star” Council—MOAA’s highest category—, and received “Five Star” Harris Communications awards for both Website, www.FLMOAA.org, and Newsletter, *The Council Communiqué*.

* Former Council Legislative Chairman Lt Col Bob Bienvenue (USAF, Ret), received the Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Award.



* Jeannie Stratis received the Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. Jeanine is the Surviving Spouse Chairperson for the Sun City Center Chapter.

*23 Florida Chapters received

5-Star Levels of Excellence Awards:

1. Cape Canaveral Chapter
2. Cape Coral Chapter of MOAA
3. Clearwater Chapter
4. MOA of Southwest Florida
5. Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
6. Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
7. Northeast Florida Chapter
8. Northwest Florida MOA, Inc.
9. Pensacola Chapter
10. Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.
11. Tampa Chapter, MOAA
12. Treasure Coast Chapter
13. West Volusia MOAA Chapter
14. Charlotte Harbor Chapter
15. MOAA of Citrus County Chapter, Inc.
16. Suncoast Chapter
17. Indian River Chapter
18. Halifax Area Chapter
19. South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA
20. Sun City Center Chapter
21. Ancient City Chapter
22. Nassau County Florida Chapter
23. Historic Mayport Chapter

*24 Florida Chapters received

Harris Communications Awards:

1. Cape Canaveral Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
2. Cape Coral Chapter of MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
3. MOAA, Central Florida Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
4. Clearwater Chapter: 4-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 4-Star Website
5. Kingdom of the Sun Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
6. Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
7. Northeast Florida Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
8. Northwest Florida MOA, Inc.: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
9. Pensacola Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
10. St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
11. Mil Officers Assn of Sarasota, Inc.: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
12. Tampa Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
13. Treasure Coast Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
14. West Volusia MOAA Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
15. Charlotte Harbor Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
16. Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
17. Indian River Chapter MOAA: 4-Star Print/E-Newsletter
18. Halifax Area Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
19. South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter
20. Sun City Center Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
21. Ancient City Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
22. Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter of MOAA: 4-Star Print/E-Newsletter
23. Nassau County Florida Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 4-Star Website
24. Historic Mayport Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter

Congratulations to all the Award Winners for showing excellence as we “Never Stop Serving®”



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	- FCOO 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 2, 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 Brig. Gen. Ernie Audino 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



GET IN TOUCH



WWW.JOEPEABODY.EXPREALTY.COM



913-244-2564



JOE.PEABODY@EXPREALTY.COM



196 S. YOUNGE ST, ORMOND BEACH, FL



Halifax Area 2025 Action Plan (As of 5/01/2025)

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=39, APR=42
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), LT Itzel Harriott (new member & Oct 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, Veterans Stand Down Day - March, West Volusia Picnic-May
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 – Selection Complete - Presentation May 2025, Halifax Hospital Hospice, Team Red, White & Blue
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, Glenn Harmon
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](#)

Make Your Voice Heard This Summer!

As we move into the summer months, MOAA's mission to influence legislation doesn't slow down—and neither should our engagement. You may receive a friendly call this summer reminding you to register and take action on MOAA's Legislative Action Center.

It's critically important that we get as many members registered as possible.

Our eligibility for the annual 5-Star Level of Excellence Award will now include a component that measures how many members are signed up in the Legislative Action Center.

If you have any questions or need help registering, please don't hesitate to contact me at **386-320-3283** or email me at pierrelouisspeaks@gmail.com.

Here's how you can take action in just a few minutes:

1. Visit www.MOAA.org
2. Click **“Advocacy”** at the top of the homepage, then select **“Legislative Action Center.”**
3. **Sign In or Register** in the top right corner
4. **Choose a campaign** to support—click on one of the Featured Advocacy Campaigns or All Active Campaigns
5. **Fill out the form**, edit your letter if you wish, and click **“Submit Selected Letters.”**
It's fast. It's easy. And it makes a powerful difference for our military community.

TAKE ACTION



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/>.

Gary Wilson - Wounded Warrior Umpire University

(A more complete BIO for Maj Gary Wilson will be posted in the September OC)



In 2016, Greg retired from the Marine Corps and moved to Daytona Beach, Florida. The WWUA had just completed it's third year and Greg would start work on his transition which could be considered still in progress today. He was hired by the Florida Collegiate Umpires (FCU) and assigned to work Division II and III baseball throughout Florida and continued with the Mountain West Conference. In 2018, Greg attended a Microsoft program in Jacksonville, Florida and became a software engineer and currently works for a software company in Ormond Beach, Florida. Greg lives a few blocks from the beach with his wife Melanie, daughter Molly and son Justin. His other Daughter Kayla and her son Elliot live close and come to visit Grandpa and Grandma a few times a week.

Date: September 25, 2025

**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 September 19, 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:

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

Choice 1: Mandarin Chicken Salad, GF Grilled chicken a top spinach with mandarin oranges, almonds, goat cheese, dried cranberries and cherry tomatoes tossed with a mandarin orange vinaigrette.

Choice 2: Pork loin, GF Stuffed with spinach, cheese and herbs. Served with Yukon Gold mashed potatoes and vegetable du jour.

Choice 3: Pesto Tortellini, V Vegetarian tri-colored cheese tortellini with roasted tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, asparagus, spinach and artichokes. Tossed with a pesto olive oil.

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

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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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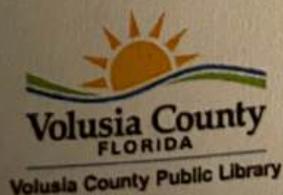
SAVE THE DATE!



**Saturday,
November 8
2 PM**

A Musical Salute to Veterans

Save the Date!



Port Orange Regional Library
1005 City Center Circle
Port Orange, Florida 32129
386-322-5152
volusialibrary.org/

Halifax Chapter of MOAA Recognizes Outstanding Veteran Support

Each May, the Halifax Chapter of MOAA proudly honors two organizations with the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award for their exceptional commitment to veterans and their families.

The May 2025 recipients are Team Red, White, and Blue (non-profit) and Halifax Health Hospice (for-profit). Both have demonstrated unwavering dedication through veteran hiring initiatives, tailored employee programs, and impactful community outreach.

Their efforts—from mentorship programs to nonprofit partnerships—have made a lasting difference for service members transitioning to civilian life. We commend both organizations for their leadership and continued support of our nation's heroes.





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

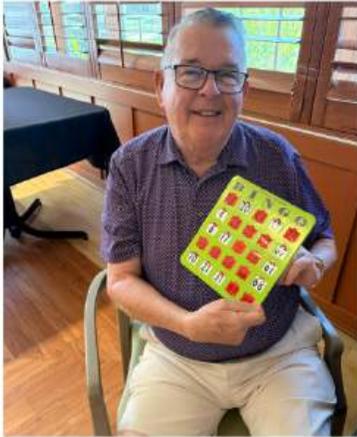
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BAGELS & BINGO



CONGRATULATIONS PATTI

Military Officers Association of America



presents this

Leadership Award

to

Mrs. Patti Higgins

The Military Officers Association of America is honored to recognize you with the prestigious MOAA Leadership Award for your service to the Halifax Chapter.

The leadership you have shown as the Surviving Spouse Liaison of the Halifax Chapter continues to help improve the lives of the greater military community. Your selfless efforts are truly remarkable and embody the MOAA spirit well.

Your contributions have made a lasting impression on your chapter and the Daytona Beach area. Thank you for your commitment to "Never Stop Serving!"

May 22, 2025

Date

B. T. Kelly
President

CONGRATULATIONS PIERRE

Military Officers Association of America



presents this

Leadership Award

to

CWO2 Pierre Lewis, USMC (Ret)

The Military Officers Association of America is honored to recognize you with the prestigious MOAA Leadership Award for your service to the Halifax Area Chapter.

The leadership you have shown as the Legislative Chair of the Halifax Area Chapter continues to help improve the lives of the greater military community. Your tireless efforts are truly commendable and embody the MOAA spirit well.

Your contributions have made a lasting impression on your chapter and the state of Florida. Thank you for your commitment to "Never Stop Serving!"

May 22, 2025

Date

President

COFFEE & DONUTS DAYTONA VA

