



# HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:williams.aann@gmail.com) or  
2nd Vice President Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET) 913-244-2564 [jpeabody65@gmail.com](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:drewhoffman49@gmail.com">drewhoffman49@gmail.com</a>
1st Vice President	Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR	954-650-9532	<a href="mailto:williams.aann@gmail.com">williams.aann@gmail.com</a>
2nd Vice President	Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET)	913-244-2564	<a href="mailto:jpeabody65@gmail.com">jpeabody65@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Lonnie R. Gardner, LTC, USA, (Ret)	386-672-4578	<a href="mailto:lrgardner@att.net">lrgardner@att.net</a>
Secretary	Tina Dixon-Bartlett, LTC USA (Ret)	352-476-8032	<a href="mailto:joyfultina@aol.com">joyfultina@aol.com</a>

# [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).*



*Welcome back! I trust everyone had a pleasant, albeit HOT (here in Volusia) summer break. As we renew our monthly meetings, I am reminded of a goal to increase our monthly meeting attendance. Over the summer board members each reached out to ten of our members just "touching base". During my calls I emphasized this goal to a few members I have never met. They each replied they hoped to get to a meeting soon. If you are a member and haven't been at a meeting in the past year, please make an effort to come in and renew friendships and camaraderie.*

*I was very proud to see a 50% increase in our annual Volusia 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade participation. It was a festive and colorful day with ample red, white and blue to go around. A huge thank you to Anita (Williams) and Joe (Peabody) for coordinating our participation and organizing the decorations committee.*

*We have a busy schedule already for the final four months of the 2025 year. Great speakers are already lined up to inform and entertain us. Our nominating committee for the 2026 slate of board of directors is already busy forming next year's BOD. We will see the fruits of their efforts and vote on the new board of directors at the November Membership meeting. If you want to expand your participation in the chapter activities this is a great way to do it.*

*October will be dedicated to the Surviving Spouses of our chapter. Finally, preparations are already underway to have another fantastic Christmas Gala – so save the date (December 18<sup>th</sup>) for this great annual celebration.*

*One thing we can do as prior service members, veterans, retirees and surviving spouses is support those efforts critical to the betterment of today's veterans and tomorrow's members. And you can do this sitting at home. If you haven't participated in the **Advocacy in Action** campaigns, I urge you to reach out to Pierre Louis, our chapter's Legislative Affairs Representative, who will walk you through the process of registering and voting for legislation that will make a difference to the future of our military family. Once you get the hang of it, you'll only need to spend a few minutes each month for this great effort. Please, call Pierre today (386-320-3283).*

**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 VCVV 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 for 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



**Halifax Area**  
**2025 Chapter Planning Board (As of 09/01/2025)**

<b>BOD Date</b>	<b>Luncheon Date</b>	<b>Speaker and/or Event</b>	<b>Supporting Elements/P.O.C.'s</b>
January 7, 2025	Thursday, January 23, 2025	<b>Ben Eby, Halifax Health – Guest Speaker</b>  Price: \$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	<b>ROTC Scholarship Dinner</b>  Price: \$28 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	Cadet Introductions and Recognition: Obtain the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2025 Menus from HRYC
May 6, 2025	Thursday, May 22, 2025	<b>Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Award</b> Price: \$28 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Obtain Sep-Dec menus from HRYC
	*****	<b>CHAPTER on SUMMER Break</b>	*****
September 23, 2025	Thursday, September 25, 2025	<b>Gary Wilson, Wonder Warrior Umpire Academy</b> Price: \$28 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out) - Obtain 2025-2026 Lunch Menu - Obtain Holiday Menu - Save the Date Card - Gala
October 7, 2025	Thursday, October 23, 2025	<b>Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program</b> - Speaker Dr. Itzel Harriott - 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>	<b>"Christmas Holiday Gala Dinner Dance"</b> Music and Entertainment Price TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns & 2nd LTs -MOAA "CM" Modifications for new officers



# GET IN TOUCH



[WWW.JOEPEABODY.EXPREALTY.COM](http://WWW.JOEPEABODY.EXPREALTY.COM)



913-244-2564



[JOE.PEABODY@EXPREALTY.COM](mailto:JOE.PEABODY@EXPREALTY.COM)



196 S. YOUNGE ST, ORMOND BEACH, FL



## Halifax Area 2025 Action Plan (As of 9/01/2025)

<b>Halifax Area Chapter – 2025 Action Plan</b>		
<b><u>Chapter Goals and Objectives</u></b>		<b><u>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</u></b>
<b>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</b>		
<b>1</b>	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
<b>2</b>	Publish a local veteran-related article in a local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts. Increase AIA participation	Board of Directors
<b>RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</b>		
		Anita Williams, Joe Peabody & Glenn Harmon
<b>3</b>	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan= 36, Feb=44, Mar=38, APR=42,May=45
<b>4</b>	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	Everyone, 3 new in March, 1 in April
<b>5</b>	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
<b>6</b>	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)
<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>		
<b>7</b>	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM
<b>8</b>	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
<b>BASE COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>9</b>	Present an annual “Outstanding Support for Veterans Award”: one to a local business or organization, and one to a Not-for-Profit Organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor – Selection Complete - Presentation May 2025, Halifax Hospital Hospice, Team Red, White & Blue
<b>10</b>	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
<b>11</b>	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Drew Hoffman, Skip Keating, Glenn Harmon
<b>12</b>	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennett Nursing Home	Ongoing all year - Skip Keating
<b>13</b>	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	Ongoing all year - John and Patti Higgins
<b>14</b>	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos
<b>15</b>	Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters	Drew Hoffman, Board of Directors
<b>16</b>	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested.	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>17</b>	Standardize electronic media for ease of communication within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams
<b>18</b>	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](#)

## **Halifax Area Chapter Legislative Update: Engaging Over the Summer Recess**

While scheduling conflicts prevented us from meeting directly with Congressman Randy Fine during the summer recess, we were able to connect with his office via email to share and discuss our three core legislative priorities, along with broader veterans' issues. His staff expressed interest in our concerns and looks forward to meeting with us in person during our April 2026 Advocacy in Action event.

Our three priorities are:

1. **Incentivizing Military Spouse Hiring** – By expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, we can encourage more employers to hire military spouses, who face unique employment challenges due to frequent relocations. This change would help reduce unemployment among military spouses and provide greater financial stability for military families.
2. **Improving Unaccompanied Housing Conditions** – Many junior enlisted servicemembers live in substandard barracks or unaccompanied housing facilities. By requiring transparent reporting on inspections, repair timelines, and habitability standards, we can ensure accountability and better living conditions that support readiness and morale.
3. **Enhancing Healthcare Access for Military Families** – We support the creation of a digital assistance platform that connects military families to available healthcare resources, helps with appointment scheduling, and provides guidance on navigating TRICARE. This would reduce delays in care and improve health outcomes for families stationed across the country and overseas.

In addition to these priorities, we had a productive meeting with Congressman Mills' office and representatives from the Concerned Veterans for America to discuss the Veterans' ACCESS Act (H.R. 740). This important bipartisan bill would expand and protect veterans' ability to seek timely and high-quality healthcare in their communities when VA facilities cannot meet their needs. The measure builds upon the intent of previous VA community care reforms, ensuring veterans aren't stuck waiting for treatment due to bureaucratic barriers. Gaining more bipartisan support and cosponsors for H.R. 740 will be a major step forward in making sure every veteran receives the care they have earned—without unnecessary delays. Our chapter remains committed to advocating for this much-needed legislation. Though we were not able to meet face-to-face with Congressman Fine this summer, our outreach has established an open line of communication with his office, and we are encouraged by their willingness to engage with us further in the spring.

In the meantime, let's remember that our advocacy work doesn't pause during recess. I encourage every member to stay engaged with the MOAA Legislative Action Center, use the available tools, and continue

making your voices heard at both the federal and state levels. Your efforts matter and make a tangible difference for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.



Disclaimer: Content created using a combination of trusted sources — including [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) approved articles, Google search engine tools, generative Ai tools and human research. All content has been reviewed and approved to ensure accuracy and clarity



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

★ ★ ★ ★ MOAA.ORG/AIA ★ ★ ★ ★



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



## MOAA ADVOCATES FOR ALL RANKS ACROSS ALL SERVICES.

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

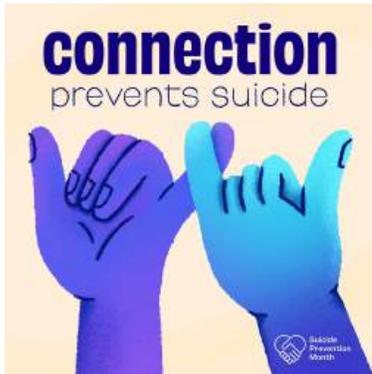
On April 17, MOAA members from across the U.S. are visiting Capitol Hill to maintain the viability of the all-volunteer force – today and in the future. We'll ask lawmakers to ensure our nation keeps its promises to servicemembers and their families by supporting combat-injured veterans through the Major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

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



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

## **September is Suicide Awareness Month and the VA's Top Priority is Preventing Suicide Among all Veterans**



Suicide has no single cause & no one approach can end it – but prevention is possible, especially when Veterans find support before a crisis happens. The VA is committed to offering resources & a network of support to all Veterans, including those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. No matter how you served, no matter what you're going through, support is available and there is hope. So, what can you do?

Learn the Signs of a Crisis. These signs may indicate that a Veteran needs help: appearing sad or depressed most of the time; hopelessness; anxiety, sleeplessness, or mood swings; feeling as if there is no reason to live; feeling

excessive guilt or shame; increasing alcohol or drug misuse; losing interest in hobbies, work, or school; neglecting personal appearance; and violent behavior. Signs that require immediate attention: thinking about hurting or killing yourself; looking for ways to kill yourself; talking about death, dying, or suicide; and self-destructive behavior. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect with caring, qualified responders: **Dial 988 then Press 1**, chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or **text** (838255). Help is available 24/7.

Get involved. You don't have to be an expert to talk to a Veteran facing challenges. You just need to show genuine care & concern. It's okay to ask directly: "Are you thinking about taking your own life?" Asking about thoughts of suicide doesn't increase their suicide risk. Remind them you are here for them. Listen more than you speak. Make supportive & encouraging comments. Don't inject judgment or emotion. Stay calm.

Save a Life. Although many people may not show clear signs of intent to kill themselves, they'll likely answer direct questions about their intentions when asked. Talking about suicide can feel overwhelming but you could help save a life.

Enjoy your September and remember these important dates this month:

- Labor Day – 1 September
- Patriot Day – 11 September; to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001
- National Hispanic American Heritage Month – 15 Sept - 15 Oct
- POW/MIA Recognition Day – 17 September; a time set aside to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families
- US Air Force Birthday – 18 September 1947
- Gold Star Mothers Day – 26 September; a day set aside to honor the families of our Nation's fallen service members.

## Gary Wilson - Wounded Warrior Warrior Umpire University



Major Greg Wilson, USMC (Ret.) is a career Marine, baseball umpire, educator, and the founding President of the Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy (WWUA), a veteran-led nonprofit that empowers wounded, ill, and injured service members through the game of baseball. Greg enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992 and quickly distinguished himself as an Aircrewman aboard the KC-130 aircraft, logging more than 2,500 flight hours. He deployed multiple times across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, earning recognition as a meritorious Sergeant and his squadron's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, he was commissioned in 2003 and went on to serve as a Legal Officer, Adjutant, and Executive Officer in commands including 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity, and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

**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:*

[irgardner@att.net](mailto:irgardner@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 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**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Major Greg Wilson, USMC (Ret.) President, Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy**

Major Greg Wilson, USMC (Ret.) is a career Marine, baseball umpire, educator, and the founding President of the Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy (WWUA), a veteran-led nonprofit that empowers wounded, ill, and injured service members through the game of baseball.

Greg enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992 and quickly distinguished himself as an Aircrewman aboard the KC-130 aircraft, logging more than 2,500 flight hours. He deployed multiple times across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, earning recognition as a meritorious Sergeant and his squadron's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, he was commissioned in 2003 and went on to serve as a Legal Officer, Adjutant, and Executive Officer in commands including 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity, and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

During two Middle East deployments with the USS Boxer, Wilson supported combat operations for U.S. Central Command and later served as a Series Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, overseeing the training of more than 1,200 recruits. His final tour was as Executive Officer of Wounded Warrior Battalion-East at Camp Lejeune, where he guided hundreds of Marines and sailors through the medical retirement and transition process. He retired from the Marine Corps in 2016 after 23 years of service.

Major Wilson holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Studies from the University of Maryland and a Master of Business Administration from Purdue University Global. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with four stars, the Good Conduct Medal with two stars, and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with one star.

As an active collegiate umpire, Greg recognized the parallels between the military brotherhood and the fraternity of officials: discipline, camaraderie, and trust under pressure. In 2014, he brought 13 wounded Marines to Denver, Colorado, for the first Wounded Warrior Umpire Camp, and in 2015 officially incorporated the WWUA as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Now in its 12th year, the WWUA has trained more than 200 veterans as umpires, many of whom have gone on to officiate at high levels of amateur and professional baseball. Each summer, the Academy hosts a 10-day intensive training camp that combines professional instruction, live-game experience, and peer-to-peer mentorship. Within this program is a 5-day small group process that helps veterans share their stories, build resilience, and forge lifelong bonds of accountability.

The impact has been profound. Veterans consistently report the program restores their sense of team, identity, and mission—many even crediting it with saving their life. Alumni remain connected year-round through mentorship and support networks, and under Wilson's leadership, WWUA has built partnerships with Major League Baseball, the NCAA, and umpire associations nationwide. Alumni have umpired in college baseball, independent leagues, and attended MLB professional umpire schools.

Today, Greg continues to lead WWUA while also umpiring baseball, refereeing football in Volusia County, and teaching middle school math at Lourdes Academy in Daytona Beach. He and his wife, Melanie, live in Daytona Beach and are proud parents of three adult children—Kayla, Molly, and Justin—and grandparents of four.

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><b><u>Membership Chair</u></b>  <b>LTC Jon Bateman USA (Ret)</b>                  309-678-5359</p>	<p><b><u>Immediate Past President</u></b>  <b>Bancroft McKittrick, Col., USMC, (Ret)</b>                  603-548-6558</p>	<p><b><u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u></b>  <b>CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.)</b>                  386-847-3239</p>
<p><b><u>Chaplain</u></b>  <b>Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.)</b>                  386-451-1008</p> <p><b><u>Transition Liaison*</u></b>                  TBA*</p> <p><b><u>Awards Committee Chair</u></b>  <b>Lt Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret)</b>                  386 682-3064</p>	<p><b><u>“Officers Call” Editor &amp; 2nd Vice President</u></b>  <b>CPT Joe Peabody, USA (Ret.)</b>                  913-244-2564</p> <p><b><u>1st Vice President &amp; Webmaster</u></b>  <b>CDR Anita Williams, USCGR</b>                  954-650-9532</p>	<p><b><u>Surviving Spouse Team</u></b>  <b>Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison</b>                  386-341-5035                  Spousal Affairs Officer, TBD</p> <p><b>Billie Krueger, Lt., USN (Ret.)-Chair</b>  <b>Maj Calvin Gittner, USAF (Ret.)</b>  <b>Joan Jankauskas, Surviving Spouse</b></p>
<p><b><u>Directors</u></b>  <b>RADM Steven Maas, USN (Ret.)</b>                  386-847-1356</p> <p><b>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.)</b>                  386-672-4536</p> <p><b>Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.)</b>                  228-447-7802</p>	<p><b><u>Legislative Liaison</u></b>  <b>CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.)</b>                  386-320-3283</p> <p><b><u>Veterans Council Representative</u></b>  <b>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.)</b>                  386-672-4536</p>	<p><b><u>ROTC Liaison</u></b>  <b>CDR John Higgins, USN (Ret)</b>                  914-589-9036</p> <p><b>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.)</b>                  386-672-4536</p> <p><b>Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.)</b>                  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](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com)

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

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



### ~ LOOKING AHEAD/HELPFUL LINKS ~

**October 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 September 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**

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**FACEBOOK**

Email us at [ericssuperwash@gmail.com](mailto: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**

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Size</i></b>	<b><i>Yearly</i></b>	<b><i>Selection</i></b>
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

**Arlington National Cemetery:** (703) 607-8000;

[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

**Armed Forces Retirement Home:** (800) 422-9988; [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)

**Army & Air Force Exchange Service:** (214) 312-2011;

[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

**Army Retired Services:** (703) 571-7232;

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

**Burial at Sea Information:** (866) 787-0081;

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**

[www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/](http://www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/)

**DEERS:** (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

**Defense Commissary Agency:** [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

**DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch:** (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

**Fleet Reserve Association:** (703) 683-1400; [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

**Gulf War homepage:** [www.gulflink.osd.mil](http://www.gulflink.osd.mil)

**I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility:** (866) 827-5672;

**Internal Revenue Service:** (800) 829-1040; [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Marine Corps Retired Affairs:** (800) 336-4649; [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

**Medicare:** (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Military Officers Assoc. of America:** (800) 234-6622; [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**National Burial Services:** (800) 697-6940

**Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9):** (866) 827-5672;

**Navy Casualty Assistance:** (800) 368-3202

After duty hours call (901) 634-9279 for Casualty Watch Officer

**Navy Retired Activities:** (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)

Email: [MILL\\_RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil)

**Navy Retired Activities Offices**

**Navy Uniform Shop:** (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

**Report the Death of a Retiree:** (800) 321-1080

**Reserve Component SBP:** (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

**Retiree Dental — Delta Dental:** (888) 838-8737; [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

**Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI):** (800) 419-1473;

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Naval Historical Center:** (202) 433-2210; [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

**Social Security Administration:** (800) 772-1213; [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**TRICARE:** [www.mytricare.com/mtc](http://www.mytricare.com/mtc)

**TRICARE East:** [www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary](http://www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary)

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, FL, GA, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN (except 35 Western zips), TX (except the extreme Western area) VT, VA, WI, and WV

**TRICARE West:** [www.tricare-west.com](http://www.tricare-west.com)

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY some zips in IA, MO, TN

**TRICARE Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com)

**TRICARE For Life:** (866) 773-0404; [www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl)

**TRICARE mail order pharmacy:** (877) 363-1303;

[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

[www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

**VA:** [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Regional offices:** (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

**Insurance:**

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Burial information:** (800) 827-1000; [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

**GI Bill:** (888) 442-4551; [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

**Records:**

**For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:**

**Retired prior to 1995:**

[www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)

**Retired after 1995:**

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

**Gray-area reservists:** (866) 827-5672

Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire  
By contacting our Chapter President at [drewhoffman49@gmail.com](mailto:drewhoffman49@gmail.com).  
Thank you in advance for assisting in this effort.



**Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator** - The transition liaison's responsibilities are:

- provide transition assistance to servicemembers;
- serve as the primary point of contact in the chapter for MOAA members and their spouses;
- 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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# JULY 4TH PARADE



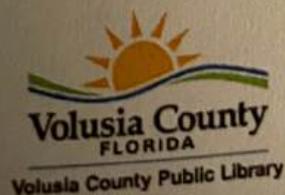
# SAVE THE DATE!



**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/](http://volusialibrary.org/)

# COFFEE & DONUTS DAYTONA VA



# BAGELS & BINGO

