



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER  
OFFICERS CALL  
October 2025**



***In this Issue***

<a href="#"><u>President's Message</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 2</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Minutes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 4</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Planning Board</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Action Plan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Legislative Affairs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 9</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Speaker/Reservations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 13</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Membership Application</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 15</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Contact List/Donations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 16</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Salute/Looking Ahead</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 17</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Benefits</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 20</u></a>

***~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 2026 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>

# Speakers Corner

## 2025-2026 Speakers

### Speakers Schedule

September 2025	Mr. Greg Wilson Umpire Academy/Wounded Warrior Association, MAJ, USMC (Ret)
October 2025	Surviving Spouses – Dr Izzel Harriett, PhD
November 2025	Mr. David Lydon, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Flagler County Veteran’s Services
December 2025	No Speaker – Christmas Gala
January 2026	Mr. Ernie Audino, BG USA (Ret) – Volusia County Business & Community Development – Read his <a href="#">Bio</a> here!
February 2026	TBD
March 2026	TBD
April 2026	No Speaker – Cadet dinner
May 2026	No Speaker – Outstanding Support to Veterans Awards

To read more on our speakers’ stories click here  <https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/news-events/speakers-corner/speakers-corner/>

### President’s Message

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



Welcome to the cooler months and beautiful evenings of Fall.

We can’t let the month go by without a huge shout out to our members who served, retired or continue to serve in the United States Navy as they join current and prior members in celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Navy on October 13th. Congratulations and here’s to another 250 years!

The Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) will host this year’s Leadership Training Sessions and Annual Convention at the Rosen Center in Orlando. Here’s a brief description of the planned events... **Join us for an affordable, fun, and memorable event for all MOAA members. The event will take place at the Rosen Centre in Orlando with a discounted nightly rate of \$159 with \$12.50/night for parking. Here are some of the events and activities:**

- **Day One, Thursday 29 January**—is designed as an “Early Arrivers” day. We’ll have an All-Chapter Presidents meeting in the afternoon and an informal icebreaker social, early arrivers’ pizza party in our hospitality suite that evening.
- **Day Two, Friday 30 January**—is both a “Friends and Family Day” or a training day as you prefer. For fun, you can Golf at a nearby course, visit Universal Studios at discounted rates, go shopping, or plan a leisurely arrival. The training option provides focused high-value sessions on personal topics like financial planning and investment strategies for seniors, a VA Benefits update, and Chapter-related topics like Writing Successful Grants, or being a great Chapter Treasurer. Friday evening, we will have an informal dinner, followed by a play-for-charity, Casino Night Fundraiser with profits going to [The MOAA Foundation](#).
- **Day Three, Saturday 31 January**—will include Area Team Meetings, the Memorial Service to remember those we lost in 2025, our Annual Business Meeting, preparing to be a surviving spouse, MOAA update, and membership and marketing sessions. We will end the day with a more formal pre-dinner reception and military themed “Dining Out” sponsored by MOAA.

## Halifax Area Chapter Featured in The Observer



We're happy to share that *The Observer* recently published an article highlighting the Halifax Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the upcoming 2025 Speaker Series. The story recognized our Chapter's commitment to community engagement, advocacy, and service under our National motto, "Never Stop Serving."

The article featured details about our monthly luncheons at the Halifax River Yacht Club, where we host speakers from the military, civic, business, and health communities. Upcoming speakers include Gary Wilson from the Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy, David Lydon from Flagler County Veterans Affairs, and Dr. Itzel Harriott, who provides affordable trauma-informed counseling for underserved populations.

The *Observer* also highlighted our initiatives, from "Bagels and Bingo" at the Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home, to scholarships for students and cadets, and our annual Outstanding Support to Veterans Awards. Special events such as October's Surviving Spouses recognition and December's Holiday Gala and Silent Auction were also noted.

This coverage not only brings attention to our Chapter's 106 members and their work, but also strengthens our mission to support one another, grow our presence in the community, and advocate for Veterans and their families.

Learn more and share with your networks:  
[www.halifaxchaptermoaa.com](http://www.halifaxchaptermoaa.com)

Note from your president: Everyone, especially soon-to-be installed Board of Director officers are encouraged to attend.

I am pleased to announce the 2025 **Toys for Tots** (Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA version) is now officially in progress. Our chapter members have generously contributed to this seasonal giving over the years and, I am sure, will step up once again to participate in this wonderful event that benefits the children in the Volusia area. Please reach into your wallets and pocketbooks to make this another great year of giving!

Do you like good music? There are two concerts in early November you may be interested in attending. The concerts are presented by the Fitzgerald Performing Art Center at the Flagler Auditorium 5500 East Highway 100, Palm Coast, FL. The first concert is scheduled for November 1 at 7:00pm and features the Army Field Band and Chorus. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, also at 7:00pm, the United States Air Force Jazz Band – Dimensions will provide the entertainment. For tickets call 386-437-7547. These bands have provided hours of entertainment in the past and you won't be disappointed this year.

Do you have an extra two hours to spare each month? Do you enjoy the monthly chapter meetings and the great speakers? If you answered "yes" to these questions, please consider stepping up and volunteering to fill one of the open positions on the 2026 Board of Directors for the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA! Without the support of our members, we cannot continue to grow and provide a venue for all to **NEVER STOP SERVING!** Interested? Call Bancroft McKittrick 603-548-6558 or Drew Hoffman 386-562-3325.

**NEVER STOP SERVING!**

Drew

## Secretary's Report – September 2, 2025 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The MOAA Board of Director's Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on September 2, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Drew Hoffman at 10:04 am.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) were present: Drew Hoffman\*, Anita Williams\*, Tina Dixon-Bartlett\*, Lon Gardner\*, Patti Higgins\*, Joe Peabody\*, Jon Bateman\*, Steve Maas\*, Skip Keating\*, and John Higgins.

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 \$2270.64 in the checking account along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$2420.64. He reported \$1433.32 in deposits and \$2302.99 in disbursements during the summer months. Lon also stated that the scholarship fund will need \$3500 when needed for cadets' scholarships for April 2026. We anticipate that the Christmas silent auction and future donations will help to rebuild the fund to the amount needed. Skip made a motion to accept the report and Jon seconded.
3. Membership – Jon had sent the membership report via email. He stated that per National MOAA our chapter has 100 members. He also found that there are 9 national members that are not affiliated with our local chapter. Jon also checked the national register and found that we have 4 members without member numbers. He was able to attain the number of 2 people, and he still needs the number for 2 other members. It was pointed out that several of the members that do not have a number may be because they are surviving spouses and if their spouse were a lifetime member then that number could pass to the survivor. Jon stated in our local chapter we have a total of 106 members, which includes 4 gains and 7 losses this year.
4. Officers Call Report – Joe expressed gratitude to all those that helped with providing information for the summer newsletter. He also extended an appreciation for those that participated in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.
5. Surviving Spouse Update – Patti stated that she kept in touch with the surviving spouses during the summer. She also sent out a form to all members asking them to verify their phone numbers and email. Patti stated that she had spoken with Dr. Harriett to discuss the October luncheon. She spoke with the chaplain for the group who stated that he will not be able to continue in that capacity any longer. She will be looking for someone to fill that position.

### Old Business

6. Bagels and Bingo – Skip states that they met yesterday and there 18 veterans, 4 MOAA members, 4 Vitas members and 2 DAR members. They gave out \$5 Walmart gift cards to the winners, as well as blankets and other gifts.
1. VCVC Updates – Skip stated that the group did not meet during the summer. The next meeting will be mid-September. He mentioned that they have refurnished scooters for veterans needing one.
2. VA Coffee and Donuts Update – John and Patti stated that they met all summer. They further said they had a great turnout, and the donuts, munchkins, and coffee go fast. Patti mentioned they would not be able to continue in this position after this year, which ends in December.

### New Business

3. Christmas Meeting – Drew stated that at the May convention he invited Gen BK Kelly to come to our Christmas Gala and swearing-in of the 2026 BOD. The general has agreed, and Drew is coordinating with his staff.
4. Christmas Gala – Anita is coordinating the gala, and she provided meal choices for our approval. The directors agreed on short ribs and salmon as the entrée choices. It was also agreed that the price for the gala will be \$60. Anita stated that she has sent two emails with the gala invitation to the DeLand chapter but has not heard from them.

5. **Board Basket of Beverages** – Drew suggested that the board members donate a basket of beverages and all agreed. We expect at least 10 bottles for the basket. John and Patti Higgins agreed to coordinate the Big Beautiful Board Basket of Booze.
6. **Board of Directors 2026 Slate/Opening:** Bancroft and Drew have been recruiting members for the 2026 Board of Directors. A second vice president and a secretary are still needed.

**From The Floor**

7. Steve Maas stated that he reads a lot of books and would be willing to provide a review of the books for the newsletter.
8. Anita stated that a “suggested reading” area could be developed for the website also. Drew mentioned that when Anita takes the position of President in January there will be a need for someone to partner with her on the website. Anita also mentioned that our Facebook page needs someone to update it. She said there are over 160 messages on our page. Anita is also coordinating with speakers for our luncheons and has several speakers already on the schedule.
9. Skip presented several ideas/suggestions for members to consider. These included, creating a membership directory, create a cookbook of member’s favorite recipes, and a short “show and tell” binder from members that wish to highlight events of importance to them.
10. Today, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Higgins celebrates the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his entrance into the military. Congratulations John!!!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Our next meeting is on October 7, 2025, HRYC

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

***\*2023-2024 Outstanding Support to Veterans for Profit Award Winner\****



***\*2023-2024 Outstanding Support to Veterans Nonprofit Award Winner\****



**Halifax Area**  
**2025 Chapter Planning Board (As of 10/01/2025)**

<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>	Membership Meeting Guest Speaker - David Lydon 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" Music and Entertainment</b> Price \$60 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 10/01/2025)

<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 David Lydon, 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 - Observer Article (October 2025), Report on Memorial Day Service - Ormond Beach
<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, Sep=35
<b>4</b>	Net gain of 10 members for 2025	Everyone, 3 new in March, 1 in April, 2 in September
<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, July 4th Volusia Parade, Christmas Gala
<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, Bancroft McKittrick, John Higgins
<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/Skip Keating/John Higgins
<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, Feb - Prince Of Peace RCC
<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](#)

### **Where We Stand — Big Wins, Big Battles Ahead**

Over the past few months, MOAA at the national level has scored meaningful victories — and we're backing new fights that affect each of us, our families, and those currently in uniform. This is the current situation for advocates within the Halifax Area Chapter.

### **Recent Victory: VA's Veterans Experience Office Codified**

In August 2025, Congress passed the Improving Veterans' Experience Act, making permanent the Veterans Experience Office (VEO) within the VA.

This matters because:

- The VEO is now within the Office of the Secretary of the VA, with a chief veterans experience officer empowered to monitor policy, feedback metrics, and oversight.
- Veterans, caregivers, families, and survivors will have a more consistent, institutionalized voice in how the VA delivers care and benefits.

### **What's On Deck & What to Watch**

- NDAA negotiations: Star Act, housing, health care may fold into debate.
- Appropriations: Benefits, BAH, housing could be pressured during budget talks.
- Summer & Fall Campaigns: MOAA may pivot topics based on momentum.
- State-level: Florida clinics and veteran programs may see local policy changes.

Summary of recent Legislative Advocacy news article information from [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

### **House Passes \$893 Billion Defense Policy Bill**

The House approved the FY26 NDAA by a 231–196 vote. The bill authorizes \$893 billion in defense spending, a 3.8% troop pay raise for 2026, and increases end strength by 26,000 personnel. It also reforms the acquisition process to speed new technologies to the force. The legislation sparked debate, with controversial provisions restricting transgender health care and abortion access, while bipartisan efforts repealed outdated Iraq war powers. The bill now moves to conference negotiations with the Senate.

## **Continuing Resolution Looms as Shutdown Risks Grow**

With the Oct. 1 deadline looming, Congress may rely on a short-term continuing resolution (CR). While a CR keeps government functioning, it stalls new initiatives, delays readiness, and wastes taxpayer dollars. A full shutdown would halt servicemember pay, disrupt PCS moves, slow VA claims, and close commissaries and child care centers. MOAA continues pressing Congress to finalize appropriations and avoid harming military families.

## **House NDAA Includes TRICARE Reforms, Military Housing Improvements**

Amendments in the House-passed NDAA touch on TRICARE, pay and allowances, and housing. Highlights include permanent lowering of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) trigger from 20% to 15%, expansion of Military OneSource eligibility to 18 months post-service, a study on PCS reimbursements, and new oversight of TRICARE contract transitions. Reports on radon mitigation in military housing and Guam housing conditions were also mandated.

## **ACT NOW: Urge Congress to Pay Our Troops During a Shutdown**

The Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 (H.R. 5401), introduced by Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA) and backed by MOAA, would guarantee servicemember pay during government shutdowns. The bipartisan measure has more than 55 cosponsors. While it covers active duty, civilians, and contractors, it does not include USPHS or NOAA personnel. MOAA urges members to advocate for its swift passage.

## **TRICARE West Region Referral Waiver Ending**

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries in the West Region must obtain new referrals for specialty care by Sept. 30, as the referral waiver expires. Those using non-network specialists must switch to in-network providers or risk out-of-pocket costs. The House NDAA includes a MOAA-supported evaluation of the TriWest contract transition to safeguard access to care.

## **MOAA-Backed Change Will Preserve Improvements to the VA Experience**

The Improving Veterans' Experience Act, signed into law Aug. 14, makes the Veterans Experience Office (VEO) permanent within VA. The VEO ensures veterans' feedback drives VA reforms, strengthens oversight, and improves navigation of care and benefits. MOAA supports this milestone while continuing to advocate for further reforms, including caregiver support, expanded access to mental health, and better scheduling systems.

**\*\*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

**Personal Affairs / Benefits**  
**Mary B. McLendon, CAPT, US Navy (Ret)**

**October is Surviving Spouse Month**

Surviving Spouses of military retirees are eligible for many benefits. As MOAA members, we should know how to help them navigate through the system and, more importantly, introduce them to our Surviving Spouse Liaison for the Halifax Area Chapter: Patti Higgins, (386) 341-5035, pattim6080@yahoo.com. Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council & Chapter level to



ensure survivors remain connected to the military family & participate in local and National programs. Here are 5 key steps surviving spouses should take after their servicemember dies:

1. Contact the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS). Notify DFAS so it can suspend retired pay, then send the death certificate as soon as it is available to receive additional benefits. You can [notify DFAS online](#). The surviving spouse will also need to fill out more forms to start annuity payments if they are eligible for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).
2. Update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Go to a DEERS ID card site with a copy of the death certificate to get a new ID card that will continue to give access to the commissary, exchange, and other resources.
3. Contact TRICARE. Contact TRICARE to update the system & find out how bills will be paid, especially if the spouse is not receiving SBP.
4. Contact the VA. The VA is the source of many benefits for surviving spouses, such as Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC), military burials, and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). Contact the VA directly, or get help navigating the process from a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) in your area. The [VA Office of Survivors Assistance](#) outlines benefits & resources.
5. Find Branch-Specific Resources. Each branch of service offers different resources to support surviving spouses of military retirees. Visit [Military OneSource](#) to find the additional resources.

For Florida: Eligible resident Veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10% or greater, shall be entitled to a \$5,000 property tax exemption. The Veteran must establish this exemption with the county tax official by providing documentation. The unremarried surviving spouse of a disabled Veteran is also entitled to this exemption.

\*\*\*\*\*



*On 13 October 2025, the United States Navy  
celebrates its 250th birthday,  
marking a legacy of strength, resilience, and service to the Nation.*

## Dr. Itzel Harriott - Interactive Mental Health Care



Dr. Harriott holds doctorates in Pharmacology and Psychology, and a MS in Pastoral Counseling.

I specialize in integrative mental health care for individuals managing chronic conditions, including diabetes, obesity, GLP-1 therapy, and post-bariatric recovery. My approach blends psychopharmacology & behavioral therapy. Whether you're struggling with emotional challenges, managing chronic diseases, or seeking to improve your overall well-being, my goal is to support you in creating a comprehensive, personalized wellness plan that connects your mind, body, and spirit.

**What I Specialize In:**

**Mental Health & Emotional Wellness:** I work with individuals navigating stress, anxiety, depression, and life transitions.

**Chronic Disease Management:** I specialize in helping clients manage chronic conditions i.e. diabetes.

**Mind-Body Connection:** I incorporate psychoeducation, lifestyle adjustments, and support for mind-body connection.

As a clinical provider, I integrate clinical mental health counseling, psychopharmacology, nutrition, coaching, and faith-based counseling to offer a holistic approach for those dealing with diabetes & mental health conditions. If desired, I integrate faith-based counseling to provide a compassionate, spiritually grounded healing.

**Date: October 23, 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 October 17, 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](mailto:lrgardner@att.net)  
Or call 775-721-0967

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 2:** *Pesto Chicken, GF. Sautéed chicken breast with a creamy pesto sauce, sundried tomatoes and Parmesan cheese. Served with garlic mashed and vegetable du jour.*

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Choice 3:** *Asian Pork Bowl. Braised pork served with rice pilaf, broccoli, carrots and tri-colored peppers. Topped with a mango ginger aioli.*

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Food: \$28**

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

Scholarship Donation

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

Veterans Outreach Donation

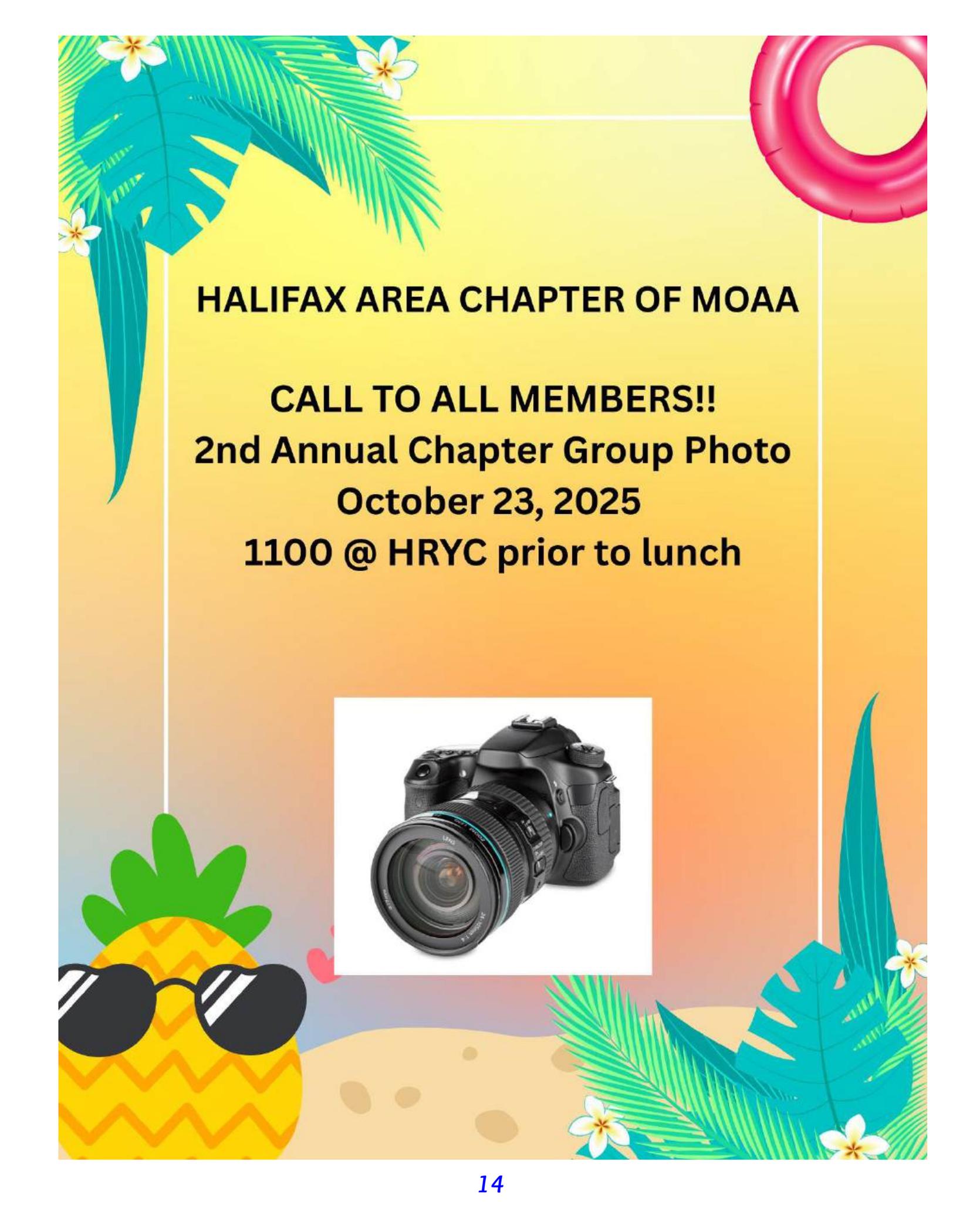
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fund Donation

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

**Total**

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



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA**

**CALL TO ALL MEMBERS!!  
2nd Annual Chapter Group Photo  
October 23, 2025  
1100 @ HRYC prior to lunch**



**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	Lon Gardner
Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick	John & Patti Higgins	Skip Keating	Ed & Kathleen Kufeldt

**Vet Outreach**

John & Patti Higgins	Tina Dixon-Bartlet	Owen & Jeong McNiff

**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 ~

**November 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](#)



### **Support Toys for Tots This Holiday Season**



Will you join us in supporting the annual toys for tots drive?

Please bring a toy to the MOAA luncheon on Thursday, October 23, 2025. We will bring toys to the Margarita Bowl at the Ocean Center in November. If you would like to provide a check in lieu of cash please make the check out to cash. And Joan and I will purchase the toys for you and deliver them to the Margarita Bowl. Should you have any questions? Please call Skip Keating at 672-4536 or [skipkeatin@aol.com](mailto:skipkeatin@aol.com). Thank you for your continued support.

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](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: [MLL\\_RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:MLL_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

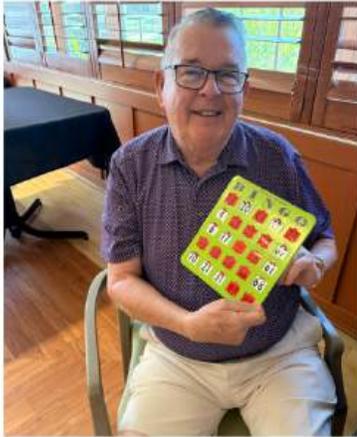
5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

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

# BAGELS & BINGO



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.

RESIDENTIAL • LAND • BUSINESS  
**MILLION DOLLAR PRODUCER**  
REAL ESTATE SERVICES  
US Army Aviation (RVN)  
MOAA Member



**WATSON**  
Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

**Bob Brewster**  
386-341-0423  
[BobBrewster@WatsonRealtyCorp.com](mailto:BobBrewster@WatsonRealtyCorp.com)

**CALL/TEXT**  
386-341-0423

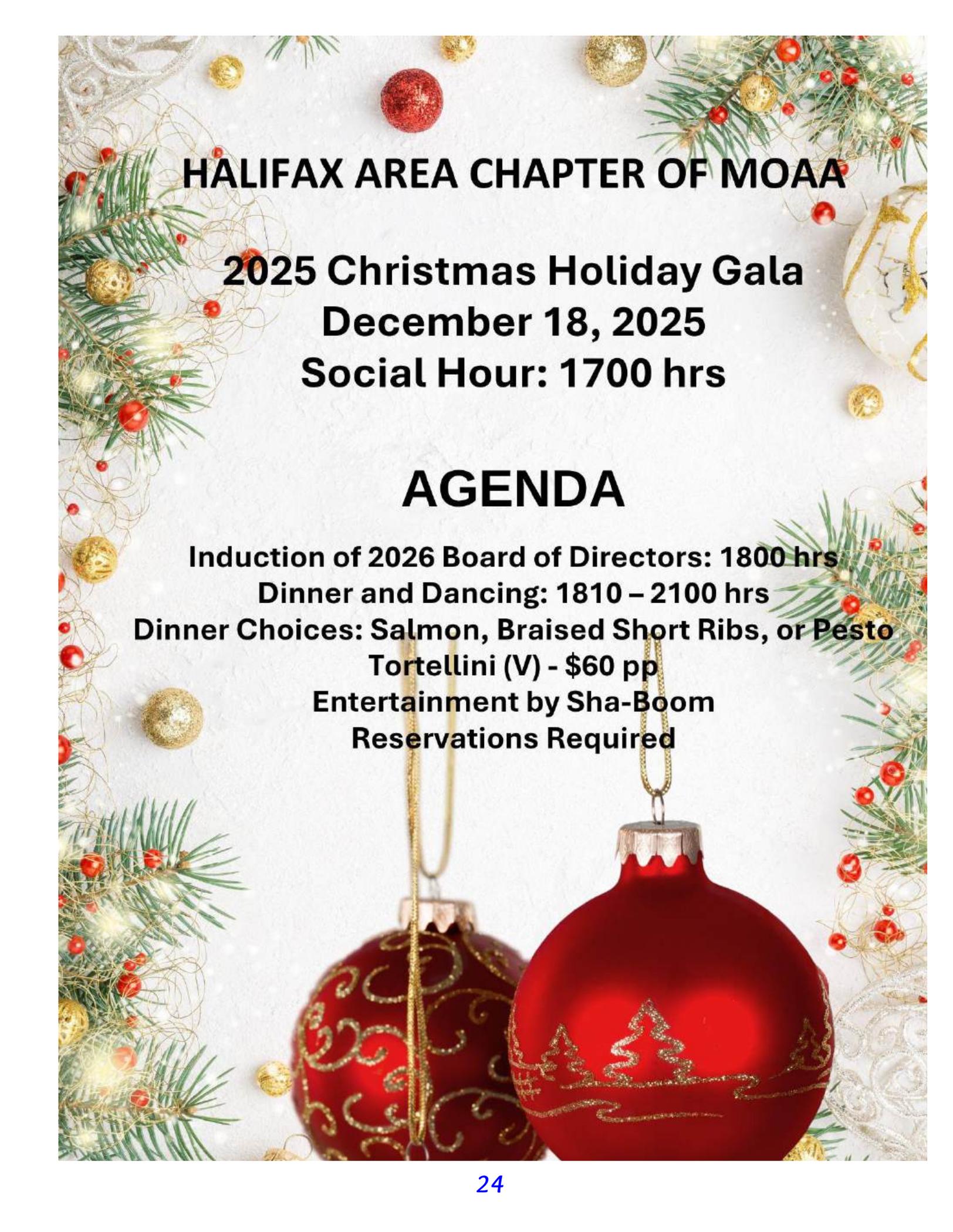
Email [bobbrewster@watsonrealtycorp.com](mailto:bobbrewster@watsonrealtycorp.com)



**MOAA**  
INSURANCE  
PLANS

Standing with you  
at every stage.

1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com)



# **HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA**

**2025 Christmas Holiday Gala**

**December 18, 2025**

**Social Hour: 1700 hrs**

## **AGENDA**

**Induction of 2026 Board of Directors: 1800 hrs**

**Dinner and Dancing: 1810 – 2100 hrs**

**Dinner Choices: Salmon, Braised Short Ribs, or Pesto**

**Tortellini (V) - \$60 pp**

**Entertainment by Sha-Boom**

**Reservations Required**

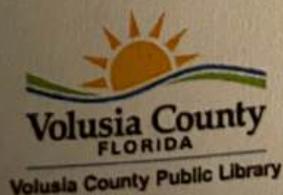
# SAVE THE DATE!



**Saturday,  
November 8  
2 PM**

## **A Musical Salute to Veterans**

### **Save the Date!**



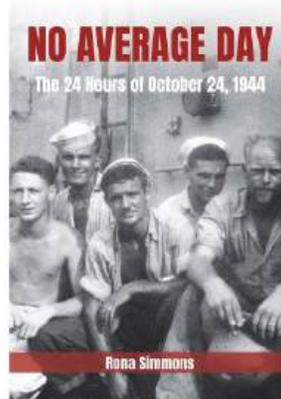
**Port Orange Regional Library**  
1005 City Center Circle  
Port Orange, Florida 32129  
386-322-5152  
[volusialibrary.org/](http://volusialibrary.org/)

# COFFEE & DONUTS DAYTONA VA



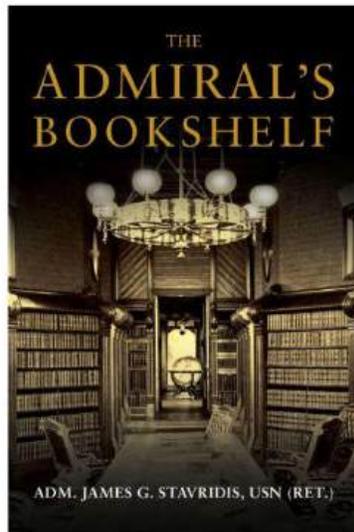
# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

BY ADMIRAL STEVEN MAAS



## **No Average Day: The 24 Hours of October 24, 1944 by Rona Simmons**

**This is an easy to read book, with 25 short chapters and an Epilogue. Tuesday October 24 of 1944 was the day with the greatest number of American deaths in the World War II. All of the deaths were not in combat, and one was the tragic sinking of a Japanese "Hellship" filled with American and allied troops by a US Submarine. The book is well organized by time of day. As I read I kept going back to my collection of WWII history (and some Google look-ups) to get the context of what was happening in the particular theater. For example, the sea and land battles in the Pacific that would culminate with our retaking of the Philippines was ongoing that October. The book is replete with maps that showed where the casualties in that chapter took place. This is an essential book for fans of WWII history that shows the human cost of war.**



### **The Admiral's Bookshelf by ADM James Stavridis, USN (Ret.)**

**This is the third in a "trilogy" by a friend and prolific author. ADM Stavridis also authored The Sailor's Bookshelf and The Leader's Bookshelf. Of the three (all good) this one has more personal anecdotes of how each book influenced, instructed, and in some cases changed his outlook on life. This book covers twenty-five books, and what each means in the context of a reader's approach to life. Some are fiction, some nonfiction, but most, if not all, will be familiar. ADM Stavridis offers advice on the importance of reading to developing life skills, how to read, how to build your personal library, and other practical ideas in regard to "lifetime learning". He also gives the reader "permission" to "dump" a book if you get a third of the way through and the book just isn't ringing the bell for you, it is OK to quit--this isn't a High School reading assignment, after all.**

**HALIFAX AREA  
CHAPTER**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026**

**OPEN ROLES:**

**SECOND  
VICE  
PRESIDENT**



**SECRETARY**

**2ND WEBMASTER**



**2ND WEBMASTER**

**CONTACT US TODAY!**