



# HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL November 2025



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### ~MISSION STATEMENT~

- **The 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! <https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/news-events/christmas-gala-silent-auction-2025-2/>

### Press Release:

[https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/halifax\\_moaa\\_silent\\_auction\\_request\\_2025\\_release2.pdf](https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/halifax_moaa_silent_auction_request_2025_release2.pdf)

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

	Chapter	Officers	
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

October 2025	Surviving Spouses – Dr Izsel 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	Mr. David Freeman, Lt Col USA (Ret) – Adventurer and Veteran Connections
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).



Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our United States Marines! On November 10, 1775 the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines consisting of two battalions of one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, two majors, other officers and enlisted. Congratulations to our Marines and here’s to

another 250 years!

A huge shout out to our generous members who, once again, reached deep into their pockets and purchased Christmas gifts for contributions to the Toys for Tots campaign. These gifts were collected at the October luncheon and will be submitted by Skip and Joan at the annual Margarita Ball on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you Skip and Joan for all your time contributed to this worthwhile operation.

Veterans Day - there will be a Veterans service commencing at 10:00 am at Veterans Memorial Plaza Daytona Beach. Come out and enjoy the program and meet with other veterans. Our own Pierre Lewis will be speaking at the Ormond Beach Veterans Day celebration at the Casements.

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 7:00 pm, 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. Finally, on November 13<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in the Wreaths Across America starting at 9:00 am at the Hillside Cemetery. Skip Keating is the POC for this event – call him and be part of the celebration.

If you missed the October luncheon meeting you missed the unveiling of the slate of officers for the 2026 Board of Directors (see the listing in this month’s Officers Call). At the start of the meeting, we had two critical positions unfilled. As I announced this problem, I had two members volunteer to fill the positions so ... I am pleased to announce we have a full slate of officers for the 2026 year. Thank you to those who volunteered and will lead us next year – truly you live the motto of **NEVER STOP SERVING!** See the full list of officers later in this issue. We will vote on these volunteers at the November Membership meeting.

**NEVER STOP SERVING!**

Drew

## **Secretary's Report – October 7, 2025 - Board of Directors' Meeting**

The MOAA Board of Directors' Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on October 7, 2025, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Drew Hoffman at 10:05 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\*, Kim Ramos\*, and John Higgins.

Quorum requirements met.

### Reports of Officer/Committees

1. Secretary's Report - The minutes of the September Board of Directors meeting were distributed by email during the month of September 2025. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
2. Treasurer's Report – No Report was given.
3. Membership Report - Was distributed by email prior to Jon leaving town. Drew mentioned that had gained and lost 6 for the year so far.
4. Officers Call Report – Joe mentioned that a couple of new sections were added to the OC, a speaker's corner and reading recommendations.
5. Surviving Spouse Update – Patti mentioned she believes that 6 surviving spouses will be coming to the luncheon. There was also one surviving spouse that has passed away. Patti also commented that the article by Mary in the October OC on surviving spouses was very informative and nicely written.

### Old Business

6. Bagels and Bingo – Skip mentioned that they served 16 people during Bagels & Bingo and that the Mainland HS JROTC was also present.
7. VCVC Updates – Skip stated the Vietnam Vets has two refurbished wheelchairs they can give out to veterans in need and if we know of anyone to let him know.
8. Coffee and Donuts Update – John and Patti stated that Arnold Leeks has shown interest in taking the program over.

### New Business

9. Christmas Meeting – Drew stated that General Kelly from National MOAA will be attending our Gala as well as the FCOC President. He also mentioned for the board members to give their liquor donations to Patti and Jon for the Board of Directors basket.
10. 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. Drew stated that there will be a chapter photo taken at the HRYC prior to the October luncheon. The board also discussed putting the chapter picture on the planning board for the Gala every year.

8. Kim stated she has a meeting with the Air Force ROTC to see how much rank they need for December. Skip said he needs 10 for the Army ROTC.
9. Skip stated there is a program called Celebrating the Sergeants that will take place on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at 10:00 am.
10. Skip mentioned that on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 0900 Wreaths Across America will be placing 200 wreaths at the Hillside Cemetery. They are looking for volunteers.
11. Skip mentioned there are events like the History of the Space Program in the United States Navy and Coast Guard in WWII and Early History of Navy Aviation that might be good speakers for our luncheons.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. Our next meeting is on November 4, 2025, HRYC at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Peabody, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

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



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



## Halifax Area Chapter – Proposed 2026 Board of Directors

President	Anita Williams	954-650-9532	williams.aann@gmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Joe Peabody	913-244-2564	jpeabody65@gmail.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Arnold Leeks	210-727-9765	armystrongleeks76@att.net
Treasurer	Jose Vargus	360-813-4444	ltak2003@aol.com
Secretary	Bancroft McKittrick	603-548-6558	rbancroftmc@gmail.com
Director	Steven Maas	386-847-1356	swmaas@comcast.net
Director	Kim Ramos	228-447-7802	karamos@att.com
Director	Skip Keating	386-672-4536	skipkeatin@aol.com
Officers Call	Joe Peabody	913-244-2564	jpeabody65@gmail.com
Webmaster	Anita Williams	954-650-9532	williams.aann@gmail.com
2nd Webmaster	<i>Vacant</i>		
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Patti Higgins	914-589-9036	pattim6080@yahoo.com
Legislative Affairs	Pierre Louis	386-359-3003	pierre@pierrelouisspeaks.com
Membership Chair	Jon Bateman	309-678-5359	jfbppsd2015@gmail.com
Awards Chair	Glenn Harmon	386-682-3064	Glennharmon111@gmail.com
Personal Affairs	Mary McLendon	386-847-3239	mclendonmb@cs.com
Veterans Council	Skip Keating	386-672-4536	skipkeatin@aol.com
Immediate Past President	Andrew Hoffman	386-562-3325	drewhoffman49@gmail.com

**Halifax Area**  
**2025 Chapter Planning Board (As of 11/01/2025)**

<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 <b>Dr. Itzel Harriott</b> - 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>	<b>Membership Meeting</b> Guest Speaker - <b>David Lydon</b> 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 \$60 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns & 2nd LTs -MOAA “CM” Modifications for new officers -Annual Group Picture at Gala



# 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 11/01/2025)

<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, Oct=38
<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](#)*

**Members**, the federal shutdown has stretched into its fourth week, leaving essential programs and families on edge. Stopgap funding from the Pentagon has so far shielded active-duty paychecks, but broader reserves are thinning. Across the country, VA clinics are tightening schedules, civilian defense employees are furloughed, and state-level support programs like nutrition and child care are nearing exhaustion. What began as a budget standoff is now straining the very services that keep veterans, military families, and local communities steady. Without a deal soon, even routine benefits and transportation operations could grind to a halt — a reminder of why sustained funding and bipartisan cooperation matter more than ever.

### Where Things Stand

- **NDAA FY 2026:** Both chambers have passed their versions and are in conference. The \$925 billion topline includes a 3.8% pay raise, stronger housing oversight, and TRICARE access protections.
- **Major Richard Star Act:** Still not included in the NDAA conference draft. MOAA continues pressing for concurrent-receipt fairness for combat-injured retirees.
- **Continuing Resolution (CR):** Congress passed H.R. 5371 to fund the government temporarily at FY 2025 levels through November 22, but full appropriations remain unresolved. Each CR delays new defense programs and family support initiatives.
- **Shutdown Ripple Effects:** Short-term funding stalls new military construction, research programs, and benefit system upgrades. Civilian DoD workers face uncertainty; family services, some VA modernization projects pause.

### What Matters to MOAA and You

- **Pay & Allowances:** 3.8% raise for 2026 — House and Senate agree.
- **Housing:** Trigger for temporary BAH relief drops from 20% to 15%; new study on high-cost-of-living areas.
- **Health Care:** TRICARE transition oversight, facility closure restrictions, and mental-health access expansion.
- **Family Support:** Extended Military OneSource eligibility (18 months post-service) and DoD mandate for affordable housing implementation.
- **Veterans' Voice:** The Veterans Experience Office is now permanent within VA, ensuring feedback.

### What Comes Next

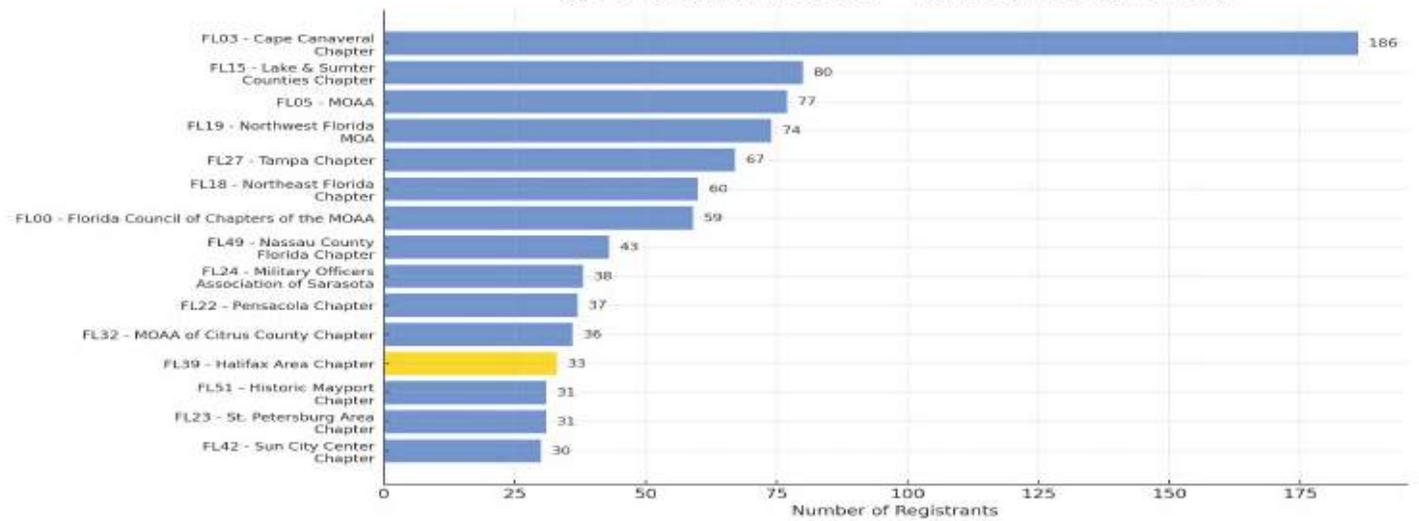
- NDAA conference report expected by December.
- If Congress cannot pass all 12 appropriations bills by November 22, expect another CR into January.
- MOAA National is monitoring impact on COLA calculations, TRICARE open season, and BAH adjustments.

## Halifax Area Chapter Engagement Summary (Condensed)

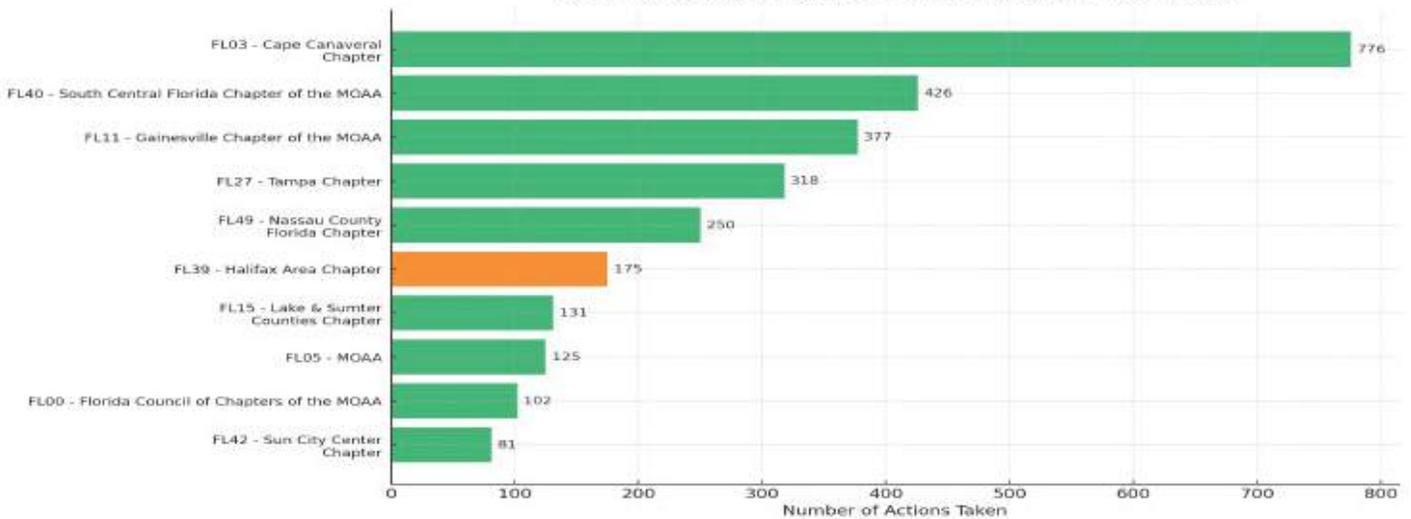
Chapter Engagement Snapshot (Jan – Oct 2025)

- Registered Advocates: 33 members (out of 109 total members)
- Actions Taken: 175 emails / letters sent through the MOAA Legislative Action Center
- Engagement Rate: 30% — ranking Halifax among Florida's top mid-sized chapters

Top 15 Florida MOAA Chapters — Number of Registrants (2025)



Top 10 Florida MOAA Chapters — Number of Actions Taken (2025)



\*\*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)**

**Pay Raises for 2026**

2026 COLA: 2.8%

The September 2025 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was released on 24 October. This determines the 2026 COLA of 2.8%. Remember, active duty pay raises are calculated differently.



2026 SS raise: 2.8%

Social Security benefits will increase by 2.8% in 2026, which translates to an average increase of about \$56 per month for retirees starting in January. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will also see a similar increase beginning 31 December.

For those under full retirement age, the earnings limit will increase to \$24,480 per year, or \$2,040 per month. For every \$2 earned above this limit, \$1 in benefits will be withheld. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B is projected to rise to \$206.50, which may offset some of the COLA increase for beneficiaries.

\*\*\*\*\*



**What are we celebrating in November?**

*National Veterans and Military Families Month* is observed every November to honor the strength, resilience, and sacrifices of Veterans and their families.

10 November is the *250th birthday of the US Marine Corps*.



11 November is *Veterans Day*, honoring all military Veterans who served in the US Armed Forces.



## David Lydon - Flagler County Veteran Services



Dr. David Lydon, Lt Col, USAF (ret) is a member and past president of MOAA's Flagler Chapter. He served 39 years in the United States Air Force both enlisted and as a commissioned officer, active duty and a reservist, retiring in 2024.

He volunteered and deployed multiple times, serving in Afghanistan 2004-2005 as a Security Forces squadron commander and in 2019-2020 he traveled to Afghanistan and eight countries throughout the Middle East meeting with the troops as an advisor to Lt Gen Guastella, Commander, USAF Central Command regarding Guard and Reserve Affairs.

He retired from the New York State Police in 2010, where he served as a Trooper and retired as an Investigator with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

He and his wife Sally relocated to Florida in 2010, first to the Tampa area and in 2012 found Flagler County, which has suited them well. There, David immersed himself in the veterans' community as a volunteer in many capacities and then was hired in 2016 as the county's Veterans Services Officer upon the retirement of his predecessor. David & Sally have two sons, both combat veterans themselves.

As the Flagler County Veterans Services Officer, he advocates and assists veterans and family members with navigating the onerous Department of Veterans Affairs to help them obtain earned benefits and much more.

He hosts a local radio show on WZNF, 94.9FM, and Flagler Broadcasting podcast called *Veterans on Point*, now in its eight year, which recently evolved to video as well and broadcasts on YouTube and Facebook.

**Date: November 20, 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 November 14, 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:** Chicken Cobb Salad, GF. *Grilled chicken, chopped and mixed with greens, tomatoes, bacon, hard-boiled eggs, cucumbers and blue cheese crumbles.*

# \_\_\_\_\_

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Food:\$28**

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

Scholarship Donation

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

Veterans Outreach Donation

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

Membership Fund Donation

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

**Total**

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

**Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA  
Membership Application**



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle Initial, Last, Suffix if applicable)

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

(MM/DD/YYYY)

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

Active, Reserve, Retired,  
Former Officer, Auxiliary,  
Surviving spouse of eligible officer  
Show deceased's rank/service

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (indicate (H)ome or (C)ell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I  AM  AM NOT a member of National MOAA. My Membership No. is \_\_\_\_\_

(Shown on line 2 of the "Military Officer" magazine mailing label).

Not a member of the National MOAA? Become part of our nationwide "One Powerful Voice" organization. Join now at <http://www.moaa.org/>.

I am applying for  CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

(Select electronically and indicate the number of years of dues you wish to pay (1-3)).

Chapter Dues for membership with "Officers Call" is \$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application with a CHECK payable to "**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA**" to:

**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093**

**\*WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERISM\***

***\*Contact information listed below\****

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

**Donations**

**Scholarships**

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 8-9, 2025**

Wounded Warrior Empire Academy event  
Volunteers Needed  
<https://www.woundedwarriorua.org/>

**December 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](#)



### VETERANS DAY FREE MEALS & DISCOUNTS

#### Food and restaurant deals

- Applebee's: Free meal from a select menu on November 11 at participating locations.
- BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse: Free Chocolate Chunk Pizookie with proof of military service on November 11.
- California Pizza Kitchen: Free entrée and beverage from a special menu for dine-in on November 11.
- Chili's: Free meal from select items on November 11 at participating locations.
- Denny's: Offers deals on Veterans Day, often including a free meal during the morning.
- Golden Corral: Provides a free buffet and beverage during a specific evening on Veterans Day.
- IKEA: Offers a free entrée to veterans at participating locations from November 10-12.
- Outback Steakhouse: Provides a free Bloomin' Onion and a non-alcoholic beverage with the purchase of an adult entree.
- Texas Roadhouse: Offers a free meal from a select menu or a voucher for a future purchase.
- Walgreens: Provides a 20% discount on eligible store items for veterans, military members, and their families from November 8-11.

Link to more savings [Veterans Day Deals](#)

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: [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)

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**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

3

# BAGELS & BINGO



**VOLUNTEERS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS FROM VITAS & MOAA SERVED 19 VETERANS AT THE EMORY BENNETT VETERANS NURSING HOME . ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS THE JROTC FROM MAINLAND HS.**

13

10

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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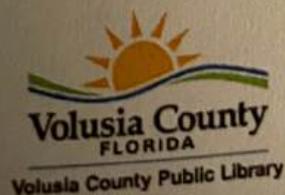
# SAVE THE DATE!



**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





## CELEBRATING THE '*SERGEANT*'

SERGEANT / SERGEANT-AT-ARMS / PETTY OFFICER /  
AIRMAN / OR ANY SERGEANT RANK / GUNNERY

Please join us on November 11, 2025  
at 10:00 a.m. (rain OR shine)

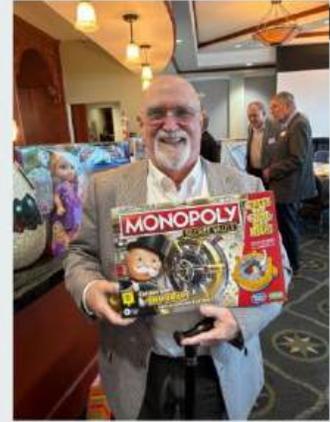
Volusia County Veteran's Memorial Plaza  
Next to the Justice Complex on (Orange Avenue)  
Daytona Beach

We will be honoring the 'Backbone' of any military branch of service by "recognizing one of your own" members who held the rank of E - 5 [or higher] as a non-commissioned officer

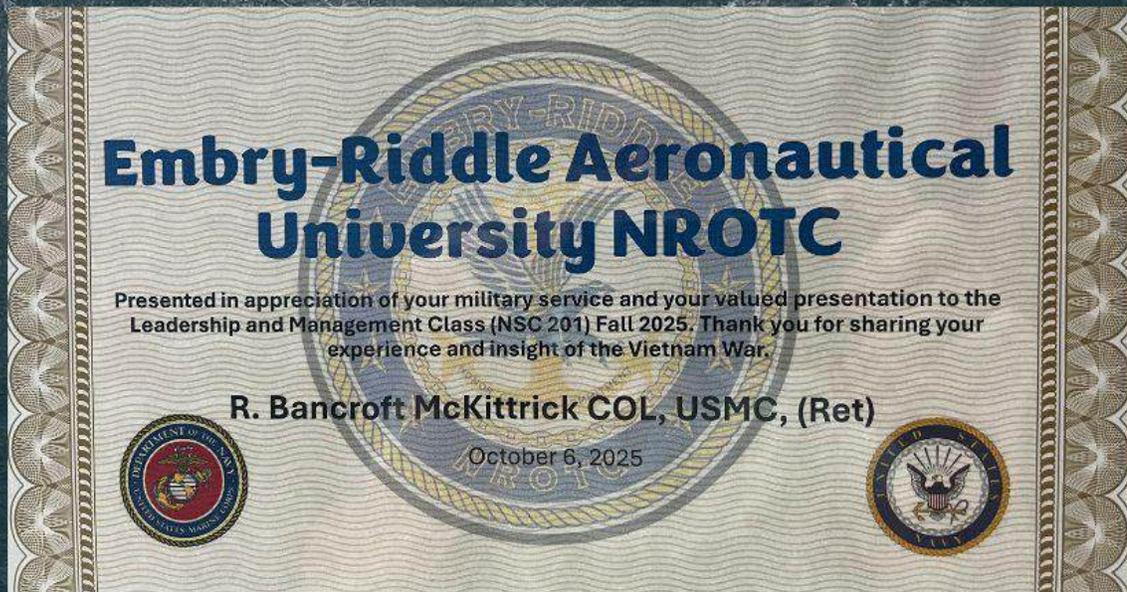
Your choice of a member will receive a certificate of recognition and memento Honoring them as your organization's Honoree for Veteran's Day 2025

Please see the attached documents and return-by date

# TOYS FOR TOTS



# MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY



**COL BANCROFT MCKITTRICK, USMC (RETIRED)  
GAVE A VIETNAM CLASS PRESENTATION TO  
THE NROTC**

[Community Outreach – Halifax Area Chapter MOAA](https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/community-outreach/)  
<https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/community-outreach/>

Good day Team Halifax Area Chapter-MOAA,

On behalf of the Halifax Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I would like to share an opportunity to support an incredible initiative brought to us by our September speaker, MAJ Greg Wilson, USA (Ret.), founder of the [Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy](#).

The Academy empowers wounded veterans through the game of baseball—helping them build camaraderie, confidence, and community as they learn and participate as umpires. Their next event will take place **November 8–9 in New Smyrna Beach**, where approximately 30 Wounded Veterans will take part in a weekend baseball tournament at the Sports Complex near the airport.

The organization is currently seeking donations of bottled water, Gatorade, snacks, or food to help sustain the participants between games and during recovery periods. Your support—whether through supplies, sponsorship, or volunteer assistance—will go a long way in helping our nation’s heroes enjoy a meaningful and restorative experience.

You can learn more about the Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy on their website at [www.woundedwarriorua.org](http://www.woundedwarriorua.org) or follow them on social media @woundedwarriorua. They are also holding an online fundraising auction, available here: [Wounded Warrior UA Auction](#).

Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back to those who have served. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to coordinate support or learn more.

--

R/S,  
Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA  
"Never Stop Serving"



**WOUNDED  
WARRIOR  
UMPIRE  
ACADEMY**