



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER  
OFFICERS CALL  
February 2026**



***In this Issue***

<a href="#"><u>President's Message</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 1</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Minutes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Planning Board</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 5</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Action Plan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 7</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Legislative Affairs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 11</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Speaker/Reservations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Membership Application</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 13</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Contact List/Donations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 14</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Salute/Looking Ahead</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 15</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter Benefits</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Page 18</u></a>

***~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.***



***President's Message***

Anita A. Williams, CDR, USCGR

February finds the Halifax Area Chapter off to a strong start in 2026, and I thank you for your continued energy, engagement, and commitment. Our January luncheon welcomed nearly 40 members and guests and set a positive tone for the year. We were honored to hear from Brigadier General Ernie Audino, whose message reinforced the lasting value of veteran leadership, connection, and service beyond the uniform.

I am especially excited about our growing collaboration with the Daytona Beach Sea Cadets unit. With more than 40 Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members in our chapter, mentoring young people drawn to the sea services is a natural extension of who we are. This partnership offers meaningful opportunities for mentorship, leadership development, and service, and I encourage members to stay tuned for ways to support and participate.

I also attended the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Convention and Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando, which focused on chapter operations, engagement, and sustainability. I am preparing a brief after-action report highlighting key takeaways and actions we can apply to continue moving the chapter forward.

Our Membership Snapshot: We currently stand at 104 members, with 6 gains and 10 losses in 2025, and 48 members still needing to renew. Membership renewal is essential to sustaining our programs, scholarships, and advocacy efforts.

I am very excited for our February luncheon speaker, Mr. David Freeman, LTC, USA (Ret), Chief of Operations for Flagler County Schools. He will share his transition from military to civilian leadership and his recent Appalachian Trail thru-hike with Warrior Expeditions, highlighting the enduring strength of military networks.

Thinking of our members, please keep Don Amiotte, Lon Gardner, and Joe Peabody in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their recoveries.

*Looking Ahead:* In March, we will welcome Councilman Vice Chairman Matt Reinhert, Vice Chair of the Volusia County Council and District 2 Representative, as our guest speaker. And, in April, we will recognize our ROTC scholarship recipients and their commanders, reinforcing our commitment to developing future leaders.

Finally, thank you for the encouragement, messages, and support many of you have shared while I am deployed. I am deeply grateful to our officers and directors for leading the chapter in my absence. Together, we will continue to grow, engage, and support those who have served—and those who will serve next.

***Never Stop Serving.***

***Anita A. Williams***

***CDR, USCGR***

***President, Halifax Area Chapter MOAA***

## **Secretary's Report – January 6, 2026 - Board of Directors' Meeting**

The MOAA Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on January 6, 2026, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by Immediate Past President Drew Hoffman at 10 AM.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) were present: Bancroft McKittrick\*, Lon Gardner, Patti Higgins\*, John Higgins, Jon Bateman\*, Kim Ramos\*, Steve Maas\*, Skip Keating\*, Arnold Leeks\*, and Jose Vargas\*.

**Quorum requirements met.**

### **Reports of Officer/Committees**

- **Secretary's Report.** The minutes of the December BOD's meeting were distributed by email during the month of December 2025. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Lon stated that there is \$3897.38 in the checking account along with \$150.00 petty cash for a total of \$4047.38. Lon stated that he increased the budget for coffee and donuts at the VA Clinic from \$116.00 to \$125.00 based on an approved motion at the December BOD Meeting. Jose, the incoming Treasurer, is still receiving checks from the silent auction and will not have the total amount tabulated until all the outstanding checks are in. Lon and Jose discussed the final turnover for the Treasurer from Lon to Jose will be completed today.
- **Membership.** Jon had sent the membership report via email. Jon stated that we have 104 members, with 6 gains and 10 losses in 2025. He also stated that this is annual membership renewal time, and we have 48 members that still need to renew their membership. Jon will send a dues reminder to the 48 members and ask Billie Krueger to follow up with a phone call.
- **Officers Call Report.** Bancroft said that the January OC will be sent out by Pierre once the luncheon menu is approved at today's BOD Meeting..
- **Surviving Spouse Update.** Patti stated that 4 surviving spouses attended the Holiday Gala. Also, she said that the national Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter has 292 registered members. There are 234 surviving spouses, 73 surviving spouse liaisons, and 36 surviving spouses that are also liaisons and 41 states are represented.

### **Old Business**

- **Bagels and Bingo.** Skip stated that there were 20 veterans and 8 volunteers (4 MOAA members) at this month's meeting. A number of prizes were handed out to the veterans home attendees.
- **VCVC Updates.** Skip was unable to attend the meeting this month.
- **VA Coffee and Donuts Update.** Patti stated that she and John had a great turnout last month. This month was cancelled because of the holiday. Also, Patti stated that she and John will be stepping down from coordinating this outreach and Arnold has volunteered to take the job. The BOD expressed their appreciation for Patti and John's efforts in coordinating this very successful program.

### **New Business**

- **Christmas Gala.** The general consensus of the BOD was that the gala was an outstanding success!!  
Other comments:

- Skip said that the attendance (75), food, and music were excellent. However, he believes the cost is too high and recommends reviewing ways to reduce the cost for this year. Other BOD members agreed about the cost.
- Jose said his wife's meal was not good, but the servers replaced it right away. Overall, the BOD consensus is that the Yacht Club does an excellent job in their menu selection, quality of the food and service.
- Bancroft stated that the attendance of LtGen. Kelly, USAF (Ret) and his wife was well received by the members and guests.
- Bancroft volunteered to coordinate this year's Holiday Gala. Drew said he will check with Anita on her plans for this year's gala.
- **Chapter Shirts.** Jose said he will bring the Chapter shirts to this month's luncheon.
- **FCOC Leadership Training Seminar.** The FCOC Leadership Training Seminar will be held 29-31 January in Orlando. Bancroft said that a number of our chapter members will be attending.

### From The Floor

- Arnold and Bancroft visited Nicole Gatrell, Event Coordinator at the yacht club to discuss the luncheon and dinner menu for January – May 2026. Nicole met with the chef and provided recommended menu selections to Arnold and Bancroft. Arnold presented the recommended luncheon and dinner selections to the BOD for approval. Bancroft made a motion to approve the recommended selections, seconded by Skip and the vote was unanimous to approve. Arnold said he tried to keep the cost of the luncheons at \$28.00, but Nicole said the cost had to be increased to \$30.00.
- Kim said that at the last meeting she met a veteran who is a member of Tunnels to Towers Foundation and he would like us to donate \$200 to the organization. This was tabled for further discussion. At today's BOD Meeting the BOD discussed this issue and Arnold recommended we ask the Tunnel to Towers representative to speak briefly about the organization and their support of veterans and first responders at the April ROTC dinner. Also, it was recommended by Steve during the discussion to offer them free advertising in our OC newsletter. A motion was made by Arnold to approve these recommendations, seconded by Jose and unanimously approved.
- Arnold said he will contact BG Ernie Audino, USA (Ret) to confirm his speaking at this month's luncheon meeting.
- Kim asked that a link of the Holiday Gala photos be sent to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. Our next BOD Meeting is on February 3, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bancroft McKittrick, Col, USMC (Ret)**  
 Secretary

## Halifax Area - 2026 Chapter Planning Board (As of 1/1/2026)

<b>BOD Date</b>	<b>Luncheon Date</b>	<b>Speaker and/or Event</b>	<b>Supporting Elements/P.O.C.'s</b>
January 6, 2026	Thursday, January 22, 2026	<b>Speaker – Brig Gen Ernie Audino, USA, (Ret)</b>  Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FCOC Leadership Forum</li> <li>- Initiate the write-up of Level of Chapter Excellence</li> <li>- Start Ordering Gold Bars</li> <li>- Submit Marvin Harris Communication Award – Due February 15, 2026</li> </ul>
February 3, 2026	Thursday, February 26, 2026	<b>Speaker – LTC David Freeman, USA (Ret)</b>  Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA</li> <li>- Submit Level of Excellence, Surviving Spouse, Legislative Liaison and Web/Newsletter nominations</li> </ul>
March 3, 2026	Thursday, March 26, 2026	<b>Speaker – Representative Matt Reinhart</b>  Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiate Entertainment Contract for Holiday Gala</li> <li>- National MOAA CM Modifications</li> </ul>
April 7, 2026	Thursday, April 23, 2026 Dinner Meeting – 1700 hrs start	<b>ROTC Scholarship Dinner</b>  Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cadet Introductions and Recognition</li> <li>-Obtain 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2026 Menus from HRYC</li> </ul>
May 5, 2026	Thursday, May 28, 2026	<b>Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Awards</b>  Price: \$30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain Sept-Dec menus from HRYC</li> </ul>
	****	***Chapter on Summer Break***	
September 1, 2026	Thursday, September 24, 2026	<b>Speaker - TBD</b>  Price: \$TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out)</li> <li>- Obtain 2026 – 2027 Lunch Menu</li> <li>- Obtain Holiday Menu</li> <li>- Save the Date Card - Gala</li> </ul>
October 6, 2026	Thursday, October 22, 2026	<b>Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program</b> <b>Speaker - TBD</b> Price: \$TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toys for Tots Campaign. Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meeting</li> <li>- Announce the Holiday Gala- INTERNAL ONLY</li> </ul>
November 3, 2026	Thursday, November 19, 2026  <b>Date moved due to Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	<b>Membership Meeting and Speaker – TBD</b> Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advertise the “Holiday Gala” Membership Month</li> <li>-Launch Silent Auction effort for Christmas Gala</li> <li>-Annual Group Picture</li> </ul>
December 1, 2026	December 17, 2026, 1700Hrs  <b>Date moved due to Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>“Christmas Holiday Gala Dinner Dance”</b> <b>Music and Entertainment</b> Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt</li> <li>- MOAA “CM” Modifications for new Officers</li> </ul>

## Halifax Area 2026 Action Plan

<b>Halifax Area Chapter – 2026 Action Plan</b>		<i>As of 1/1/2026</i>
	<b>Chapter Goals and Objectives</b>	<b>Sponsor/Update/Follow-up</b>
	<b>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</b>	
1	Continue the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business and health and wellness	January Ernie Audino, USA BG (Ret), February LTC Daved Freeman, USA (Ret), March DB Mayor Derrick Henry, Apr – ERAU Cadets, May – Vet Support Winners, Sep – Oct - Nov – Chapter Business Meeting and, Dec – Christmas Gala
2	Publish a local veteran related article in local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts. Increase AIA participation	Board of Directors
	<b>RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</b>	
3	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan= , Feb = , March = , April = , May = , Sep = , Oct = , Nov = Dec =
4	Net gain of 10 members for 2026	Everyone
5	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	Committee. Need new slate NLT October 2026.....new board elected at the November Mtg
6	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Joe Peabody....
	<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>	
7	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM
8	Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Members; Transfers; Special Events. LDS and FCOC Convention – January Veterans Stand Down – March, West Volusia Picnic- May, July 4 <sup>th</sup> Volusia Parade, Christmas Gala
	<b>BASE COMMUNITY</b>	
9	Present an annual “Outstanding Support for Veterans Award”: one to a local business or organization and one to a Not-for-Profit Organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor
10	Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.	Kim Ramos, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, John Higgins
11	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Anita Williams, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, Drew Hoffman, John Higgins
12	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home	Ongoing all year - Skip Keating
13	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	Ongoing all year - John and Patti Higgins
14	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos/Skip Keating/John Higgins
15	Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters	Anita Williams, Board of Directors
16	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick;
	<b>OTHER</b>	
17	Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams
18	Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone

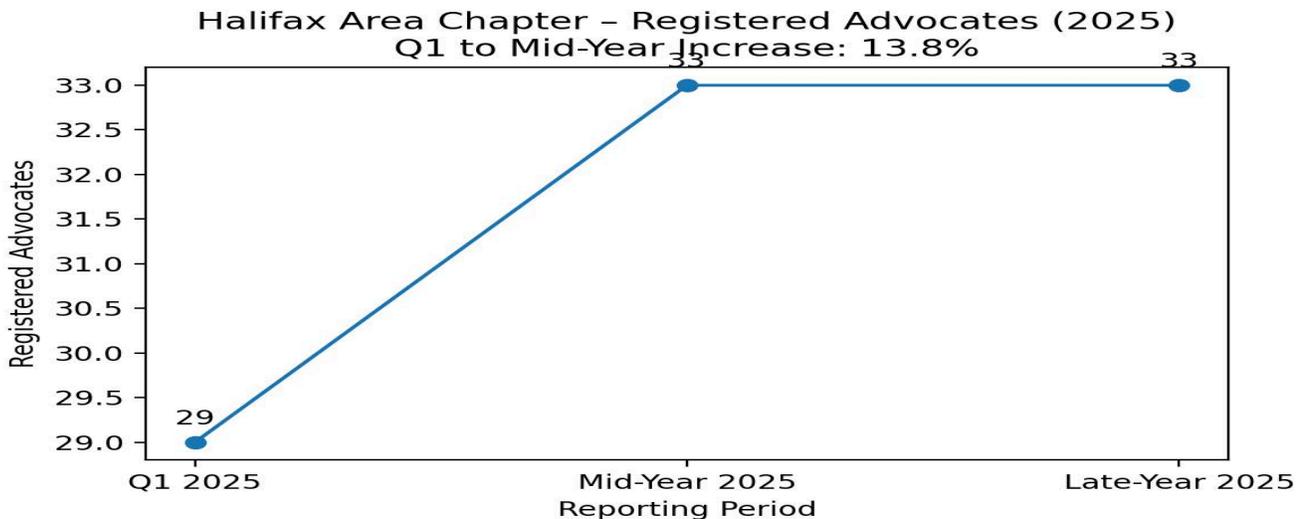
**Legislative Affairs/National MOAA Advocacy in Action  
CWO2 Pierre Louis, Legislative Affairs Chair**

*“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](#)*

**Chapter Engagement Snapshot (from End-of-Year Engagement Report)**

We have received the final 2025 Florida Engagement Report, and the data confirms that the Halifax Area Chapter is building real advocacy momentum. As shown in the chart below, Halifax increased its number of registered advocates from **29 to 33** during 2025 — a **13.8% increase**, exceeding the 10% growth benchmark and maintaining that level through the remainder of the year. By year's end, Halifax recorded **175 documented advocacy actions** through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. These are not casual clicks — they are verified messages delivered to lawmakers, tied to specific legislation, and backed by constituent ZIP codes. That level of engagement reflects members taking deliberate action when it mattered.

Context matters. Out of **104 total chapter members, 33 are registered advocates**, meaning **“Nearly one-third of our chapter (32%) is registered as advocates.”** Our goal is to strive **for at least 70%**. The lesson from 2025 is straightforward: advocacy works best when it is **consistent and expected**, not occasional or reactive. Early in the year, participation was uneven. By mid-year, advocacy updates became a standing agenda item at chapter meetings, and members increasingly responded to Legislative Action Center alerts tied to TRICARE, housing safety, and combat-injured retiree pay..



Our objective for 2026 is clear: build on this foundation by converting more members into registered advocates, strengthening participation across the chapter, and ensuring Halifax’s voice is heard when key votes and amendments are in play. The goal is not simply to participate — it is to help shape outcomes on the issues that affect our members, our families, and the broader military community.

### Two Advocacy Stories to Share (and Why They Matter Locally)

#### A) The MOLD Act — enforceable safety standards for privatized military housing. [Source \(MOAA\)](#)

MOAA is backing the Military Occupancy Living Defense (MOLD) Act, introduced in both chambers, to create enforceable safety standards, inspections, and reporting for privatized housing — and to hold companies accountable when living conditions become hazardous. The article includes sponsor information and highlights the real-life impact on families. For our chapter: housing conditions are not a ‘base issue’ — they are a readiness and retention issue. If a family can’t live safely, the force can’t stay ready.

#### B) TRICARE claims errors — 1 visit, 2 copays. [Source \(MOAA\)](#)

MOAA details how administrative errors and coding issues can turn a single medical visit into multiple copays — and what policy fixes are being pursued to correct inaccurate TRICARE claims. For our retirees and families, this is the kind of ‘quiet’ issue that hits wallets fast. The lesson is old-school: benefits you earned still require vigilance to protect.

\*\*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 accuracy and approved to ensure clarity\*\*



**\*2025-2026 Outstanding Support to Veterans for Profit Award Winner\***

**\*2025-2026 Outstanding Support to Veterans Nonprofit Award Winner\***



## National MOAA Recognizes CAPT Andrew Hoffman

The [Military Officers Association of America](#) has formally recognized [CAPT Andrew Hoffman](#), USAF (Ret) for Exceptional Leadership and Meritorious Service in support of MOAA's objectives and programs.

Conferred on December 18, 2025, in Alexandria, Virginia, this national-level recognition honors CAPT Hoffman's outstanding service and leadership as President of the [Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA](#). Throughout his tenure, CAPT Hoffman demonstrated a steadfast commitment to MOAA's mission, strengthening chapter operations, expanding member engagement, and advancing advocacy and community outreach efforts.

His leadership significantly enhanced the chapter's impact across the local military and veteran community while reinforcing MOAA's core pillars of advocacy, service, and connection. This recognition reflects CAPT Hoffman's dedication to excellence and his enduring commitment to serving those who serve. The Halifax Area Chapter proudly congratulates CAPT Andrew Hoffman on this well-earned national honor and thanks him for his continued leadership and service.



# President's Award

**Capt Andrew P Hoffman, USAFR (Ret)**

*For Exceptional Leadership and Meritorious Service  
in Support of the Objectives and Programs of the  
Military Officers Association of America*

*Given under My Hand at Alexandria, Virginia  
on this 18th day of December 2025.*

*B. J. Kelly*

*President*



# 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)**

**When Should I Call 911?**



Frequently, people are reluctant to call 911 due to potential charges for 911 services or uncertainty of the emergency. You should call 911 in Volusia County for emergencies: Medical Emergencies such as chest pains, seizures, severe bleeding; Fires; Crimes in Progress; and Life-Threatening Situations such as traffic accidents with injuries. Understanding the basics of emergency services, including the fact that 911 does not charge you for assistance in your home, can help alleviate any concerns or hesitations when it comes to seeking help during emergencies.

When you call 911, a trained 911 Telecommunicator will answer your call. You will be asked a series of questions to determine the nature of the emergency. Do not hang up until instructed, as help is dispatched while you continue to provide information. If you accidentally call 911, do not hang up. Stay on the line to inform the Telecommunicator it was a mistake. In Volusia County, you can also text 911 if calling is not possible; however, calling is preferred. For non-emergencies, use the local non-emergency numbers instead of 911: East Volusia: 386-239-VCSO (8276) / West Volusia: 386-943-VCSO (8276) / Southeast Volusia: 386-409-VCSO (8276) / Osteen: 407-323-0151. Or from your cell phone within Volusia County, you can use #VCSO.

Police/Fire/Rescue is generally a free service when you call 911, as it's funded by our taxes. EMTs do not charge to come to your house to check on a potential patient. The only charges incurred when EMS comes to your home are for any transport to a medical facility. EMTs can provide various services in your home, including basic medical care, vital sign monitoring, and assistance with urgent health issues. They may also offer treatments like IV fluids or medications and can consult with physicians for further care if needed. You are not required to be transported to the hospital, and you have the right to turn down the EMT suggestions under most circumstances. The EMTs will even help you into your car so someone else can drive you to the hospital. If you do accept a ride from an ambulance, they can only transport you to a hospital, no other location.

If you're unsure whether a situation is an emergency, it's better to call 911. Rely on the professional EMTs to provide basic health services, then decide if you'd like a ride to the hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We lost 2 Surviving Spouse Members in 2025**



Karen Ann Shanahan, 5 Jul 1944 - 10 May 2025. Karen was preceded in death by her late husband Vice Admiral John J. Shanahan, US Navy. After both retired, Karen & Jack moved to Ormond Beach.

Misao Shinme Beckert, 16 Dec 1930 - 24 Oct 2025. Misao was preceded in death by her husband Major George Beckert, US Army. Misao was born in Kawasaki Japan & became a naturalized US citizen in 1971. George & Misao settled in NSB in 1966.



**Guest Speaker: Mr. Dave Freeman, LTC USA, (RET)**



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Dave Freeman is an accomplished leader whose career spans decades of dedicated service in both the military and civilian sectors. An Artilleryman for nearly 23 years, Dave’s distinguished military career included demanding roles, culminating as a Military Transition Team Chief in Iraq, where he advised an Iraqi General.

Following his service, Dave successfully transitioned into significant operational leadership, holding positions such as Director of Plant Services at Augusta University before joining Flagler Schools as the current Chief of Operations. This lifelong pattern of dedicated service recently led him to complete a rigorous thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail alongside Warrior Expeditions, a non-profit dedicated to supporting combat veterans. As a fourth-generation servicemember and father to a currently serving soldier, Dave speaks with deep insight into the enduring power of the military network. He will share his journey, discussing how the

veteran networks he encountered on the trail provided unexpected support, community, and purpose, demonstrating that the military bond extends far beyond the battlefield.

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**You can now use Zelle®** to pay for your lunch or dinner reservations, membership fees, and/or make donations to the Scholarship, Veterans or General Membership programs. To safely use Zelle® for any of these transactions:

1. Find Zelle® in your banking app, click “Send,” then click on the QR code icon displayed at the top of the “Select Recipient” screen.
  1. Your phone’s camera will open.
  2. Point your camera to the “Halifax Chapter of Moaa” Zelle® QR code, enter
  3. the amount and the purpose on the “note” section(\*), and hit “Send”. *\*For example: Lunch Reservations, Membership Dues, Scholarship, Veterans Outreach, Membership Fund, etc.*

<p><b>Date: February 26, 2026</b></p> <p><b>Location: Halifax River Yacht Club</b> 331 S Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL</p> <p>Please indicate choice(s) and number. Reservations are due by <b>February 19, 2026.</b></p> <p><b>Name</b> _____</p> <p><i>Salads can be made without meat: please specify “no meat or vegetarian” in the comments for salad choices if desired.</i></p>	<p><b>FOLLOW LINK FOR ONLINE RESERVATION</b></p> <p>or</p> <p><b>Make checks payable to HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA P.O. BOX 2093 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093 EMAIL: jlvargasdfm@aol.com Or call (360) 813-4444</b></p>
Choice1 : Vegetarian Pesto Tortellini- tri-colored cheese tortellini with roasted tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, asparagus, spinach and artichokes. Tossed with Pesto olive oil.	# _____
Choice 2: Grilled Salmon on a bed of mixed greens with strawberries, craisins, toasted walnuts, cherry tomatoes and goat cheese. Tossed in a cider vinaigrette and topped with a strawberry reduction.	# _____
Choice 3: Chicken Marsala – Tender pan-seared chicken breast smothered in a rich Marsala wine sauce with sautéed mushrooms, finished with herbs. Served with garlic mashed potatoes and vegetables of the day.	# _____
<b>Total Food:\$30</b>	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation	\$ _____
Veterans Outreach Donation	\$ _____
Membership Fund Donation	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**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 &amp; Acting</u></b> Andrew Hoffman, Capt., USAF, (Ret) 386-562-3325</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>President &amp; Webmaster</u></b> CDR Anita Williams, USCGR 954-650-9532</p> <p><b><u>1st Vice President</u></b> CPT Joe Peabody, USA (Ret.) 913-244-2564</p> <p><b><u>2nd Vice President</u></b> Arnold Leeks, LTC USA (Ret)</p>	<p><b><u>Surviving Spouse Team</u></b> Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison 386-341-5035</p> <p>Spousal Affairs Officer, TBD</p> <p>Billie Krueger, Lt., USN (Ret.)-Chair</p> <p>Sharon Miller, Surviving Spouse</p> <p>Joan Jankauskas, Surviving Spouse</p>
<p><b><u>Directors</u></b> RADM Steven Maas, USN (Ret.) 386-847-1356</p> <p>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p> <p>Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>	<p><b><u>Officer Call &amp; 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</p> <p>COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p> <p>Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>

**Donations**

**Scholarships**

Mr. Yendy Gonzalez	1 Asterisk Disasters-Comprehensive Emergency Management Response and Recovery Solutions, Tallahassee, FL	\$1000	
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**Vet Outreach**

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**Membership**

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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 ~

**Mar 2026**

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting  
First Tuesday of each month  
Halifax River Yacht Club

**Starts at 1000**

*Interested in seeing how the Chapter operates? Join us at an upcoming BoD meeting!*

Coffee & Doughnuts  
First Thursday of each month  
William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans' Outpatient Clinic

**Starts at 0830**

*Always looking for volunteers and donations!*

Bagels & Bingo  
First Monday of each month  
Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home  
**Starts at 1000**

*An opportunity to connect with and honor our Service Members!*

[National MOAA Website](#)

[Florida Council of Chapters Website](#)

[Halifax MOAA Website](#)



## Speakers Corner LP 2026-2027 Speakers Speakers Schedule

Feb 2026	Mr. David Freeman, Lt Col USA (Ret) – Adventurer and Veteran Connections
Mar 2026	Volusia County Council, District 2 Representative Matt Reinhart
Apr 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/>

## Extra Notes

 Please support the chapter by wearing your Halifax Area Chapter T-shirt at events!

 We are also seeking a volunteer Webmaster to assist with our digital presence.

Learn something new - No Experience Necessary!

Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



**386-269-5554**

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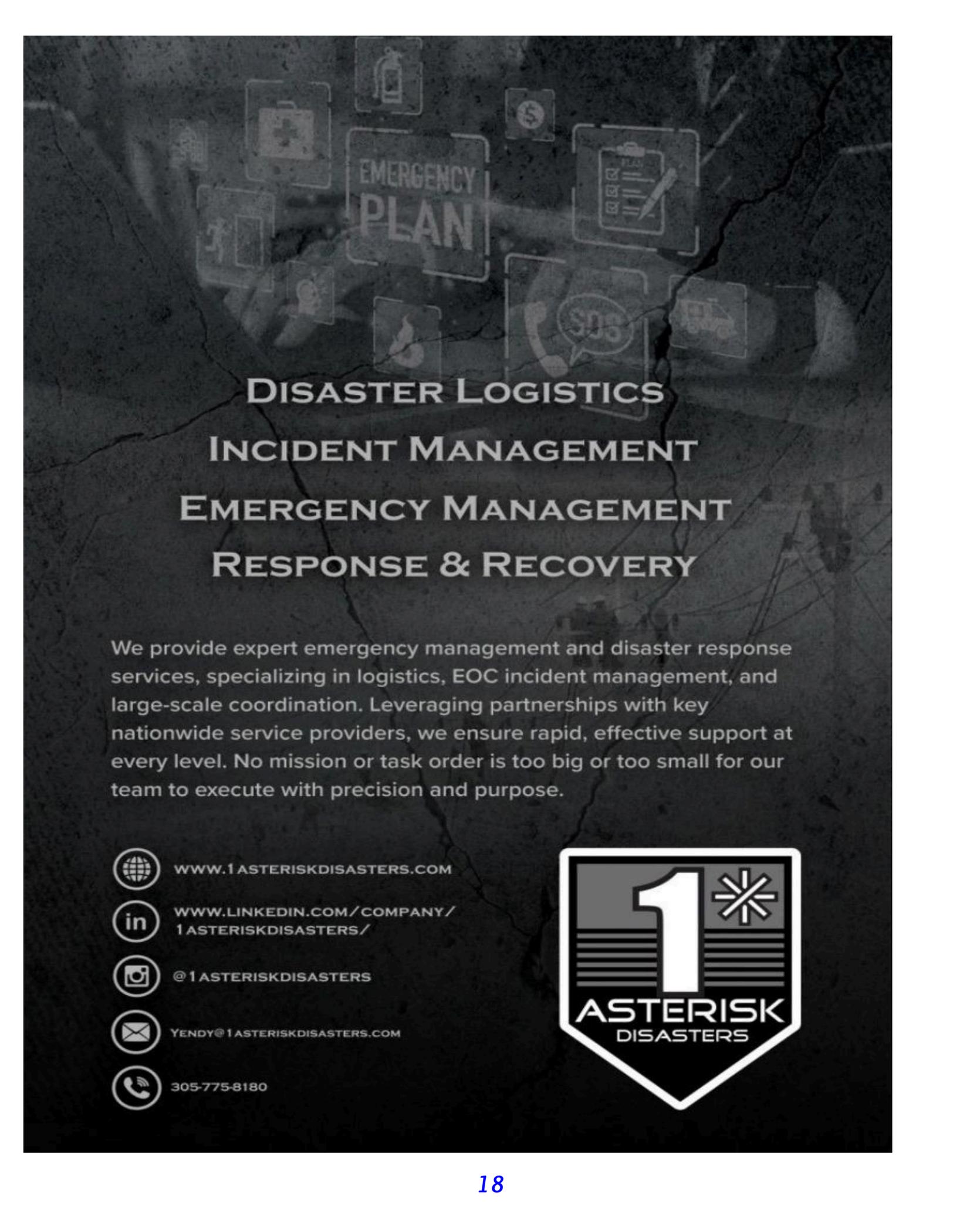
Email us at [ericssuperwash@gmail.com](mailto:ericssuperwash@gmail.com)



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***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>Name</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>Selection</b>
Red	3" x 3"	\$150	
White	Half Page	\$200	
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- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
- Email the Ad & completed order form to [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com)
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make a check payable to HALIFAX AREA MOAA.
- Mail check and order form to ***HALIFAX CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093***
- For assistance, please contact [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com).

***Thank You For Your Support!!!***

**NEVER STOP SERVING.®**

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

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

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

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

Halifax Area Chapter Talking Points

- Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families.
- Meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month.
- Luncheons are from Sept to May at the Halifax River Yacht Club at 331 S. Beach Street, in Daytona Beach.
- At our luncheon, our social hour starts at 1100/lunch at 1200. For dinner events, normally meets at 1700/dinner at 1800.
- We conduct 2 monthly Community Outreach efforts, one at the local Emory L. Bennett Memorial Nursing Home by providing Bagels and Bingo and one at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic by providing Coffee and Doughnuts.
- We publish a monthly newsletter called the Officers' Call (except from June through August)
- Our website is <https://halifaxchaptermoaa.wordpress.com/>
- We have a designated Legislative Chair that keeps us informed of ongoing and upcoming military legislation.
- We have chapter members serving on the Volusia County Veterans Council. Our representative is Skip Keating
- Frequently we are listed in the News Journal, Hometown News, Orlando Sentinel, and the Florida Courier newspapers.
- Our chapter is an active member of the Florida Council of Chapters
- We support 3 Reserve Officer Training Corp Units ( Army/Navy/Air Force at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- We award 6 scholarships a year to deserving cadets/midshipmen
- Each year we award a National MOAA Medal and a Challenger award at the Spring Color Parade Awards Ceremony
- Our chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America
- Our chapter is the first Military Organization to spearhead the efforts of the Tom Staed Veterans Memorial Bridge and Plaza
- Each year we host our annual Christmas Gala to support veterans advocacy and to build camaraderie
- The Chapter's Outstanding Support to Veterans Award is presented annually to the local area company or organization making the most significant contributions to veterans and their families.

Scholarship Information:

The Chapter supports the 3 Reserve Officer Training Corps Units (Army/Navy/Air Force) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

The chapter sponsors two \$500 scholarships each year to a deserving, aspiring officer in each of the 3 ROTC Units.

We award 2 in the Fall ( 1 Air Force and 1 Navy) and 4 in the Spring (1 Air Force, 1 Navy, and 2 Army)

The Chapter has a separate Scholarship program sponsored by a Chapter member which makes an additional scholarship donation each year to a deserving Army ROTC student in memory of LTC Daniel Redner, USA (a former Chapter President).

The Chapter also supports the JROTC Unit at Mainland High School each spring with a \$250 scholarship along with an MOAA Medal and Challenger Plaque.

Funding for the Chapter's annual scholarships is raised through regular donations at luncheon/dinner meetings, with dues contributions (by check and online) as well as through our major fundraising event, the ROTC Recognition Dinner held each April.

The Chapter also awards the National MOAA Medal and a "Challenger Plaque" to deserving midshipmen/cadets at each of the unit's Spring Color Parade and Awards Ceremonies

## READY REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

**Air Force Retiree Services:** (800) 531-7502; [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Navy Retired Activities Offices**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire  
 By contacting our Chapter President at [williams.aann@gmail.com](mailto:williams.aann@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.

## Membership Dues List

<b>Sandra Outerbridge</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>
<b>Gabriel Sanchez</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>
<b>Rob Ehrhardt</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>James Ellzey</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Donna Fries</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Diane Kucha</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Stephen Lancaster</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Douglas Lynch</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Ellen Powers</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Steven Sandoval</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>James Wyatt</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Barnet Alpert</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Don Amiotte</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>David Atkin</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Robert Barker</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Glenn Barrick</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Romain Bastian</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Steve Becker</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Robert Brewster</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>

<b>Paul Bucceri</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Rick Butler</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Ronald Carroll</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>William Davidson</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Joseph DiBlasi</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Frank Farmer</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>

<b>Lonnie Gardner</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Jack Halsey</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>David Harper</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Robert Henin</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>John Howell</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>John Ives</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Billie Krueger</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Terri Lynch</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Lorenzo Malcolm</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Robert Martin</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>John McClellan</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Bancroft McKittrick</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Michael Miglioranzi</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Daniel Molthen</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Dale Particelli</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Joe Peabody</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Keith Prewitt</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>John Redigan, Jr.</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Fany Rivera</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Jean Rivera</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Clifford Smith</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>

Gordon Sparks	12/31/2025
John Stovall	12/31/2025
Earl Tingle	12/31/2025
Rudy Trembl	12/31/2025
Jerome Unatin	12/31/2025
Jose Vargas	12/31/2025

William Vivian	12/31/2025
Thomas Weigieitner	12/31/2025
David Wheel	12/31/2025
Hans Wolfer	12/31/2025

***Membership renewals are available at \$20 for one year, \$33 for two years, or \$44 for three years. Please make your check payable to “MOAA Halifax Chapter” and mail it to the Chapter Treasurer, Jose Vargas, at 544 Good Life Way, Daytona Beach, FL 32124.***

***Thanks for your cooperation!!***

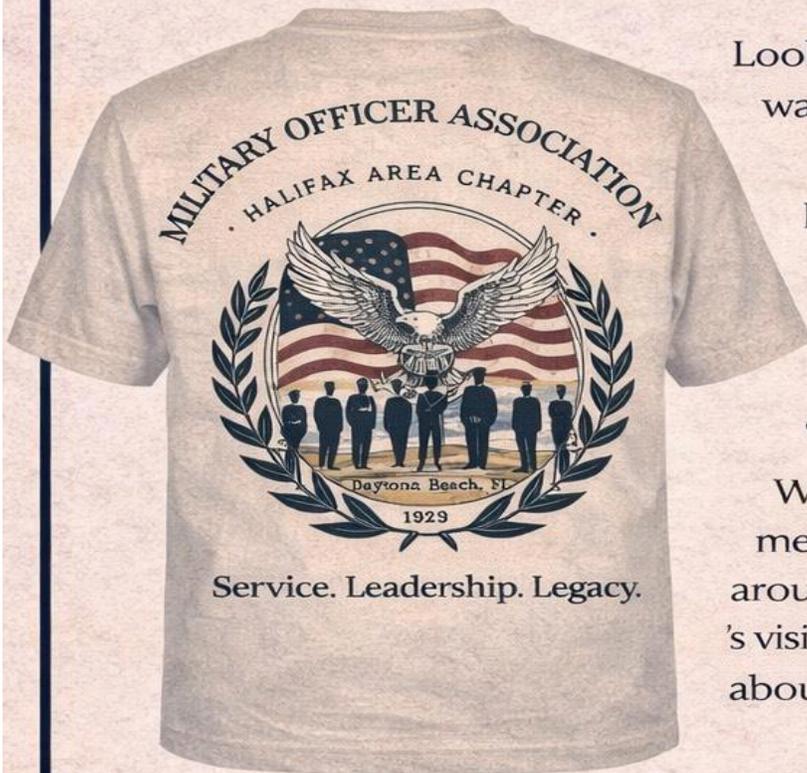
***Board of Directors***



# Show Your Chapter Pride and Support Our Mission!

Get Your Official Halifax Area Chapter T-Shirt Today!

**\$30**



Looking for a simple yet powerful way to show your support for **the Halifax Area Chapter?**

Purchase and wear our official chapter T-Shirt! It's more than just apparel; it's a statement of your commitment to our community and our mission.

When you wear your shirt to meetings, volunteer events, or around town, you increase our chapter's visibility and help spark conversations about the important work we do.

## Your Purchase Makes a Difference

Each T-shirt purchase includes an average \$5.00 donation that directly supports our vital programs and operating expenses.



### Future Leaders:

- Funding scholarships and purchasing cadet rank for local JROTC/ROTC units.



### Veteran Care:

- Sponsoring the "Bagels & Bingo" event at the Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home



### Community & Fellowship:



- Providing the monthly 'Coffee and Doughnuts' event at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic.

## Never Stop Serving.

**Halifax Area Chapter, We've Got You Covered.**