



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER  
OFFICERS CALL  
March 2026**



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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.***



***President's Message***

**Anita A. Williams, CDR, USCGR**

March is off to a strong start as our chapter continues to lead with purpose, service, and community engagement.

**FCoC Convention 2028** - The Halifax Area Chapter has been selected to host the FCoC Convention in October 2028. We have chosen the Daytona Shores Resort as our venue and look forward to welcoming MOAA members from across Florida while showcasing the very best our community has to offer on The World's Most Famous Beach. This will be a signature event for our chapter and an opportunity for all members to play a role in its success.

**Financial & Membership Update** - Our chapter remains on solid financial footing, highlighted by the Holiday Gala Silent Auction raising over \$3,800 in support of our programs and scholarships. Membership stands at 103, with renewal outreach underway for 35 members. Retention is just as important as recruitment—please reach out to fellow members and encourage them to stay engaged. Personal invitations to luncheons and events remain our most effective recruiting tool.

**Taking Care of Our Own** - We encourage surviving spouses to participate in the MOAA National Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter and recognize the work of Quilts of Honor. CAPT Mary McLendon's February Officer Call article, "*When Should I Call 911,*" is an excellent resource for all members.

**Community Engagement** - Our outreach remains strong:

- Bagels & Bingo: 17 veterans served with 5 MOAA volunteers
- VA Coffee & Donuts: Ongoing and well supported
- Volusia County Veterans Stand Down: The Volusia County Veterans Services Division will host its annual Veterans Stand Down from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 21, at The Center at Deltona, 1640 Dr. MLK Blvd., Deltona. This two-day event connects veterans and their families with essential resources, services, and support—all free of charge.

**Investing in the Next Generation** - We were pleased to welcome representatives from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, who are seeking mentors, guest speakers, and classroom engagement from our membership. Their Color Guard will support our April ROTC/JROTC Dinner, where we will recognize outstanding cadets and celebrate the commissioning of 70 USAF and 9 Army cadets. This partnership reflects our continued commitment to developing future leaders and strengthening ties with youth service programs. Please connect with any Board Member to find out how you can support.

**Member Leadership Highlight**  
**Congratulations to Skip and Arnold for their Leadership Awards!**



America 250 – A Call for Collaboration - As we approach America’s 250th anniversary, we are looking for ways to partner with local organizations to commemorate this historic milestone. If your group is planning an event, please consider collaborating with MOAA so we can help share the story of service and patriotism in our community.

Partnerships & Growth - We are exploring collaboration with a new local AUSA chapter and look forward to welcoming prospective member COL Mike Profenno, USA (Ret).

Help Us Tell the MOAA Story - Please help increase awareness of our chapter and its impact by sharing your MOAA affiliation in your social and professional circles. Connect us with organizations we can support—and ask how we can assist their mission. That is how Halifax continues to grow and serve.

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

## **Chapter Officers**

<b>Acting President</b>	<b>Drew Hoffman, Capt. USAF (Ret)</b>	<b>386-562-3325</b>	<a href="mailto:drewhoffman49@gmail.com"><b>drewhoffman49@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>President</b>	<b>Anita Williams, CDR, USCGR</b>	<b>954-650-9532</b>	<a href="mailto:williams.aann@gmail.com"><b>williams.aann@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Joe Peabody, CPT USA (RET)</b>	<b>913-244-2564</b>	<a href="mailto:jpeabody65@gmail.com"><b>jpeabody65@gmail.com</b></a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>José Vargas, LCDR, USCG (RET)</b>	<b>360-813-4444</b>	<a href="mailto:jlvargascdfm@aol.com"><b>jlvargascdfm@aol.com</b></a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bancroft McKittrick, Col, USMC (Ret)</b>	<b>603-548-6558</b>	<a href="mailto:rbancroftmc@gmail.com"><b>rbancroftmc@gmail.com</b></a>

**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.**

**Secretary's Report – February 3, 2026 - Board of Directors' Meeting**

**The MOAA Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on February 3, 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\*, Patti Higgins\*, John Higgins, Jon Bateman\*, Kim Ramos\*, Steve Maas\*, Skip Keating\*, and Arnold Leeks.\***

**Quorum requirements met.**

**Reports of Officer/Committees**

- 1. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the January BOD's meeting were distributed by email during the month of January 2026. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.**
- 2. Treasurer's Report. José submitted the monthly report. He stated that there is \$5048.38 in the checking account. Also, the Silent Auction at the Holiday Gala generated income of \$3862.00 for the Chapter. Kim made a motion to accept the report, Arnold seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous. It was noted by the BOD members that this first report by José is outstanding in the level of detail and clarity about the Chapter's financial transactions.**
- 3. Membership. Jon reviewed the Membership Report. He said we have 103 members with 1 gain and 2 losses. He also stated that we have 35 members that still need to renew their membership. Jon will ask Billie Krueger to follow up with a phone call to these members . Skip made a motion to accept the Membership Report, Patti seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous**
- 4. Officers Call Report. The February OC was sent out by Pierre .**
- 5. Surviving Spouse Update.**
  - Patti stated that the national Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is open to all spouses.**
  - The Quilts of Honor organization provides a quilt to service members and Veterans to thank them for their dedication and sacrifice in defending our freedoms. The organization also recognizes their families and friends recognizing the strength and support they provide.**
  - Chapter member Mary McLendon has a great article in the February OC titled "When Should I Call 911."**

## **Old Business**

- 1. Bagels and Bingo Update.** Skip stated that there were 17 veterans and 5 MOAA members volunteers at this month's meeting. A number of prizes were handed out to the veterans home attendees.
- 2. VCVC Update.** No report.
- 3. VA Coffee and Donuts Update.** Arnold said he is all set for this Thursday at the VA.
- 4. Luncheon Menu.** Arnold said the luncheon menu selections are set through May.
- 5. Leadership Training Seminar.**
  - Bancroft reported that 12 Chapter members attended and participated in the seminar.
  - Chapter members provided suggestions for future seminars or conventions regarding the agenda, free time, focus of the seminars or conventions and locations.
  - Drew, Anita and Bancroft offered FCOC leadership that our Chapter will host the FCOC Convention in 2028. The BOD vote was unanimous to host the FCOC Convention in 2028. The FCOC leadership will consider our request and get back to us.

## **New Business**

- 1. Update on Members.** Drew provided an update on Anita's active service duration and Chapter members Joe, Don and Lon.
- 2. Sea Cadets Introduction.** Drew introduced the Sea Cadets representatives attending the BOD Meeting; Juan Lewis, Jamie Lewis and Tamsyn Attman.
  - Jamie and Juan briefed that the Sea Cadets is the Navy's youth development program. It is supported by the US Navy and the US Coast Guard.
  - It is a youth program for young Americans ages 10 through their senior year in high school.
  - The objectives of the program are to develop an interest and skill in basic seamanship, to train in seagoing skills, and to teach patriotism, courage and self-reliance.
  - Jamie and Juan requested that the Sea Cadets partner with our Chapter and that the Chapter provide mentors & guest speakers at cadet events and classroom instruction.
  - The Sea Cadets have a Color Guard that can support Chapter events.
  - Kim suggested that the 2 Sea Cadets selected as Cadets of the Year be recognized at the Chapter April ROTC Dinner. The BOD agreed.
  - Drew asked Jamie and Juan to propose an event for the Chapter to support. Jamie and Juan agreed.
- 3. Veterans Stand Down, March 21, 2026.** Drew will ask VITAS if they will support this event. More details and information are forthcoming.

**From The Floor**

1. **AUSA Chapter.** Skip announced that he is starting an AUSA Chapter and will have a planning meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM at Dunn's Attic, 136 West Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, FL.
2. Kim said the 70 USAF cadets will be commissioned and Skip said 9 USA cadets will be commissioned.
3. **Red, White and Blue Event.** Kim said that Team Red, White and Blue will hold a community event on 19 February at 0945 at the Emory Bennet Nursing Home.
4. Steve said he met a potential member, COL Mike Profenno, USA (Ret). Membership will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. Our next BOD Meeting is on March 3, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the HRYC.

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

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

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



## Halifax Area - 2026 Chapter Planning Board (As of 3/1/2026)

<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> Speaker - TBD 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> Music and Entertainment 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>



# GET IN TOUCH



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## Halifax Area 2026 Action Plan

<b>Halifax Area Chapter – 2026 Action Plan</b>		<i>As of 3/1/2026</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 Councilman Matt Reinhart, 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

*“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](#)*

## **Government Shutdown Resolved — But the Lesson Remains**

At the time of this writing, the recent partial federal government shutdown has ended. Congress passed a funding package in early February restoring operations for most federal agencies, and the President signed the bill into law. While uniformed service members continued to report for duty throughout the lapse, the disruption once again underscored a hard truth:

When funding becomes uncertain, military families and veterans feel it first.

Even temporary shutdowns create instability — affecting VA operations, civilian defense employees, and long-term planning for readiness and benefits. MOAA actively monitored negotiations and engaged lawmakers to ensure pay and benefits protections remained front and center during the debate.

You can read MOAA's full breakdown here:

👉 Funding Deal Ends Partial Shutdown, Restores Operations for Uniformed Services  
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/funding-deal-ends-partial-shutdown.-restores-operations-for-uniformed-services/>

Stability in federal funding equals stability for the force. That principle never changes.

## **MOAA on the Hill — National Leadership in Action**

### **Disability Ratings Rule — Advocacy Victory**

After strong pushback from MOAA and coalition partners, the Department of Veterans Affairs has **fully rescinded** the controversial disability ratings rule that would have negatively impacted many veterans.

This was not a temporary pause — it was a full withdrawal.

👉 **VA Fully Rescinds Disability Ratings Rule — Here's What Should Happen Next**  
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/benefits/va-fully-rescinds-disability-ratings-rule--heres-what-should-happen-next/> Earlier MOAA reporting made clear that halting implementation was not enough: 👉 **MOAA: VA Must Rescind, Not Just Halt, New Rule on Disability Ratings**  
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/benefits/moaa-va-must-rescind.-not-just-halt.-new-rule-on-disability-ratings/> **This is what happens when the uniformed services community speaks with one voice.**

## Caregiver Bill Advances

Legislation strengthening support for military and veteran caregivers has advanced in Congress. Caregivers often operate quietly behind the scenes — but their work is essential to long-term recovery and family stability.

### 👉 Caregiver Bill Advances

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/caregiver-bill-advances/>

This remains a critical quality-of-life issue for military families.

## Major Richard Star Act — The Fight Continues

The Major Richard Star Act remains one of MOAA's top advocacy priorities. The legislation would correct the longstanding injustice preventing many combat-injured retirees from receiving full concurrent receipt of earned benefits.

### 👉 MOAA SitRep: The Major Richard Star Act

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/benefits/moaa-sitrep-the-major-richard-star-act/>

Progress requires sustained pressure — and that requires participation.

## Halifax Area — Advocacy in Action

We are now gearing up for Advocacy in Action Week in Washington, D.C. Our delegation will meet directly with lawmakers and congressional staff to reinforce MOAA's legislative priorities.

But here is the reality: meetings in Washington matter — and so do constituent messages from home.

On April 14, we are organizing a coordinated effort for Halifax Area Chapter members to encourage fellow members to sign on that day and Take Action through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. When congressional offices receive a surge of messages from verified constituents in their district, it carries measurable impact.

### What We Are Asking From Our Members:

- Volunteer to help call fellow chapter members.
- Encourage them to register as MOAA advocates.
- Ask them to send Take Action letters on April 14.

We want our delegation offices filled with constituent engagement that day.

More detailed instructions will follow in a separate communication.

\*\*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\*\*

A blue oval button with the text "TAKE ACTION" in white, uppercase letters.

# 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)**

**Protect Yourself During National Consumer Protection Week**  
**1-7 March 2026**



The National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) is a nationwide initiative coordinated by the [Federal Trade Commission](#) to help consumers understand their rights & avoid scams. NCPW has been observed annually for more than 25 years & serves as a reminder that consumer awareness remains one of the strongest tools in preventing financial loss. Consumers reported losing more than \$10B to fraud, a record high, with imposter scams, online shopping scams, and investment fraud among the most reported categories.

The Better Business Bureau encourages consumers to adopt the following protective practices year-round:

- Monitor financial accounts regularly.
- Use strong passwords & enable multi-factor authentication.
- Shred sensitive documents.
- Ensure secure online transactions. Look for “https://” & a lock icon in the browser bar. Shop only with reputable retailers & use credit cards for added fraud protection.
- Protect sensitive information. Treat Social Security numbers, banking information, insurance data, and login credentials as confidential.
- Verify authenticity independently. Scammers can replicate logos and official graphics. Always verify requests by contacting organizations directly using official contact information.
- Resist high-pressure tactics. Scammers create urgency to push quick decisions. Take time to verify claims before acting.
- Exercise caution with unfamiliar contacts. Never send money to someone you haven’t met in person, especially through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or prepaid debit cards.
- Be wary of unsolicited communications. Avoid clicking links or downloading attachments from unexpected emails or text messages.
- Don’t trust caller ID alone. Caller ID can be spoofed.

National Consumer Protection Week serves as a vital reminder of the importance of consumer awareness & proactive protection measures. Staying informed, exercising caution, and sharing knowledge are essential steps in fostering a safer consumer environment for all.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Women’s History Month 2026**

Women’s History Month is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture and society & has been observed annually in the month of March since 1987. The 2026 theme, “Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future,” celebrates the contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational & social justice movements.

**On behalf of all women who did serve, are serving & will serve - we thank all the women in the Armed Forces who led the way & opened the door for us to serve!**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Matt Reinhart, Volusia County Councilman , Vice Chair**



**Matt Reinhart** serves as the District 2 representative on the Volusia County Council, representing communities from Ponce Inlet to Port Orange. He began his term in January 2023. A retired Warden of the Volusia County Division of Corrections, Matt also previously served as a Code Enforcement Officer for the City of New Smyrna Beach and as a member of the Daytona Beach Code Enforcement Board. He holds certifications in corrections, law enforcement leadership, and code enforcement, and remains active in his community and church. Matt and his wife, Stephanie, live in Daytona Beach and enjoy time with their four children, five grandchildren, and two very spoiled miniature schnauzers.

<p><b>Date: March 26, 2026</b></p> <p><b>Location: Halifax River Yacht Club 331 S Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL</b></p> <p><b>Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees. Reservations are due by March 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><b>or</b></p> <p><b>Make checks payable to HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA P.O. BOX 2093 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093</b></p> <p><b>EMAIL: jlvargasdfm@aol.com Or call (360) 813-4444</b></p>
Choice1: <b>Vegetarian Stuffed Pepper</b> – A sweet bell pepper filled with a savory blend of seasoned rice, vegetables, and herbs, baked until tender and finished with a rich tomato sauce.	# _____
Choice 2: <b>Mahi Mahi "Bourbon Street"</b> - Cajun Style Seasonal Mahi Fillet Blackened in an Iron Skillet Served with a Pineapple Beurre Blanc Sauce. Served with rice pilaf and broccoli.	# _____
Choice 3: <b>Chicken Caesar Salad</b> - Fresh romaine hearts, house Caesar dressing, shaved parmesan, and golden croutons, finished with cracked black pepper.	# _____
<b>****Note Change&gt;&gt;&gt;Total Food:\$30</b>	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation	\$ _____
Veterans Outreach Donation	\$ _____
Membership Fund Donation	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____



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.
2. Your phone's camera will open.
3. Point your camera to the "Halifax Chapter of Moaa" Zelle® QR code, enter the amount and the purpose on the "note" section(\*), and hit "Send". \*For example: Lunch Reservations, Membership Dues, Scholarship, Veterans Outreach, Membership Fund, etc.

**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> Capt Andrew Hoffman, 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> COL Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558</p> <p><b><u>Awards Committee Chair</u></b> Lt Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret) 386 682-3064</p> <p><b><u>Chapter Secretary</u></b> COL Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558</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> LTC Arnold Leeks, USA (Ret) 210-727-9765</p>	<p><b><u>Surviving Spouse Team</u></b> Mrs. Patti Higgins, Surviving Spouse Liaison - 386-341-5035 LT Billie Krueger, USN (Ret.)-Chair Ms. Sharon Miller, Surviving Spouse Ms. Joan Jankauskas, Surviving Spouse</p> <p><b><u>Spousal Affairs Officer, TBD</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> LCDR José Vargas, USCG, (Ret) 360-813-4444</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>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 COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802</p>

**Donations**

**Scholarships**

Mr. Yendy Gonzalez	1 Asterisk Disaster		

**Vet Outreach**


**Membership**


## 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 ~

#### APR 2026

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](#)



## Speakers Corner LP 2026-2027 Speakers Speakers Schedule

Mar 2026	Volusia County Council, District 2 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/>

Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



**386-269-5554**

1451 N. NOVA RD • HOLLY HILL, FL



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



## Kendall's Bagels and More

1214 Palm Coast Parkway SW, Palm Coast, Florida 32137  
(386) 597-2739

**BE  
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# PRECISION IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



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MACHINERY &  
SKILLED LABOR



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TEAMS (IMTs)



RESPONSE &  
RECOVERY PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT



EOC &  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUPPORT



DISASTER  
FEEDING  
OPERATIONS



PRE-STORM  
MITIGATION  
SERVICES



AIR OPERATIONS  
COORDINATION



TRAINING &  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE

<https://www.1asteriskdisasters.com/>

# ★ MOAA HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER ★

— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY —

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

No Experience Required – Learn, Lead, and Serve!

### 2nd WEBMASTER & SPOUSAL AFFAIRS OFFICER



#### 2nd WEBMASTER

- ✓ Assist with **website** updates and content
- ✓ Learn **WordPress** and digital communications
- ✓ Help **publish** chapter **news** and events
- ✓ **Flexible** schedule – training provided



#### SPOUSAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

- ✓ Serve as **liaison** for spouses and surviving spouses
- ✓ Help **plan** spouse focused programs and outreach
- ✓ Connect families to MOAA and community resources
- ✓ Strengthen chapter engagement and readiness

### ★ WHY VOLUNTEER? ★

- ✓ Build new skills
- ✓ Expand your **leadership experience**
- ✓ Serve fellow officers and families
- ✓ Make a lasting impact in our community

#### Training and support provided.

Perfect for retirees, spouses, professionals, or anyone looking to give back while learning something new.



### ★ NEVER STOP SERVING ★

#### INTERESTED?

Contact the MOAA Halifax Area Chapter Leadership Team



 (386) 383-2472 |  MOAAHALIFAX@GMAIL.COM



Military Officers Association of America  
Halifax Area Chapter | Est. 1929

## ***Our chapter is seeking partners by advertising in our Officers Call!***

Our chapter is composed of active, retired, and former officers, their spouses, and auxiliary members. The OFFICERS CALL and our website are the primary means to reach the 350,000 members of the non-partisan National Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). In addition, this communication is used to direct value-added content to other MOAA Chapters and military professionals throughout Volusia County and the state of Florida.

### **ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM**

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Size</i></b>	<b><i>Yearly</i></b>	<b><i>Selection</i></b>
Red	3" x 3"	\$150	
White	Half Page	\$200	
Blue	Full Page	\$250	

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Company Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel#:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
- Email the Ad & completed order form to [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com)
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make a check payable to HALIFAX AREA MOAA.
- Mail check and order form to ***HALIFAX CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093***
- For assistance, please contact [halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com).

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

**NEVER STOP SERVING.®**

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

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

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

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

Halifax Area Chapter Talking Points

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

Scholarship Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## READY REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Navy Retired Activities Offices**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Insurance:**

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

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

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

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

**Records:**

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

**Retired prior to 1995:**

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

**Retired after 1995:**

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

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

Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire  
 By contacting our Chapter President at [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>Donna Fries</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Stephen Lancaster</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Joseph DiBlasi</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>

<b>Lonnie Gardner</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>Fany Rivera</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Jean Rivera</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>Gordon Sparks</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>
<b>John Stovall</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>

**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, José 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!

**\$25**



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

### **Community & Fellowship:**

### **Veteran Care:**

- Sponsoring the "Bagels & Bingo" event at the Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home
- Providing the monthly "Coffee and Doughnuts" event at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic.

T-shirts will be available for purchase at our **next luncheon.**

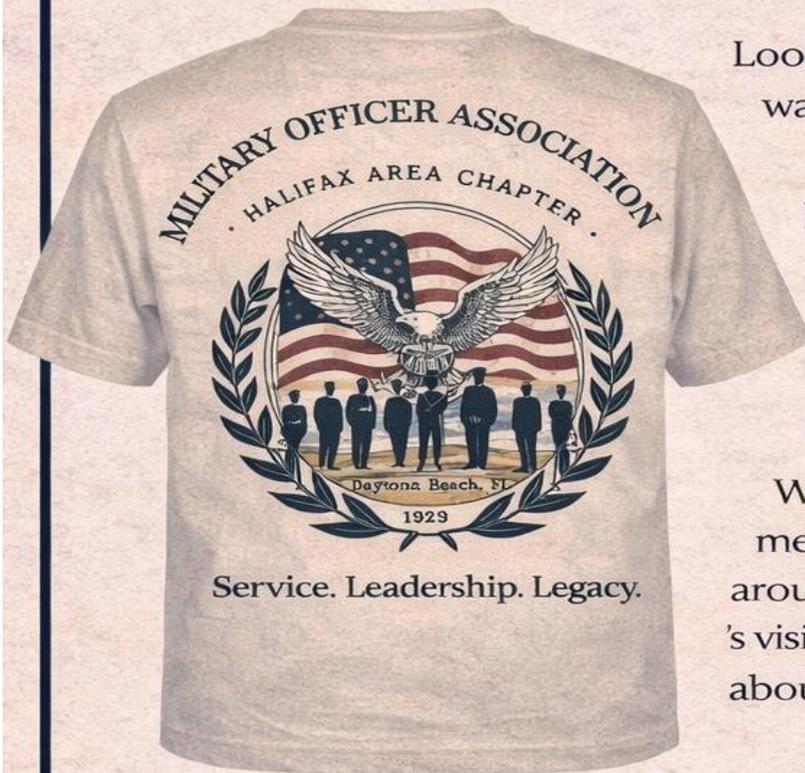
**Never Stop Serving.**

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

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**\$30**



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