



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER
OFFICERS CALL
April 2026**



In this Issue

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

President's Message

Anita A. Williams, CDR, USCGR

Spring is here, and with it comes renewed energy across the Halifax Area Chapter. I continue to be inspired by the momentum of our members and the meaningful ways you represent MOAA throughout our community. From Bagels & Bingo, Coffee & Donuts, and local veteran engagements, to partnerships across Volusia County—your commitment to service truly reflects our motto: *Never Stop Serving*.

At our recent Board of Directors meeting, we celebrated excellence within our Chapter as Kim Ramos was recognized with two distinguished leadership awards—one from the Florida Council of Chapters and another from Ormond Strong. These honors reflect the caliber of leadership within our organization and the impact our members are making beyond the Chapter.

Our Chapter continues to grow and evolve. We are proud to welcome new members—Jennifer Devine and Jason Murbarger while also making significant progress in strengthening membership engagement and renewals. This effort ensures we remain a vibrant and connected organization.

Community outreach remains a cornerstone of our mission. This month's Bagels & Bingo brought together 17 veterans and 6 dedicated volunteers, reinforcing the importance of fellowship and support for those who have served. Additionally, the Board unanimously approved a donation to the Missing in America Project—a meaningful initiative ensuring that unclaimed veterans receive the dignity and honor they deserve through proper interment.

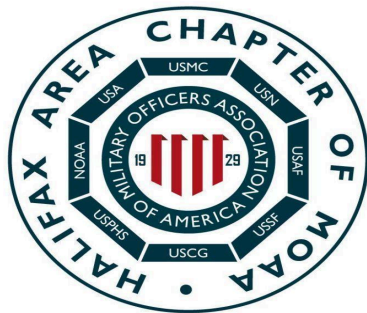
We also continue to support and engage our broader veteran community. From participation in the Veterans Stand Down in Deltona to ongoing collaboration with the VA and local organizations, our Chapter remains actively involved in making a difference where it matters most.

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for our 2026 Holiday Gala, which will celebrate our members while supporting our scholarship program through a silent auction. This signature event reflects both our appreciation for one another and our investment in the next generation.

I also want to personally thank each of you for your continued participation in our monthly luncheons. We are seeing consistent growth, with nearly 40 members and guests coming together each month to enjoy camaraderie, meaningful conversation, and impactful guest speakers. Your presence is what makes our Chapter strong.

~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.***



Member Leadership Highlight
Congratulations to Kim Ramos for her Leadership Awards!



As always, I encourage you to stay engaged, bring forward new ideas, and invite others to join us. Together, we will continue to build a Chapter that not only supports its members—but leaves a lasting impact across our community.

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

Chapter Officers

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

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 – March 3, 2026 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The MOAA Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on March 3, 2026, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Joe Peabody at 10 AM.

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

Quorum requirements met.

At the beginning of the BOD Meeting, Joe recognized Kim with 2 Leadership Awards, 1 from the Florida Council of Chapter (FCOC) and the 2nd from Ormond Strong.

Reports of Officer/Committees

- 1. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the February BOD's meeting were distributed by email during the month of February 2026. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.**
- 2. Treasurer's Report. Jose submitted the monthly report. He stated that there is \$5689.30 in the checking account. Kim made a motion to accept the report, Patti seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous. Jose noted that using Zelle is easy to use to pay for Chapter luncheons. The BOD agreed.**
- 3. Membership. Jon reviewed the Membership Report.**
 - There are 97 members, with three gains this month, Jennifer Devine, CPT, USA, Jason Murbarger, Capt., USAF and Jon Bateman, CPT, USA.**
 - With Billie Krueger's assistance, we only have 10 members yet to either renew their dues or expressed an intent to do so.**
 - We do have 5 members who have expressed their intent to renew their dues, but I have not received confirmation that they have done so at this time.**
 - As a result of the membership scrub and push for dues renewal, we had 11 Losses, two of which were members that had passed away (Robert Barker passed on 11 APR 2024, and Thomas Wegieitner passed in March 2025).**
 - We did have two members who moved and are joining other chapters, two members who requested to be dropped from the chapter, and 5 members who were unreachable due to disconnected telephone numbers.**

- Steve discussed membership renewals be limited to 2 and 3 years reducing the number of annual member dues renewals. There was discussion on the pros and cons on this idea with no further action on this discussion.
- Jon will follow up with potential new member, COL Mike Profenno, USA (Ret) in April.
- Jon developed, with Bancroft, a letter to send to national members in our area who are not Chapter members, encouraging them to join our local Chapter. The BOD unanimously approved the letter.
- Skip made a motion to accept the Membership Report, Kim seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous

1. Officers Call Report. The March OC was sent out by Pierre .

2. Surviving Spouse Update.

- Patti commented on seeing surviving spouse Dawn Micara and noting Sharon Miller will be gone for 3 weeks.
- Patti reported that Pat Green, National MOAA and FCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison will be stepping down from these positions and is looking for a replacement.
- Patti received information on Tunnels to Towers, an organization the BOD previously discussed supporting.
- Patti said there is a position listed on the Chapter website, Spousal Affairs Officer. This position should be deleted because Patti's position as Surviving Spouse Liaison fills that role.
- Jon mentioned that he has noted 4 surviving spouses without MOAA National ID numbers and asked Patti if he should get them. Patti will review and get back to Jon.

Old Business

3. Bagels and Bingo Update. Skip stated that there were 17 veterans and 6 MOAA members volunteers at this month's meeting. A number of prizes were handed out to the veterans home attendees.

4. VCVC Update. Skip had 2 comments; 1) On March 15th at 0900 there will be an unveiling of a statue for Vietnam Veterans at the Veterans Memorial Plaza and 2) he asked the BOD to approve a \$100.00 donation to the Missing in America Project, for funeral homes that have unclaimed veterans ashes to be interred properly. Bancroft made a motion to approve and Joe seconded. The BOD vote was unanimous to approve.

5. VA Coffee and Donuts Update. Arnold said he is all set for this Thursday at the VA.

6. FCOC Convention Update.

- The Chapter proposed to the FCOC to host the FCOC Convention in October 2028.

- The FCOC approved our request and asked the Chapter to propose a venue.
- Drew and Bancroft are the Chapter's lead for the convention.
- Drew and Bancroft contacted the Daytona Beach Hilton, the Daytona Beach Renaissance Hotel and the Shores Spa and Resort.
- The Hilton did not respond, the Renaissance Hotel said they could not accommodate the convention and the Shores enthusiastically agreed to host the convention.
- The Shores proposed a contract that Drew and I sent to the FCOC leadership with a proposed schedule for their review. The proposed schedule included more free time to enjoy the local attractions.
- The proposed Shores contract is under review by the FCOC leadership.

New Business

7. **Veterans Stand Down, March 21, 2026. Information on the veterans standdown in Deltona is attached.**

8. **Christmas Gala**
 - The Holiday Gala Committee is Arnold, Billie and Bancroft.
 - The focus of the Holiday Gala is to celebrate our members for their support of our Chapter. Secondly, it is an opportunity to support the Chapter's Scholarship Program through the Silent Auction.
 - The date for the Holiday Gala is December 17, 2026.
 - On March 13th, the entertainment contract with ShBoom will be signed for \$450.00.
 - The BOD approved covering the committee's operating expenses for the Holiday Gala.

9. **Sea Cadets Invitation to Attend April ROTC Dinner. Kim said the Sea Cadets were invited, at the last BOD Meeting, to register online to attend the April ROTC Dinner.**

From The Floor

1. **Arnold recommended visiting the Veteran's Museum in Daytona Beach. Great exhibits and we should support it.**

2. **Arnold said he is putting a "care package" together for Anita and will let BOD members know how to support once he hears back from Anita.**

3. **Arnold will be the guest speaker for a Korean War Veterans Meeting this month and a Wreaths Across America ceremony this December.**

4. **Skip said in the latest issues of the MOAA magazine there is an article on information on the new military ID cards.**

5. Jose requested approval to purchase a locked petty cash box. The BOD unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 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 4/1/2026)

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

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CPT JENNIFER DEVINE, USA



Jennifer Devine is a veteran, attorney, business professional, and community volunteer who has dedicated her life to service.

Jennifer grew up in a small town in Wisconsin as the eldest and only daughter of a Methodist minister, where she learned the values of discipline, responsibility, and community service at an early age. She attended Arizona State University and joined the ROTC program, becoming a member of the Cadet Ranger Battalion. During college she completed military training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Lewis, Washington, and also interned for U.S. Senator John McCain.

After earning her Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Jennifer attended Officer Basic Training in Maryland and was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer in the United States Army. She was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, where she served as Company Executive Officer and Battalion Logistics Officer. During the 1990 Gulf War, Jennifer's unit was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and deployed in support of operations in Southwest Asia. For her service, she was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

After completing her military service, Jennifer transitioned to the private sector, serving as a Human Resources Manager at Aon Insurance and Nokia Mobile Phones. While working full time at Nokia, she earned her Master of Business Administration.

Jennifer later focused on raising her three children while supporting her husband's career, which required six moves across the country over fifteen years. Throughout those years she remained an active community volunteer.

After her oldest child graduated from high school, Jennifer fulfilled a lifelong goal of becoming an attorney. She passed the California Bar on her first attempt and began practicing law, first with the Department of Homeland Security and later in private practice focusing on immigration law.

Jennifer and her husband Jeff have been visiting New Smyrna Beach for over forty years to see family and made it their full-time home in 2020. Since then, Jennifer has been active in a number of local community organizations.

Today, Jennifer is running for New Smyrna Beach City Commission, Zone 2, bringing a lifetime of service — in the military, in business, in law, and in the community — to help guide the future of New Smyrna Beach.



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196 S. YOUNGE ST, ORMOND BEACH, FL



Halifax Area 2026 Action Plan

Halifax Area Chapter – 2026 Action Plan		<i>As of 4/1/2026</i>
	Chapter Goals and Objectives	Sponsor/Update/Follow-up
	LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
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
	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION	
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....
	PERSONAL AFFAIRS	
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 th Volusia Parade, Christmas Gala
	BASE COMMUNITY	
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;
	OTHER	
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](#)

Fellow Halifax Chapter Members — This Is a Call to Action.

On April 15, Florida's MOAA delegation will be on Capitol Hill meeting face-to-face with members of Congress on your behalf. But their voices are strongest when backed by thousands of veterans across the chapter sending email letters. That means we need your voice — right now.

Use Your Digital Voice

Don't just pass by this article. Don't scroll past it and move on. One person alone cannot do this — we need an **all-hands-on-deck** effort at the grassroots level, and it starts right here in our own chapter.

Here's what we're asking: Take action first! Then — and this is the critical part — **call three people**. Call someone you sit next to at our chapter luncheon. Call a fellow MOAA member you've had a conversation with at a chapter event. Say to them: *“Did you sign? Did you take action? We've got to do this together at the grassroots level.”*

Each of us engaging just three people multiplies our impact across the entire state. That's how Halifax leads. That's how Florida sets the **gold standard for veteran advocacy**.

Become a Take Action Partner

A Take Action Partner simply means:

- Click the link for each priority bill below and send a message to Congress
- It only takes one minute — but it makes a real difference
- Shares with at least three fellow MOAA members or veterans

“If you care, you share.”

★ Four Priority Bills — Take Action Now ★

Ending the 'Wounded Veteran Tax'

- **The Bill:** The Major Richard Star Act would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The wide majority of members in both the House and Senate have cosponsored this legislation, but it has been derailed by procedural and rules issues in recent sessions.
- **Take Action:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)

- Learn More: [Star Act Stories](#) | [The Star Act Alliance](#) | [Star Act SITREP](#)
- MOAA Resources: [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Protect Pay of ALL Who Serve During Federal Shutdowns

- The Bill: The Shutdown Fairness Act would protect the pay of armed forces members (to include Drill Status Reservists) during a federal funding lapse. MOAA supports this effort to avoid this regular disruption and uncertainty faced by servicemembers and their families, and supports an amendment to the legislation to cover U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA Commissioned Corps members.
- Take Action: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect Servicemember Pay During Any Future Shutdown](#)
- MOAA Resources: [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Protect Veterans From ‘Claim Sharks’

- The Bill: The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act would restore criminal penalties for unregulated actors who solicit or receive fees to "help" veterans secure VA benefits. Dozens of companies are operating in this space without oversight, leaving veterans and their families vulnerable to aggressive marketing and costly overpayment for services they can secure for free from accredited providers.
- Take Action: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Stop Predatory Claims Agents](#)
- MOAA Resources: [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

Improve Access to Care at Military Facilities

- The Bill: The Military Care, Access, Reporting and Evaluation (CARE) Act would require a standardized digital platform beneficiaries could use to submit and track access-to-care issues at military treatment facilities. It would also ensure such issues reached the proper patient advocates, and that the Defense Health Agency could access systemwide reports to address systemic issues.
- Take Action: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Help Fight MTF Access Problems](#)
- MOAA Resources: [Download the issue paper](#) (PDF)

The Question You Must Ask Yourself

At some point, you’ve got to ask yourself this big question:

“Did I personally call three MOAA members?”

Always ask yourself that. That is the standard. That is the commitment we need from every single member of this chapter. Not just a click — a personal call. A real conversation. That’s how we win this.

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



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

★ ★ ★ ★ MOAA.ORG/AIA ★ ★ ★ ★



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



MOAA ADVOCATES FOR ALL RANKS ACROSS ALL SERVICES.

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

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

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



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

What Servicemembers & Veterans Need to Know for 2025 Taxes

The Trump administration's tax and spending package, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law last summer, includes significant tax legislation.

Trump Accounts. Under the OBBBA, beginning 5 July, parents of children 18 years old & younger with a Social Security number can open up a Trump Account — a tax-deferred savings account — in their child's name. For children born between 2025-28, parents can claim a one-time \$1,000 seed contribution, provided by the US Treasury.

Anyone can contribute to the child's account, up to a combined total of \$5,000 each year. The money can't be withdrawn before the child turns 18, at which point it can be used for qualified expenses like education, purchasing a first home & starting a business. After 18, the standard rules for traditional IRAs apply. For more information, visit trumpaccounts.gov.



New car loans. Interest is tax deductible on car loans used to buy a new vehicle, as of 1 Jan 2025. It must be for personal use & the final assembly must have been in the US. The maximum annual deduction is \$10,000.

Tips tax deductions. Employees & self-employed individuals may deduct qualified tips that are received in occupations listed by the IRS. The maximum annual deduction is \$25,000.

Overtime tax deductions. Those who receive qualified overtime compensation may deduct the premium pay that exceeds their regular rate of pay. The maximum annual deduction is \$12,500 for single filers and \$25,000 for joint filers.

Deduction for seniors. Those who are 65 & older may claim an extra deduction of \$6,000, or \$12,000 for a married couple where both spouses qualify.

Standard deductions. The standard deduction has increased to \$15,750 for single filers or married couples filing separately; \$23,625 for single heads of households with dependents; and \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly.

Income from payment apps. The OBBBA repeals the requirement for 1099K forms for people who received a minimum of \$600 for goods & services through payment apps like PayPal & Venmo. It raises that threshold to \$20,000 in gross pay, and 200 transactions. It applies to payments for goods and services, not money sent to family members, splitting rent or other personal transactions.

529 plans. Effective 1 Jan 2026, there have been significant enhancements, including doubling the annual tax-free withdrawal allowed — in connection with the beneficiary's enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school. Also, a lifetime maximum of \$35,000 per beneficiary may be moved from a 529 plan to a Roth IRA tax-free & penalty-free.

The IRS has ruled that the Warrior Dividend payments of \$1,776, sent to all service members in December, are not taxable.

ROTC APPRECIATION DINNER Speakers: ROTC Cadets



Date: April 23, 2026

**Location: Halifax River Yacht Club
331 S Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL**

Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees. Reservations are due by April 17, 2026.

- 5:00 - 5:45: Social Time with Cadets**
 - 5:45 - 6:30: Dinner**
 - 6:30 - 7:30: Commanders Introduce Cadets**
 - 7:30: Adjourn**
- "CASH" bar available**

Name _____

Salads can be made without meat: please specify "no meat or vegetarian" in the comments for salad choices if desired.

**FOLLOW LINK FOR
ONLINE RESERVATION**

**or
Make checks payable to
HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA
P.O. BOX 2093
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093**

**EMAIL:
jlvargascdfm@aol.com
Or call (360) 813-4444**

Choice 1: **Beef Stroganoff** – Tender beef and sautéed mushrooms in a velvety cream sauce, finished with herbs and served over egg noodles.

Choice 2: **Chicken Piccata** – Tender chicken breast sautéed in a zesty lemon, white wine, and caper sauce. Served over garlic mashed potatoes and buttered green beans.

Choice 3: **Vegan Stuffed Portobello** – Tender baked portobello mushroom stuffed with herbed quinoa, sautéed vegetables, and garlic. Finished with a light balsamic glaze.

******Note Change>>>Total Food:\$35**

\$ _____

Scholarship Donation

\$ _____

Veterans Outreach Donation

\$ _____

Membership Fund Donation

\$ _____

Total

\$ _____

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.

Halifax Chapter Of Moaa



zelle®



Sunday, May 24, 2026

**Ormond Performing Arts Center
2:00 p.m.**

399 North US 1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

James Madeja, conductor



Bagels & Bingo at Emory Bennett Veterans Home

Members of the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA recently enjoyed a meaningful morning of service during our Bagels & Bingo outreach at the Emory Bennett Veterans Home. A team of 12 dedicated volunteers, from MOAA, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Vitas, gathered to spend time with and serve 17 resident veterans, sharing bagels, conversation, and a few friendly rounds of bingo.

The event provided an opportunity not only for fun and fellowship, but also for our chapter members to connect with fellow veterans and show appreciation for their service. Smiles, laughter, and a little competitive spirit made for a wonderful morning.

This outreach reflects the spirit of MOAA's mission and our commitment to supporting those who have served. Never Stop Serving. 🇺🇸



STATEWIDE FLORIDA WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT

Building Community and Resources for
Florida's Women Veterans



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Women Veterans' Advisory Council



June 5-6 2026

The Westin Tampa Bay

7627 W Courtney Campbell Causeway

Tampa, FL 33607

<https://floridawomenveteranssummit.eventbrite.com>

Coffee & Donuts at the Daytona VA Clinic

Members of the Halifax Area Chapter of the MOAA recently hosted a Coffee and Donuts outreach at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic, greeting veterans with fresh coffee, donuts, and friendly conversation as they arrived for appointments. This small gesture is one way our chapter shows appreciation for those who served while continuing our commitment to support the veteran community. Never Stop Serving. 🇺🇸



Members in the Community

MOAA's 2nd Vice President, Arnold Leeks, was the guest speaker at the Korean War Veterans Association luncheon for March.



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><u>Membership Chair</u> LTC Jon Bateman USA (Ret) 309-678-5359</p>	<p><u>Immediate Past President & Acting</u> Capt Andrew Hoffman, USAF, (Ret) 386-562-3325</p>	<p><u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u> CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239</p>
<p><u>Chaplain</u> VACANT</p> <p><u>Transition Liaison</u> COL Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558</p> <p><u>Awards Committee Chair</u> Lt Col Glenn Harmon, USAF (Ret) 386 682-3064</p> <p><u>Chapter Secretary</u> COL Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558</p>	<p><u>President & Webmaster</u> CDR Anita Williams, USCGR 954-650-9532</p> <p><u>1st Vice President</u> CPT Joe Peabody, USA (Ret.) 913-244-2564</p> <p><u>2nd Vice President</u> LTC Arnold Leeks, USA (Ret) 210-727-9765</p>	<p><u>Surviving Spouse Team</u> 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><u>Spousal Affairs Officer. TBD</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> LCDR José Vargas, USCG, (Ret) 360-813-4444</p>
<p><u>Directors</u> 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><u>Officer Call & Legislative Liaison</u> CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283</p> <p><u>Veterans Council Representative</u> COL Skip Keating, USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536</p>	<p><u>ROTC Liaison</u> 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

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 ~

May 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

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



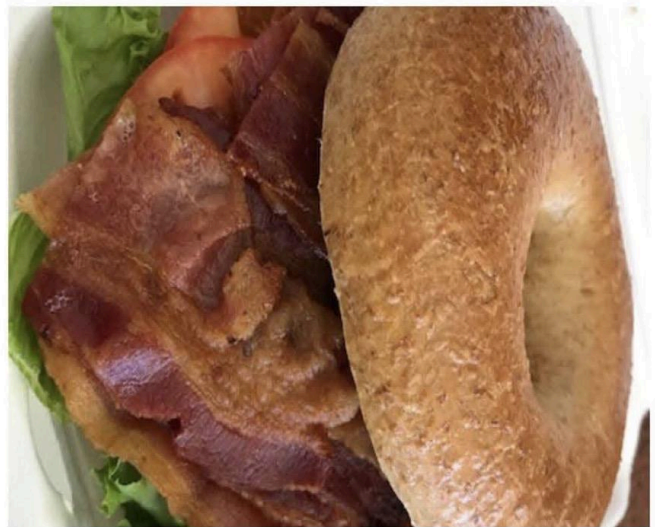
386-269-5554

1451 N. NOVA RD • HOLLY HILL, FL



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

Email us at ericssuperwash@gmail.com



Kendall's Bagels and More

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

**BE
BUY LOCAL**

<https://www.facebook.com/kendallsbagelsandmore>

PRECISION IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



EMERGENCY
LOGISTICS
COORDINATION



HEAVY
MACHINERY &
SKILLED LABOR



INCIDENT
MANAGEMENT
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/>

— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY —

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

No Experience Required – Learn, Lead, and Serve!

2nd WEBMASTER



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

★ WHY VOLUNTEER? ★

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

★ NEVER STOP SERVING ★

✉ INTERESTED?

Contact the MOAA Halifax Area Chapter Leadership Team



Message us or email the chapter to learn more!



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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Selection</i>
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
- 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.

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

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;

www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; www.afrh.gov

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

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/

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

www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Defense Commissary Agency: 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

Gulf War homepage: www.gulflink.osd.mil

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

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649; www.usmc.mil

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

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; www.medicare.gov

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; 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

Navy Retired Activities Offices

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; 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

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

www.insurance.va.gov

Naval Historical Center: (202) 433-2210; www.history.navy.mil

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213; www.ssa.gov

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

TRICARE East: 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

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

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

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

www.tricare.mil/pharmacy

www.express-scripts.com

VA: 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

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; 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

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
Thank you in advance for assisting in this effort.



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

- provide transition assistance to servicemembers;
- serve as the primary point of contact in the chapter for MOAA members and their spouses;
- share all job opportunities with the state council's transition liaison and national MOAA; and
- perform other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the transition liaison, such as:
 - serving as chapter point of contact for the transition liaison;
 - forwarding information deemed appropriate for dissemination to chapter members;
 - providing chapter transition news and issues to the newsletter and performing other duties the president might assign.

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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.**

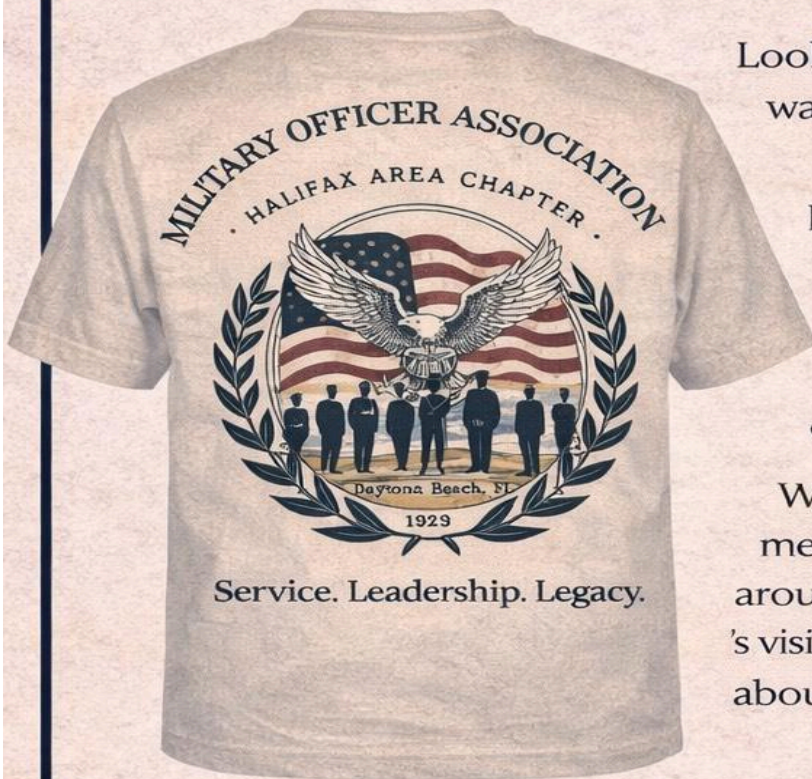
Never Stop Serving.

Halifax Area Chapter, We've Got You Covered.

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