



**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER
OFFICERS CALL
MAY 2026**

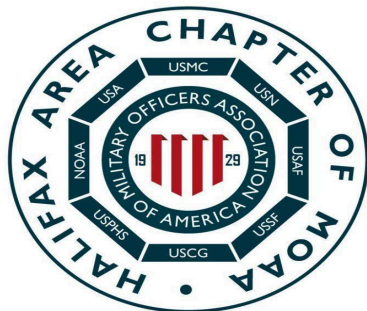


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~MISSION STATEMENT~

- ***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

Shipmates and Friends,

As we move into May, I want to thank each of you for the continued energy and commitment you bring to the Halifax Area Chapter. Your engagement—through meetings, outreach, and community service—continues to strengthen our chapter and expand our impact.

Our recent Board of Directors meeting on April 7, 2026, reflected that momentum and our continued focus on growth, service, and member engagement.

Our chapter remains on steady financial footing as we support our programs and initiatives. Membership stands at 93, with ongoing outreach to members pending renewal and continued efforts to welcome new members. Expanding our reach—especially among the next generation—remains a key priority.

We continue to lead through meaningful community involvement.

- Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home Bagels & Bingo
- Our Chapter will support the Ormond Beach Memorial Day Remembrance Service on May 25, 2026
- VA Coffee & Donuts remains strong with support from Team Red, White & Blue and DAR

These efforts reflect our commitment to serving those who served.

I am incredibly proud of our members who represent MOAA across our community—from Bagels & Bingo to partnerships with veteran organizations. Your dedication reflects the very best of MOAA. Please continue to bring forward ideas so we can expand our impact and remain actively engaged. Together, we carry forward the message: Never Stop Serving.

Planning continues for the October 2028 FCoC Convention, led by Drew Hoffman and Bancroft McKittrick. The Daytona Shores Resort contract is under review, with a schedule designed to balance meetings with time to enjoy The World's Most Famous Beach. We appreciate the early support from neighboring chapters.

Looking Ahead

- Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Luncheon – May 28, 2026
- Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home is requesting donations of zip-up sweatshirts and suntan lotion.

Skip Keating, representing the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), recently presented scholarships to four Army ROTC cadets at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The cadets expressed sincere gratitude for both the financial support and the recognition of their dedication and commitment to service



- Looking for volunteers to support the Veteran’s Day event on November 11, 2026 at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Daytona Beach.
- Holiday Gala – December 17, 2026 (seeking a volunteer to lead the Silent Auction)
- Continued discussions on developing a signature chapter event to enhance visibility and growth

Our May 28 luncheon will be our final gathering before the summer break. We will recognize our Outstanding Support to Veterans Award recipients and also celebrate my retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve after 20 years of service.

It would mean a great deal to share this moment with our MOAA family.

Chapter Momentum - We continue to see strong participation at our luncheons, with nearly 58 members and guests for last month’s luncheon—reflecting the strength of our programming and camaraderie.

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

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Officers Call is published by the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

Secretary's Report – April Board of Directors' Meeting

Secretary's Report – April 7, 2026 - Board of Directors' Meeting

The MOAA Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on April 7, 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, Pierre Louis, Jose Vargas*, Steve Maas*, Skip Keating*, and Arnold Leeks.*

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officer/Committees

- 1. Secretary's Report.** The minutes of the March BOD's meeting were distributed by email during the month of March 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 \$6012.14 in the checking account. Jose said the ROTC checks have been issued but not cleared through the bank yet. Skip made a motion to accept the report, Steve seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous.
- 3. Membership.** Jon reviewed the Membership Report.
 - There are 93 members, with four losses in March (Fries, Lancaster, Rivera F. and Rivera J.)
 - Waiting for confirmation of dues receipts from Robert Brewster, Robert Martin, and John McClellan who all expressed their intent to renew their memberships.
 - We still have 6 members who have not yet expressed their interest to renew their dues. They are William Davidson; Joseph Diblasi; John Howell; Daniel Molthen; John Stovall; and James Wyatt.
 - Jon will follow up with potential new member, COL Mike Profenno, USA (Ret) in April.
 - Jose made a motion to accept the Membership Report, Arnold seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous.
- 4. Officers Call Report.** The April OC was sent out by Pierre . Pierre mentioned that the BOD check on how much it will cost to hire a company to publish the OC. He said it is not very expensive and may be worth the investment. He will provide some examples for BOD review.
- 5. Surviving Spouse Update.**
 - Patti commented that she is in contact with a number of the surviving spouses and maintains regular communications with them.
 - Patti highlighted two articles 1) the March issue of the MOAA magazine "*Honoring Their Service,*" and the MOAA Newsletter "*Strengthening Emotional Well-Being.*"
 - Patti may need relief from her Surviving Spouse Liaison responsibilities for increased care giving responsibilities.
 - Jon will get MOAA National ID numbers for 4 surviving spouses.

Old Business

6. Bagels and Bingo Update. Skip stated that there were 14 veterans and 6 MOAA members volunteers at this month's meeting. A number of prizes were handed out to the veterans home attendees.

7. VCVC Update. Skip's comments;

- Two new Veterans Nursing Homes will be built in Naples and Jupiter, FL.
- The Emory Bennett Nursing Home is asking for zip-up sweatshirts and suntan lotion donations.
- Skip provided a flyer on a Veterans Dental Event on May 14, 2026 in Jacksonville, FL.
- The dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on March 29th at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Daytona Beach was a great success.
- Our Chapter is supporting the Ormond Beach Memorial Day Remembrance Service on May 25, 2026.

8. VA Coffee and Donuts Update. Arnold said the event went well and he had plenty of support from Team Red, White & Blue and the DAR.

9. FCOC Convention Update.

- The Chapter proposed to the FCOC to host the FCOC Convention in October 2028.
- Drew and Bancroft are the Chapter's leads for the convention.
- The Shores sent a final proposed contract, and it is under review by the FCOC event coordinator. The proposed schedule included more free time to enjoy the local attractions and less formal meetings.
- Arnold asked Raul Gonzalez of the West Volusia Chapter for support when we host the FCOC Convention and he agreed.

New Business

10. Outstanding Support to Veterans Award. Bancroft and Skip. The Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Luncheon is May 28, 2026. This year's non-profit winner is VVA Chapter 1048 and for-profit winner is AAA Fence, Daytona Beach.

11. 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.
- The entertainment contract with ShBoom was signed for \$450.00.
- Bancroft asked for a volunteer(s) to be in charge of the silent auction.

From The Floor

1. Arnold said the Local Museum of Arts and Sciences is undergoing renovation and is donating display cases to the Veteran's Museum in Daytona Beach.
2. Skip attended the Army ROTC Military Ball this past weekend.

3. Skip asked if the Chapter is going to participate in this year's 4th of July celebration in Daytona Beach. He is asking because there is not much information out yet. The consensus of the BOD is that the Chapter will participate this year.
4. Drew is going to ask the Sea Cadets to post the colors for the ROTC dinner this month.
5. There was a group discussion about growing the Chapter especially with the younger generation of officers. Although the Chapter supports a number of community events, we do not have our own "signature event." Pierre volunteered to propose a "top 3" reasons to join the Chapter. As part of this discussion, Drew recommended the Chapter participate in the Veterans Stand Down in Deltona next year. This discussion will be continued at the next BOD Meeting.
6. Skip said that the Veterans Day Ceremony he organized is a Chapter event. The ceremony is on November 11th at the Veterans Memorial Plaza, Daytona Beach. He is asking for Chapter volunteers to support this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Our next BOD Meeting is on May 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Bancroft McKittrick, Col, USMC (Ret)
Secretary

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

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



Halifax Area - 2026 Chapter Planning Board (As of 5/1/2026)

BOD Date	<i>Luncheon Date</i>	<i>Speaker and/or Event</i>	<i>Supporting Elements/P.O.C.s</i>
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 & retirement ceremony 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

Halifax Area 2026 Action Plan

Halifax Area Chapter – 2027 Action Plan

As of 5/1/2026

	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	TBD speaker OCT-MAY 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 2027	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 2027.....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

“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 Area Chapter Members,

April was a landmark month for MOAA advocacy. On April 15, 2026 — Tax Day — more than 160 MOAA volunteers from across the nation converged on Capitol Hill for [Advocacy in Action 2026](#), MOAA's signature spring legislative campaign. In record-breaking Washington heat, they visited approximately 300 congressional offices, held more than 50 direct meetings with lawmakers, and delivered a clear message: service-earned benefits are not a budget line item to be bargained away.

That one day on the Hill was backed by a record-setting digital ground campaign. Nearly 25,000 constituent messages — the most ever sent during a single MOAA advocacy push — flooded congressional inboxes from all 50 states before and after the event. When our in-person advocates sat down with lawmakers, they were reinforcing a chorus those offices had already been hearing from members back home.

MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.) put it directly: "This is an energy-adding event... Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. We've made great strides on these issues — but our work is far from over."

Florida's MOAA delegation was among those on the Hill April 15, meeting face-to-face with members of Congress on behalf of all of us. Their voices were strongest because thousands of chapter members across the state had already sent email messages backing the four priority bills. Our own chapter's April call-to-action said it plainly: "If you care, you share." That ethos drives everything we do. Now it is time to report back on what AIA accomplished — and what still needs to be done.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2026 — BY THE NUMBERS

160 MOAA volunteers on Capitol Hill, April 15, 2026

300+ in-person congressional office visits across both chambers

50+ direct meetings with lawmakers

~25,000 constituent messages sent — the most **EVER** in a single MOAA campaign

[Full AIA 2026 Recap](#) | [MOAA's Mission Continues](#)

Four bipartisan pieces of legislation formed the core of this year's AIA campaign. Here is an updated status report on each bill — and what you can do **right now** to keep the momentum going.

① THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT — Ending the 'Wounded Veteran Tax'

What it does: Approximately 52,000 combat-injured, medically retired veterans with fewer than 20 years of service are currently forced to give back a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation they receive. The Major Richard Star Act would end this unjust "concurrent receipt" offset. These warriors earned both forms of compensation — they should not have to fund their own disability benefits by forfeiting their retirement pay.

Progress since AIA: The 119th Congress saw the bill reintroduced with broad bipartisan support, and AIA advocacy directly produced new cosponsors in both chambers. The Congressional Budget Office recently scored the bill — a required procedural step before any floor vote. MOAA has addressed those figures head-on: the cost of doing right by combat-injured veterans is a debt this country owes. The wide majority of members in both

chambers have previously cosponsored this legislation, but procedural obstacles have blocked a floor vote. The FY2027 NDAA mark-up, targeting **early June**, is the best near-term path to passage.

What it means for Halifax Area: Volusia and Flagler counties are home to a large veteran community — many of them combat-injured retirees who deserve every dollar they earned. Every cosponsor added from Florida's congressional delegation strengthens the case for a floor vote.

② THE SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS ACT — Protecting Pay for All Who Serve

What it does: When Congress fails to pass a budget on time — something it has not done since 1997 — servicemembers are among the hardest hit. The Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168) would allow the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any federal funding lapse, and would protect National Guard and Reserve members compensated for both active service and inactive duty training. MOAA also continues to push for an amendment covering U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA Commissioned Corps members.

Progress since AIA: A partial government shutdown earlier in 2026 again left Coast Guard pay uncertain — exactly the scenario this bill is designed to prevent. AIA advocates reported this bill resonated powerfully with congressional staffers across both parties, because financial instability directly undermines the readiness and retention of the all-volunteer force. With the FY2027 budget deadline of **September 30** fast approaching and no on-time budget in nearly three decades, the urgency could not be higher. MOAA is tracking appropriations and pressing for both timely funding and permanent pay protections.

What it means for Halifax Area: The Daytona Beach area is home to thousands of active, Guard, Reserve, and retired servicemembers and their families. A paycheck that may not arrive is not a policy debate — it is a mortgage payment, a car payment, a family's stability. The Shutdown Fairness Act makes that uncertainty a thing of the past.

③ THE GUARD VA BENEFITS ACT — Stopping 'Claim Sharks'

What it does: Dozens of unaccredited, for-profit companies have stepped into the VA claims process — charging veterans **tens of thousands of dollars** for help they can receive for free from accredited VSOs and VA-approved representatives. The GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732) would restore the criminal penalties that were inadvertently removed by a 2006 federal law change, protecting veterans and survivors from these predatory "claim sharks."

Progress since AIA: AIA was especially action-packed on this issue. On the very same day our advocates were on the Hill, the Kansas Governor vetoed state legislation that would have legitimized unaccredited claims agents in that state, calling it a "poison pill provision" designed to allow for-profit entities to prey on veterans. A Louisiana law enabling claim sharks was struck down as unconstitutional by a federal court in February. States like California, Maine, New Jersey, and New York have passed protective consumer laws — but millions of veterans remain unprotected. MOAA's position is firm: this is a federal issue requiring a federal fix, and the GUARD VA Benefits Act is that fix. Forty-four state attorneys general have already backed the legislation.

What it means for Halifax Area: Veterans transitioning out of service and those newly navigating the VA system at the William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans' Outpatient Clinic in Daytona Beach are precisely the targets these predatory firms pursue. Know the warning signs and share them with every veteran in your network.

④ THE MILITARY CARE ACT — Access to the Care You've Earned

What it does: The Military CARE Act would require a standardized digital platform so beneficiaries can submit and track access-to-care complaints at military treatment facilities, ensure those complaints reach proper patient advocates, and give the Defense Health Agency systemwide data to address problems with accountability and oversight.

Progress since AIA: Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA) — a Navy helicopter veteran and original cosponsor of the Military CARE Act — was the featured speaker at the AIA closing dinner on April 15. She told MOAA members directly: **"I appreciate you in helping me in my mission to take care of our military members and our veterans. I can't do my job without you doing the work you do."** With the FY2027 NDAA mark-up targeting early June, the Military CARE Act is positioned for inclusion in what MOAA considers the most practical legislative vehicle available this year.

What it means for Halifax Area: Our chapter members, their families, and the veterans we serve through Bagels & Bingo at Emory Bennett and Coffee & Donuts at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic depend on access to quality care. Access delays are not abstract policy — they are the appointments missed and the referrals that take too long for people we know personally. This bill creates real accountability.

YOUR MISSION — SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

It tak Visit MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) and send a personalized message on each of the four priority bills.

- Call or text THREE fellow Halifax Chapter members and ask if they've taken action
- Invite a lapsed member back — bring them to our next luncheon at the Halifax River Yacht Club
- Share this article with veterans in your family, neighborhood, and community
- Ask yourself: "Did I personally call three MOAA members?" That is the standard.

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. Content has been compiled using Claude Ai and reviewed/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

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

Memorial Day
A Time of Remembrance



Memorial Day honors those who served our country but whom we never could thank with a handshake, applause, or a ticker-tape parade – because we never had the chance. We honor those who fought & gave their lives for America & our Allies. In most cases, they never knew the outcome of their ultimate sacrifice – whether it was on a beach in Normandy, a Middle Eastern desert, a jungle in Asia, or a field in Gettysburg PA. The US has lost over 1.3 million service members in battle & non-combat deaths since 1775. Since 1980, less than 10% of military deaths have come from hostile action.

The long-term impacts of military deaths on Veteran families include emotional and practical challenges; such as grief, changes in family dynamics, and increased risk of mental health issues among surviving family members. These losses, along with significant adjustments in roles & relationships within the family unit, lead to feelings of isolation & depression. If you know a family who has lost someone while serving their country, Memorial Day is an excellent time to reach out and offer a friendly hello, a reminder that we are aware of their sacrifice & we won't forget, or some other form of support. We should take the time to speak their names, to share stories about them, and to remember that grieving is about reconnecting, not about saying goodbye. Memorial Day is an opportunity to grieve all those we have lost as a Nation, together.

Every **Memorial Day at 3:00 PM** local time, Americans are encouraged to pause for one minute. This is known as the **National Moment of Remembrance**. It's a simple yet meaningful act that shows respect & gratitude. Whether at home, at the beach, or with friends, take the time to pause & reflect. Americans are encouraged to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance & hope. A reminder: The U.S. flag should be **flown at half-staff** from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day. This honors those lost while in service & signals that the Nation continues to stand strong.

Memorial Day honors the fallen, Veterans Day celebrates those who served and are still living, and Armed Forces Day honors those currently serving. Take the time to learn the difference - it's a sign of respect.



***** **Gone but not Forgotten** *****

Thomas Wegleitner, LTC US Army, Retired

Thomas C. Wegleitner of Ormond Beach, Florida passed away peacefully on 8 March 2025. Born in Minneapolis, MN, Thomas is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Marialma. Thomas was an officer in the United States Army & retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 24 years of service. The highlight of his military career was being a math instructor at the United States Military Academy of West Point, NY. He enjoyed his retirement by reading books, watching old movies, and simply enjoying time with his wife.

VETERANS SUPPORT AWARD

Veterans Support Award Winner

Please join us for our annual Outstanding Support to Veterans Award! The award is presented to a local area company making the most significant contribution to veterans and their families. In the past, our chapter has given one award. This year we will be presenting two awards. One award is presented to a for-profit company and one award to a nonprofit. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the following criteria:

- Such contributions will be in providing services that directly result in improving the health, morale, and welfare of individual service members and their families.
- Such contribution may be in providing US military forces with new and/or improved systems that significantly improve US military capability.

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

<p>Date: MAY 28, 2026</p> <p>Location: Halifax River Yacht Club 331 S Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL</p> <p>Please indicate choice(s) and number of the following entrees. Reservations are due by May 22, 2026.</p> <p>Name _____</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>FOLLOW LINK FOR ONLINE RESERVATION</p> <p>or</p> <p>Make checks payable to HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA P.O. BOX 2093 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-2093</p> <p>EMAIL: jlvargascdfm@aol.com Or call (360) 813-4444</p>
Choice 1: Chicken Tuscan Bowl - Grilled Chicken, sundried tomatoes, wilted spinach and shiitake mushrooms. Tossed in a creamy parmesan sauce served over Penne Pasta	# _____
Choice 2: Vegan Cauliflower Steak – Thick-cut cauliflower steak roasted until golden and tender, served over creamy roasted hummus and finished with herbs and olive oil. Served with the vegetable of the day and topped with feta cheese.	# _____
Choice 3: Mandarin Salmon Salad – Grilled salmon served over crisp mixed greens with sweet mandarin oranges, toasted almonds, and a light citrus vinaigrette.	# _____
****Note Change>>>Total Food:\$30	\$ _____
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.





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>

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

John & Patti Higgins	Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick	Kim Ramos	Ed Kufeldt
Robert Martin	John Ives	Jose & Tami Vargas	

Vet Outreach

John & Patti Higgins		

Membership

John & Patti Higgins		

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

May 2026	No Speaker – Veteran's Support Award & Retirement for CDR Anita Williams
June-August 2026	Summer break 2027 schedule - TBD

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



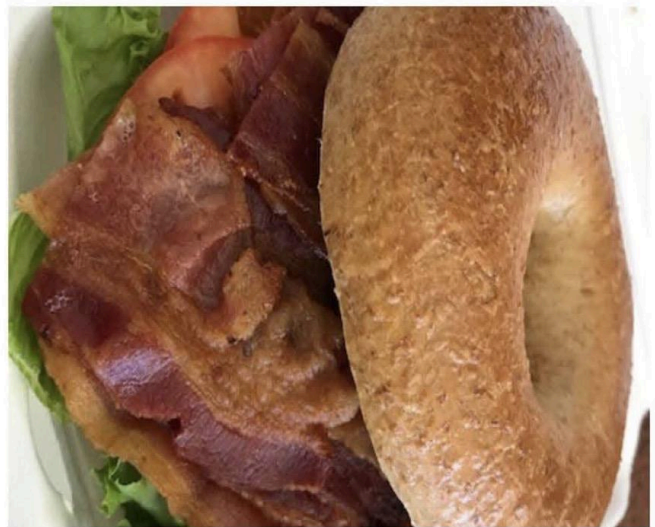
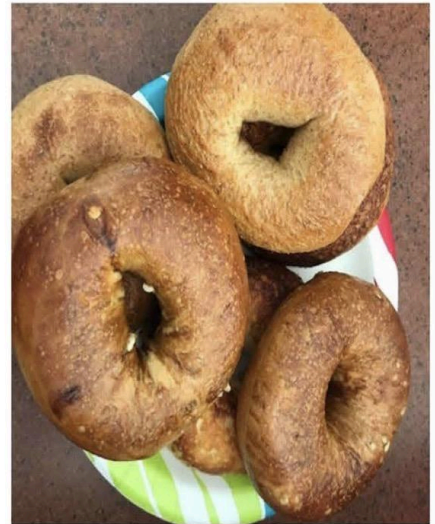
386-269-5554

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



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<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





Date: May 1, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Bancroft McKittrick
RBancroftMc@gmail.com

(603) 548-6558

Skip Keating
skipkeating@aol.com

(386) 882-7865

The Halifax Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will hold its fourth annual Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Luncheon at the Halifax River Yacht Club, Daytona Beach FL at 11:30 AM on May 28, 2026. This year's awards will be presented to the Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1048, and AAA Fence.

The **Outstanding Support to Veterans Award** is presented annually to the local area company or organization making the most significant contribution to Veterans and their families.

- Such contribution may be in providing services that directly result in improving the health, morale, and welfare of individual service members and their families.
- Such contribution may be in providing US military forces with new and/or improved systems that significantly improve US military capability.

The Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1048 is located in Port Orange and serves greater Volusia County:

- The Chapter has raised funds, over \$5,000, and continue to support the Missing in America Project (MIAP) to support the mission for deceased veterans, or their spouses, to receive an honorable internment in national military cemeteries in Florida.
- The Chapter provides annual contributions of \$1,000 to the volunteer staff at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery who support the families of veterans who are being laid to rest at this national cemetery.
- VVA Chapter members have contributed over 21,3057 voluntary hours collectively participating in the various programs and activities we put together to support veterans. As a result, we have received several Presidential Veterans Service Awards (PSVA). This year the PVSA Awards Program awarded our Chapter members, both VVA and AVVA, for their outstanding volunteer work for 2025.
- Initiated the Paper Safe Program that assists veterans, widows and family members on programs available through the VA and other veteran assistance programs.

- The Chapter 1048 Honor Guard participated in over twenty-seven (27) community events such as funerals, holiday festivities, dedications, luncheons, memorial ceremonies, parades and other activities. They practice and prepare for these events continuously.
- VVA Chapter members helped organize and participated in many of the fund-raising events the Chapter organized and successfully completed such as the 2025 - Fifth [5th] Annual Golf Tournament.
- VVA Chapter members continue to participate in the maintenance and care of the **Oak Ridge Cemetery** to honor the many veterans buried there. The Chapter replaced the flags, both the American and POW/MIA Flag during a clean-up detail with the help of the Daytona Beach – Mainland High School JROTC Class (2 -Instructors and 31 Cadets) just prior to the Wreaths Across America Program on December 13, 2025.
- VVA Chapter members organized the annual Wreaths Across America program for our fallen veterans by placing wreaths by the tombstones of military members.
- VVA Chapter members annually support Army and Air Force ROTC, JROTC, Civil Air Patrol and Sea Cadets Awards Programs.
- VVA Chapter members donated \$2,000.00 to Veterans Museum and Education Center to aid in their effort to restore the structure.
- VVA Chapter members developed a speakers program for high school JROTC cadets providing an insight on how the military, the Vietnam War, and the years following discharge from the military and returning back to civilian life.
- VVA Chapter members continue to support monthly food drives to Grace Episcopal Ministry Church, Barracks of Hope and St. Vincent Food Bank in Flagler County benefiting veterans and their families. In 2025 Chapter members collected over 1,800+ pounds of food for distribution.
- VVA Chapter personnel continue to visit the Emory L. Bennett Nursing Home for military members, providing them with snacks, clothing, and other personal care items and spending time with them.
- VVA Chapter members supported the initiative of member Bob Adkins to place a Vietnam Veterans monument at the Volusia County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Daytona Beach, with an overall donation of \$4,000.00 from the VVA Chapter members towards this project. The Vietnam Veterans monument was dedicated on **March 27, 2026**.

AAA Fence is located in Daytona Beach and serves greater Volusia County:

- AAA Fence is a veteran owned and operated company, deeply committed to honoring and supporting those men and women who have served our country.
- AAA Fence seeks to hire veterans who bring a strong work ethic, job skills and dependability to the workplace. Also, to allow these veterans to develop their professional skills on the job and be eligible for promotion and opportunities for career advancement.
- Community Service Events:

- AAA Fence donates bike racks and crowd barricades to support veteran related events and community gatherings.
 - For the Veterans Day Ceremony at Daytona Beach AAA Fence supplies the chairs for the ceremony.
 - Supports and sponsors Youth Scholarship Programs.
 - Provides Provision Packs annually for the school children of Volusia County.
- AAA Fence recognizes their veteran employees on veteran related holidays and as part of a program that emphasizes employee leadership skills, company values and dedication to duty.

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.*



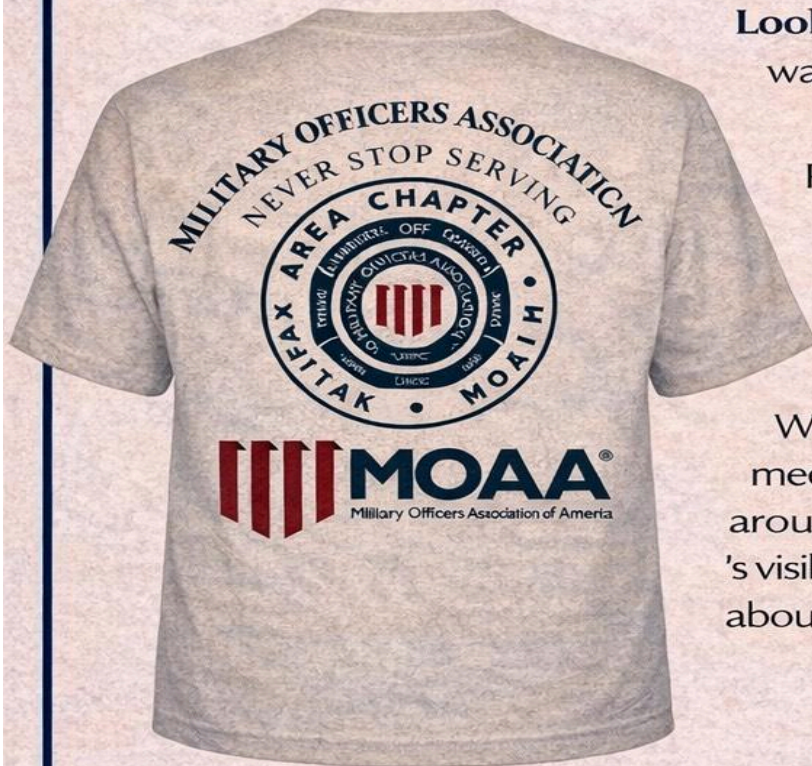
Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator - The transition liaison's responsibilities are:

- 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.

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.**

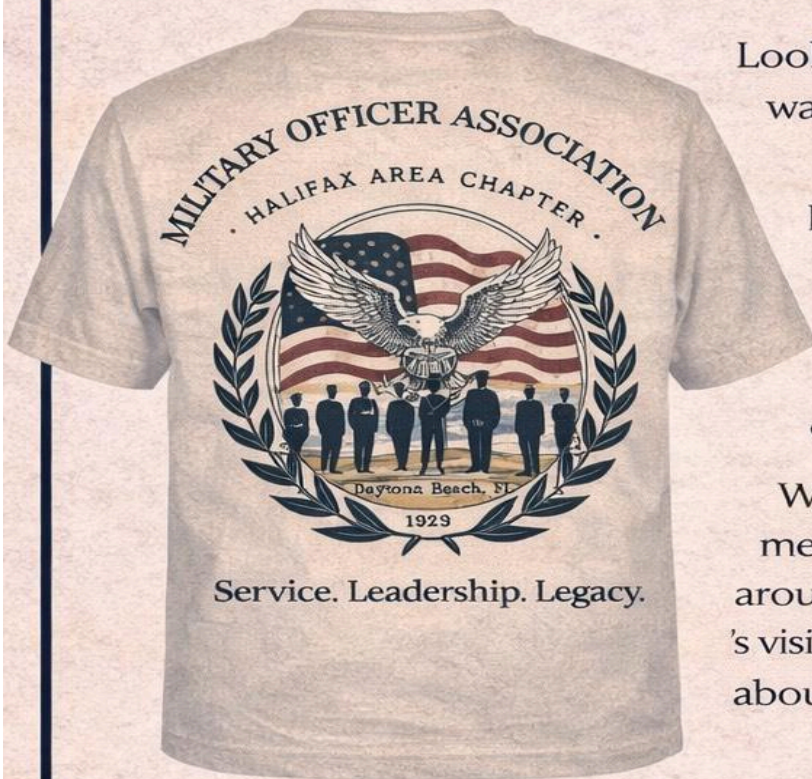
Never Stop Serving.

Halifax Area Chapter, We've Got You Covered.

Show Your Chapter Pride and Support Our Mission!

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\$30



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Future Leaders:

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Veteran Care:

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



Community & Fellowship:



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

Never Stop Serving.

Halifax Area Chapter, We've Got You Covered.

[NEW INFORMATION TO ADD](#)

Council & Chapter Leaders:

On behalf of MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian "BK" Kelly, I am thrilled to announce the 2025 MOAA Levels of Excellence and Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Award winners. This year, our judges considered 158 LOE award and 259 Communications award nominations, with a record number of new submissions. This was a highly competitive process reflective of the extraordinary level of grass roots engagement and dedication of our affiliates across the country and virtually.

We will take advantage of the opportunity with gathered council and independent chapter leaders in Washington, DC for Advocacy in Action week to host an awards ceremony on Thursday, April 16 as part of our Council President/Independent Chapter President Meeting agenda. Leaders will have the opportunity to receive all awards on behalf of their council or have awards mailed to chapters. We will coordinate separately with those council and independent leaders not in attendance. Please consider that presentation options include opportunities during national visits or state-wide meetings and conventions.

Special thanks to Affiliated Councils and Chapters Committee Chair, Lelia Jackson and all committee members who served as LOE judges, MOAA Communications professionals Blair Drake and Kevin Lilly for their review of communication awards, and Dena Kilgore for her exceptional coordination of all affiliates annual awards.

Congratulations to all for a great annual recognition year for both award categories. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out specific feedback from judges to all award applicants. We ask that the recipients of this feedback please share this information with your fellow leaders involved in these efforts and consider how the feedback can bolster future efforts.

Please use these links to see a full listing of awardees:

[2025 Levels of Excellence Awardees](#)

[2025 Harris Communication Awardees](#)

Coffee & Donuts at the Daytona VA Clinic

Members of the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA hosted a Coffee & Donuts outreach at the Daytona VA Clinic greeting veterans with fresh coffee, donuts, and friendly conversation as they arrive for appointments. This small gesture is one way our chapter shows appreciation for those who donated served while continuing our commitment to support the veteran community

Never Stop Serving!



MOAA Scholarship Dinner 2026

The 2026 MOAA Scholarship Dinner was a memorable evening dedicated to honoring academic excellence and supporting the next generation of leaders. Members of the Military Officers Association of America gathered alongside community partners, families, and distinguished guests to recognize outstanding ROTC cadets and students who exemplify commitment, character, and service.

Throughout the evening, scholarship recipients were celebrated for their hard work and dedication. The event highlighted MOAA's continued commitment to investing in future military officers and community leaders.

The dinner also provided an opportunity for fellowship among members and supporters, reinforcing the organization's mission of service and advocacy. It was a proud and inspiring night, reflecting the enduring spirit of "Never Stop Serving."



AIR FORCE ROTC

On April 24, 52 dedicated cadets came together to complete the final paperwork marking a major milestone in their journey—earning their commissions as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force. The atmosphere reflected both pride and anticipation as these future officers prepared to take the next step in their military careers.

During a break in the proceedings, Kim Ramos, with the Halifax Area MOAA Chapter, engaged with the cadets, presenting them with their new rank and formally welcoming them into the organization. Kim took time to explain the many benefits MOAA offers, including advocacy, professional development, and a lifelong network of support for military officers—past and present.

Each cadet was enrolled in a basic MOAA membership, ensuring they begin their careers connected to a strong community committed to “Never Stop Serving.” The gesture was met with appreciation and enthusiasm, highlighting the important role organizations like MOAA play in supporting the next generation of military leaders.



ARMY ROTC

Skip Keating attended the Emory Riddle Army ROTC Awards Ceremony, where he presented awards to four outstanding cadets. Each of these young men exemplifies the values of leadership, dedication, and service to our nation. It was truly inspiring to recognize their hard work and commitment as they prepare to serve as future Army officers.

