



Military Officers Association of America
Northeast Florida Chapter
Monthly Membership Newsletter

“The NOR'EASTER”
January 2022 edition



P.O. Box 442022,
Jacksonville, FL 32222-2022

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<http://moaafi.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/>

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<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

This publication is intended for the benefit of our membership and to provide a form of communications to the members by the Officers and Board of Directors of the chapter.

The “Nor'easter” a newsletter of MOAA Northeast Florida Chapter (FL-18); published by the Northeast Florida Chapter, 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 also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

If you would like to join our chapter or renew your current membership go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/> by doing so you will be able to pay online using your credit/debit card. Annual membership is ONLY \$25.00 or \$12.50 if you are a surviving spouse. If you have any questions please contact our chapter Secretary/Membership Chair, David Mosley by email at dlynnmosley@gmail.com.



The President's Corner

COL William F. Roberts “Frosty”, USA (Ret)

When you receive this newsletter, the new year will be upon us. Happy New Year to all of you.

It should be apparent that I like to talk. I find no great satisfaction in writing. This is my last lead into the monthly newsletter. Thanks to your elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen who have provided me advice and wisdom. Having spent my time in MOAA in the back tables I had no experience except in attending luncheons. I was certainly eager but had no knowledge. The board members and chapter members have made my time very rewarding.

As I begin my time as your Immediate Past President, I get to continue to “sound off” on finding members to volunteer their time as committee personnel. What a gift you can give the Chapter by volunteering to serve as a member of a committee. One volunteer per committee will increase the size of each committee by one hundred percent. Looking for those who want to keep serving. Step up. We need you.

At our January 2022 luncheon meeting we will conduct the installation of the 2022 thru 2023 newly elected officers. Please plan on attending this meeting.

There is always an individual without whom, the leader, the President, cannot be successful without. I have truly had that individual to assist me in all matters. Without David Mosley, I would still be trying to get out of the starting gate. With him, I am the Immediate Past President of a two-time 5 STAR Chapter.

Thanks to David for the Chapter success for the past two years.

Welcome, Marc Manor. The chair is warm. Take up the gavel. You will enjoy your time as President.



MOAA President's Message: Wishing You the Best This Holiday

By: Dana Atkins



Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), and wife Laura pose at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 2. (Mike Morones/MOAA)

While this holiday season may not mark a full “return to normal,” it comes as we welcome more long-awaited moves in that direction among our membership and across our nation.

First, most of our Councils and Chapters are returning to in-person meetings. On the local level, these meetings serve to engage participants in their advocacy, philanthropy, and recruitment efforts – work that remains critical to the success of MOAA on a national scale. We’ve also seen the return to in-person leadership gatherings, such as the recent workshop in San Diego and upcoming events in Florida and [other locations in 2022](#).

Much of MOAA’s national advocacy has returned to in-person efforts as well, including my recent meeting with VA Secretary Denis McDonough (our [keynote speaker](#) at our in-person [annual meeting](#)). While our members and staff showed a willingness to engage virtually over these past months – work that showed results in major legislation – we look forward to again showing our strength in the halls of Congress in the coming year.

[SUPPORT MOAA CHARITIES THIS SEASON: [Donate Today](#) | [AmazonSmile](#)]

These returns come with a reminder of the continued resiliency MOAA and its membership brings forward in 2022 in the face of continued threats to the benefits you’ve earned through service. It’s a common trait of those who’ve worn the uniform, and one that may become more valuable as this fight continues.

As always this time of year, please remember those deployed during this festive time. Here’s hoping for their continued safety, and for their families to receive the support they need as they too look forward to a happy return.

From all of us at the Military Officers Association of America, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

From Your Secretary

LT David Mosley, USN (Ret)

Let me start out by saying HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you and your families. At the January meeting we will have our new slate of chapter officers installed and all chapter officers will renew and affirm their oath of office. At the February meeting we will have an official visit from MOAA headquarters, where we will welcome CAPT Erin Stone, Senior Director Council & Chapter Affairs. In addition we will hold our annual "Two Bell" ceremony to honor and remember the chapter members and spouses we lost over the past year as part of the February luncheon program.

I am very pleased with the response so far to our request for chapter members to step up and assist with the running of our chapter. A great big "Bravo Zulu" goes out to Jim Lorenz (Chapter 1st VP & Membership Chair), Patty Bransford (Special Assistant Chapter 2nd VP), Vicki McCuistion (Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison), David McCuistion (Chapter Chaplain). And for all of those who continue to serve our chapter in the various positions they have held over the past years we extend our thanks and appreciation as well.

Our chapter had a successful year recruiting new members and during a time when many organizations have decreased in membership, we have seen an overall increase in membership. Please join me in welcoming aboard the new members listed below and be sure to reach out to them with a big warm welcome the next time you see them:



LCDR Ryan Sidlofsky, USNR
Mrs. Ginger Rouse
CDR William "Bill" Runyon, USN (Ret)

P.S. Don't forget 2022 membership dues became due on January 1st.

From Your Chapter 2nd Vice President

CDR Paul Werring, USN (Ret)

MEETING UPDATES: We had a great December Meeting / Holiday Event at the Hilltop Restaurant the evening of 15 December. There were 38 people in attendance and everyone had lots of fun with a Dirty Santa gift exchange, door prizes, and Christmas music being played. I want to thank Fran Elliott for once again coordinating the arrangements with the Hilltop. I also want to thank Linda Moseley and Susan Kirkpatrick for setting up and running the activities for the evening. These three ladies made it a very special evening.

For our January Meeting / Luncheon, to be held on the 19th, we will be going back to the Holiday Inn and Suites located at 620 Wells Rd in Orange Park. This meeting will be held in the restaurant vice our normal meeting room due to a conflict. However, I have been assured we will have the same level of service as we always have. Once again, they will be selling beer and wine to those interested in purchasing those items in the restaurant (the bar itself will not be open).

Please see the luncheon details on the next page. Also please note that the chapter has begun using the "Square" card reader system and we are now able to accept credit cards for payment. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

If you have any other thoughts or concerns you can e-mail them to me at pgwerring@gmail.com. Thanks again for your support.

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING & LUNCHEON



Please make plans to join us for our January Chapter Meeting & Luncheon at the Holiday Inn located at 620 Wells Rd, Orange Park, Florida on January 19, 2022.

Social hour will be from 1100 to 1130, and lunch will be served at 1130 sharp. Dress is appropriate casual.

The luncheon meal will be a “Build Your Own” Lunch Buffet consisting of:

Herb Roasted Chicken

Maple Glazed Ham

Grilled Vegetable Medley

Rice Pilaf

Garden Salad and Fresh Baked Rolls w/Butter

Iced Tea & Coffee

Cost is \$15 per person.

You can make your reservations online via our website at <https://moaafl.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/Calendar.aspx>. You must have a reservation to eat. It is important to have an accurate head count for the caterer so they can properly set up the facility and have enough meals prepared. Therefore it is requested that your reservations are made as soon as possible. So do not delay, make your reservations today! The actual deadline/cutoff date for making reservations is midnight on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Reservations may also be made by calling CDR Paul Werring at (571) 274-6570 or by email at pgwering@gmail.com.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations are binding financially unless they are cancelled no later than the Cutoff Date for making reservations unless there is a last-minute hardship that is accepted by the Board of Directors.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM



Our program for January will include the installation of chapter officers.

COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret), will serve as the installing officer. Colonel Coles recently joined the Northeast Florida Chapter and formerly served as MOAA's Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs.

The luncheon program will also include a presentation by CWO4 David McCuistion on the purpose and mission of the local chapter of “The Military Order of the World Wars”.



From Your Transition Liaison

CDR Dave Kennett, USN (Ret)

Greetings, Everyone! I hope that you and your Families have had a very wonderful, festive, and meaningful Christmas, Hanukkah, and Holidays Season! This month, I am sharing information/guidance on the MOAA Career Transition Services Webinar next Thursday, changes with TRICARE Network Pharmacies in 2022, VA Service-Connected Disability Rates for 2022, Charitable Contributions Changes for the 2021 Tax Year, and Travel Deals and Discounts through American Forces Travel (for the second month running). Please share with others who may benefit from this information and these resources.

MOAA Webinar on Career Transition Services – MOAA is conducting a comprehensive webinar on Career Transition and related support services on Thursday, January 6th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm ET. Capt. Pat Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's program director for engagement and career transition services, will be highlighting tips and tools of the trade for your next career move. The careers/employment market in Jacksonville and many other cities throughout the country is strong, and employers are seeking the myriad of skills that service members, veterans, survivors, and military spouses bring to the workplace. Whether you are transitioning from the military or transitioning from career to career, this targeted webinar is very worth of participating in. For additional details including registration information, please select the following link: [MOAA - Career Transition 2022: Tips to Kick Off the New Year.](#)

TRICARE Network Pharmacies in the New Year – There have been some major changes in the TRICARE Pharmacy network which may leave many beneficiaries looking for a new pharmacy. Additionally, those who are looking to get started with the search for a TRICARE network pharmacy may have questions about their online resources.

Regardless of the reason you are considering a change, your first stop should be the Express Scripts pharmacy locator, available [at this link](#). By entering your ZIP code or your city, you will find names, phone numbers, and addresses of network pharmacies near you. You will also find a link to information on [how to transfer your prescriptions](#) should you find a new pharmacy. Please check out the full article/resources at the following link: [MOAA - Need a New TRICARE Network Pharmacy in the New Year? Here's What to Do](#)

VA Service-Connected Disability Rate Tables for 2022 – Check out the following link to review the 2022 VA Service-Connected Disability rate tables: <https://app.getresponse.com/click.html?x=a62b&lc=SRTSCv&mc=JR&s=NzjQE5&u=SHwS&z=EwGtwoZ&>

Charitable Contributions Changes for Tax Year 2021 – Ordinarily, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions can claim their charitable contributions. But, last December, the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 extended temporary coronavirus tax changes through the end of 2021. When you file your 2021 taxes, you can deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions – or \$600 for couples — even if you take the standard deduction. Charitable giving limits for itemized deductions have also increased! Find out more at the following link: <https://app.getresponse.com/click.html?x=a62b&lc=SRTSF9&mc=JR&s=NzjQE5&u=SHwS&z=E94Llau&>

Travel Discounts and Airfare Deals for Veterans – Veterans can now get travel deals and discounts through American Forces Travel, the Department of Defense's MWR initiative offering a wide selection of discounted rates on hotels, air fare, rental cars, vacation packages, cruises and much more! Select the following link to check out all the great deals and discounts available exclusively for those who served – <http://www.americanforcestravel.com/>

My Offer of Assistance as Transition Assistance Advisor – If you or fellow Veterans, Service Members, Spouses, and Family Members need assistance with any Benefits, Entitlements, Counseling, and/or Resources, please reach out to me anytime; I am just a quick call or e-mail away and am very happy to help you and others!

I wish each of you a happy and smooth transition from the Holidays into the New Year and 2022. Take good care and all the very best always to you and yours!

V/r & Best Regards, Dave Kennett – Transition Liaison Officer / 904.790.1630 / dkennett@yahoo.com

From Your Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Kathy Spain

CONGRESS GOES HOME IN DOUR MOOD: Although Congress finally passed two major pieces of legislation before Christmas break, it failed to approve any of the twelve FY 2022 appropriations bills or to pull President Biden's Build Back Better bill across the finish line as they had planned. Lawmakers did manage to pass the annual defense bill, however, and in a party-line vote, they approved a \$2.5 trillion federal debt limit increase—which raises the debt ceiling to nearly \$31 trillion until 2023 (House vote: 221-209; Senate vote: 50-49). Back on Dec. 2, Congress also passed a second Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY 2022 that will keep the government funded through Feb. 18, 2022 (House vote: 221-212; Senate vote: 69-28). The first CR expired Dec. 3.

The Senate returns to session on Jan. 3, and the House returns on Jan. 10. There are two major national security bills which Congress must pass—the annual Defense Appropriations and the Energy and Water Appropriations bills. The next big deadline is Feb. 18, when the current CR funding the government expires.

FY 2022 NDAA PASSED AT LAST: A Christmas miracle occurred in Congress on Dec. 15—when the U.S. Senate finally passed the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2022 with large bipartisan support in a vote of 89-11. The House had previously passed the measure on December 7 by a large margin, in a vote of 363-70. The bill was sent immediately to the president for his signature.

The legislation authorizes \$768.2 billion for national defense discretionary spending—\$740 billion for DOD; \$27.8 billion for Dept. of Energy, and \$0.4 billion for Defense-Related Activities. Although this represents a 5% increase from last year and is \$25.1 billion more than the president's budget request, it merely keeps pace with inflation and is roughly equivalent to the 2021 spending level for defense.

In a departure from previous years, the Senate chose not to vote on any amendments to the defense bill. The regular Congressional process for crafting the annual NDAA involves the offering of amendments for a vote in each chamber before the bill proceeds to a joint conference committee for reconciliation. This year, however, the Senate ran out of time, and they elected to forego the Senate amendment vote and accept the House-negotiated version of the legislation. Consequently, much of the negotiations on the NDAA occurred behind closed doors and limited the lobbying Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) could do.

According to the introduction of the official FINAL TEXT SUMMARY OF THE NDAA FOR FY 2022, "The FY22 NDAA promotes resilience, innovation and the right tools for U.S. success in strategic competition, and provides vital quality of life improvements for the backbone of America's fighting force...The FY22 NDAA builds on previous attempts to close the pay gap by authorizing support for a 2.7 percent pay increase for our service men and women in uniform, makes historic and sweeping changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice to combat sexual assault in the military, authorizes record funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, contains measures to ensure our military is diverse and inclusive, and makes key investments to address the threat of climate change and bolster energy resiliency across the Department of Defense, and takes full advantage of our diverse talent pool to meet the complex national security challenges of today and tomorrow."

CHINA EYES BASE ON ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA: There are reports that China is thinking of establishing a naval base at Equatorial Guinea's port city of Bata, which has a deep-water port recently upgraded by China itself. In October, Jon Finer, the principal Deputy U.S. National Security Adviser, visited the country's president, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, for the purpose of discouraging any deal with China for establishment of a military base.

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Earlier this year, in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, General Stephen Townsend, the head of U.S. Africa Command, told lawmakers that a naval base on Africa's Atlantic Coast would pose a grave and "significant threat" to U.S. national security. China already has a military base in Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa.

U.S & ISRAEL DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH IRAN: On Dec. 9, Israel's Defense Minister, Benjamin "Benny" Gantz, was in Washington for meetings with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. According to the State Department spokesman, the discussions were about "the alternatives we may be forced to pursue" if Iran does not agree to a new deal and continues advancing its nuclear program toward a nuclear weapon. At Gantz's meeting with Pentagon officials, Secretary Austin reportedly confirmed U.S. resolve to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The Pentagon said the two leaders discussed "shared concerns regarding Iran's nuclear provocations, [Iran's] support for terrorism, and [Iran's] missile program." Israel has long advocated for pre-emptive military strikes against Iran's nuclear infrastructure in order to preclude them from developing a nuclear weapon.

BOB DOLE DIES AT 98: Bob Dole was a decorated World War II veteran, Republican presidential nominee, and public servant for over 40 years. He died on Dec. 5 at the age of 98, just months after announcing his diagnosis of stage 4 lung cancer.

In 1942, Dole enlisted in the Army and later saw intense fighting in Italy, where he sustained injuries that left him with limited mobility in his right arm. Capt. Dole was the recipient of two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star. After leaving the service, Dole ran for Congress and served his home state of Kansas in the House of Representatives from 1960 until 1969, when he was elected to the Senate. He served as a Senator until 1996, resigning his seat and majority leadership position that year during an unsuccessful White House bid.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood: the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life." ----Theodore Roosevelt

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Northeast Florida Chapter, FL-18

Elected Officers/Board Members, Appointed Committee Chairs and Support Staff

“Chapter Officers/Directors”

President: CWO5 Marc Manor, USN Ret, 904-874-1030, manor.marc@gmail.com
1st Vice President: LTC Jim Lorenz, USA Ret, 703-283-1791, jim.lorenz84@gmail.com
2nd Vice President: CDR Paul Werring, USN Ret, 571-274-6570, pgwerring@gmail.com
Treasurer: COL Ken Kirkpatrick, USA Ret, 904-718-9789, kenneth.m.kirkpatrick@gmail.com
Secretary: LT David Mosley, USN Ret, 252-469-1824, dlynnmosley@gmail.com
Immediate
Past President: COL William Roberts, USA Ret, 321-987-2556, frostyroborts@msn.com
Director: CWO5 Wayne Elliott, USN Ret, 904-282-9604, elliottwf@att.net
Director: Mrs. Kathy Spain, SS, twin_oaks@comcast.net
Director: CDR Bruce Carawon, USN Ret, 904-276-9025 brcar1@comcast.net
Director: CDR David Kennett, USN Ret, 904-790-1630, ddkennett@yahoo.com

“Appointed Committee Chairs”

Legislative Affairs: Mrs. Kathy Spain, SS, twin_oaks@comcast.net
Membership: LTC Jim Lorenz, USA Ret, 703-283-1791, jim.lorenz84@gmail.com
Transition Liaison: CDR David Kennett, USN Ret, 904-790-1630, ddkennett@yahoo.com
ROTC/JROTC: CDR Bruce Carawon, USN Ret, 904-276-9025 brcar1@comcast.net
Scholarship: LCDR Paul Nix, USN Ret, 904-422-8480 paul25navy@aol.com
Personal Affairs: Mrs. Pat Sundt, SS, 904-384-6316
Public Affairs: Vacant
Surviving
Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Vicki McCuistion, 865-320-5955, vivkimcc44@outlook.com

“Chapter Support Staff”

Chaplain: CWO4 David McCuistion, USN (Ret), 423-402-1643, davidmcc44@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor: Vacant (LT David Mosley, Acting)
Webmaster: LT David Mosley, USN Ret, 252-469-1824, dlynnmosley@gmail.com
Official Greeter: Mrs. Pat Sundt, SS, 904-384-6316

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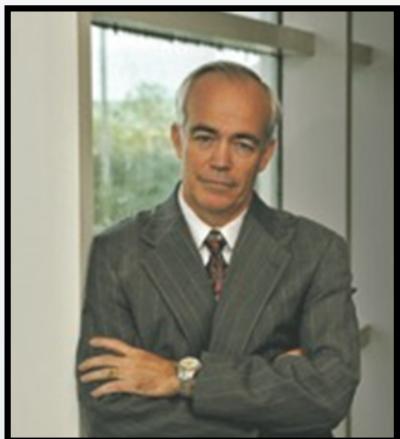
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“A Note From The Editor”

Each chapter member can help with the publication of the “Nor’Easter”, our chapter newsletter, by providing content and articles that they feel would be informative. The preferred format for your input is WORD doc for written input and jpg for pictures. I will make every effort to include your input in the next monthly newsletter if content is appropriate and timely.

The deadline for input to the January issue of the Nor’Easter is by COB Wednesday, December 29, 2021



**Thank you for reading and supporting our monthly
membership newsletter**

“The NOR’EASTER”



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Northeast Florida Chapter
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