



Military Officers Association of America
Northeast Florida Chapter
Monthly Membership Newsletter
April 2024 Edition



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

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MOAA Legislative Action Center
<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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" is 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 Membership Chair, David Mosley, by email at dlynnmosley@gmail.com.



The President's Corner

CDR Paul Werring, USN (Ret)

Congratulations to Charlotte Piner of Fleming Island High School's NJROTC and Sierra Crawford of Baker County High School's AFJROTC for winning our Chapter's CDR Donald and Mrs. Johnnie Walsh Scholarship award. Selected from a pool of highly qualified applicants, each will receive \$1,000 for their future studies and should be commended for their outstanding high school achievements. Thanks to Wayne Elliott, Moe Brown, and Bruce Carawon of the Scholarship committee for the many hours they put into evaluating the applications. As we approach the JROTC award season, Bruce will be asking for volunteers to help with presentations. This is a great opportunity to talk up our Chapter and recruit potential new members.

Among the good ideas I heard at the Leadership Training Seminar in January and in last month's virtual training workshop is having events at times other than when we regularly have our meeting / luncheons. This provides members who are not available during the day an opportunity to attend and be more active. I am proposing to the board that we have an evening event sometime in May. We need to decide the day of the week, time, and location. If you have any suggestions, I would love to hear them.

You should have received a 'Notice of Proposed Revision of Chapter Bylaws', an 'Executive Summary of The Proposed Revision', and a copy of our 'Bylaws'. We also sent out a revised version to correct an omission in the original version discovered by one of our members. We will be asking our membership to approve these changes at our 17 April meeting, so please review them prior to the meeting. I want to thank David Mosley for the work he has put into getting this sorely needed revision completed.

I want to once again invite you to attend the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) annual Convention which will be held at the Shores Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach from Monday, 13 May, through Wednesday, 15 May. The Shores is located right on the beach, and the FCOC has reserved the entire hotel for our use. While there is no deadline to sign up (that I am aware of), the deadline to have a guaranteed room was 28 March. But I am sure there are still rooms available if you would like to attend. Also, the FCOC has arranged for members to stay longer at the event rate and enjoy the beachfront accommodations after the convention is over. Go to the FCOC website, www.FLMOAA.org, for more information.

Reminder: our Board of Directors meets in the Main Brace at the River Cove Conference Center on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (one week prior to our regular meetings). Only Board members can vote, but any member of the Chapter is welcome to attend the Board meetings and participate in the discussions.

As always, if you have thoughts or concerns on any issue, you can always e-mail them to me at pgwerring@gmail.com. Thanks again for your support.

Paul

From Your 2nd Vice President

LT David Faehnrich, USN (Ret)

MEETING UPDATES. We held our March Meeting / Luncheon on the 20th at the River Cove Conference Center on NAS JAX, where we had 28 people in attendance.

Our guest speaker at the March luncheon was CDR Tom Brennan (new member) – of the NAS Jacksonville Retired Affairs Office (RAO). Tom provided an informative and in-depth presentation on Retired Affairs as it affects our members. The slides in his presentation provided sources and links to information with helpful information on services available to Veterans and their families and survivors.

Our April Meeting/Luncheon on the 17th will also be at River Cove on NAS JAX. Social will begin at 1100 and lunch will be served at 1130. The luncheon menu will start with a Spring Salad (Romaine, Strawberries, Blueberries, Mandarin Oranges, Goat Cheese & Candied Pecans) with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing. The main course will be Smoked Ham and BBQ Baked Beans accompanied by a Sautéed Broccoli and Baby Carrot Medley, followed up with Carrot Cake for dessert.

We will begin our business meeting at approximately 1200.

Our guest speaker in April will be Candace Mabry of First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) —



First Coast Honor Flight began in February 2020, and one month after its inception, Candace joined the board as the Fundraising Director. During the early years of FCHF, she helped as Marketing/PR Director, Guardian Director, Program Director, and Volunteer Coordinator. She was elected by the Board of Directors to be President of FCHF in December of 2023.

As President, it is her mission to find senior Veterans here in Northeast Florida who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam and show them that they are truly Heroes whose service has given us the freedom we enjoy today.

Candace exemplifies servant leadership, telling people that if she has learned anything in the last 15 years of service to Veterans, it is that she can never walk in their shoes, but she can walk beside them and make their journey more positive.

Surviving Spouse Corner Wanda Bosworth

Surviving spouse members of our MOAA of NE Florida Chapter seeking information about MOAA's Surviving Spouse program can contact Wanda at wpbosw@bellsouth.net (phone 904-654-6945).

An additional resource is Virtual Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter 02 – Membership continues to grow with 285 members from 38 states. The chapter now meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. Attendance varies, but usually includes 30 at the social meetings and about 60 at a more formal meeting. MOAA National's SSAC member, Barb Smith, is president, Gail Joyce is vice president and Pat Green is in charge of membership. Vivianne Werscel is the Newsletter Editor. For more information, check out the Surviving Spouse section of <https://www.MOAA.org>.

APRIL 2024 Meeting

Wednesday, 17 APRIL 2024

Please join us for our monthly Member Meeting & Luncheon on Wednesday, 17 April 2024, at the River Cove Conference Center, directly opposite the Golf Club at on Mustin Avenue at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville.

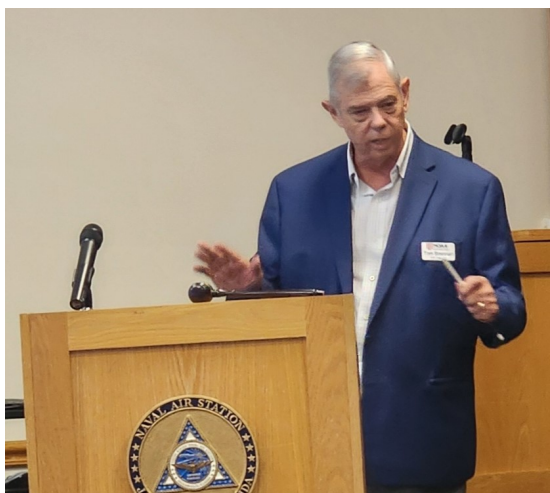
Our social hour starts at 1100 hours, and the meeting will begin at 1130 hours.

Dress is civilian business casual or duty uniform.

Our menu will feature Spring Salad (Romaine, Strawberries, Blueberries, Mandarin Oranges, Goat Cheese & Candied Pecans) with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing. The main course will be Smoked Ham and BBQ Baked Beans, accompanied by a medley of Sautéed Broccoli and Baby Carrots, with Carrot Cake for dessert.

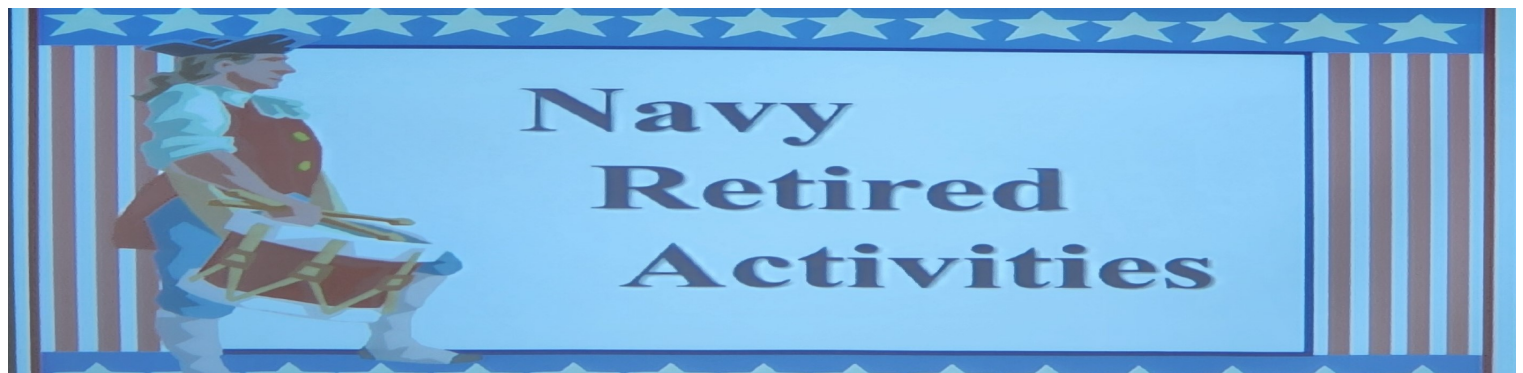
Make your luncheon reservations on line at <https://moaafi.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/Calendar.aspx>.

Please make your reservation as early as possible so we can provide the caterer an accurate headcount to properly set up the facility and have enough meals prepared. You must have a reservation to eat. The actual hard deadline/cutoff date for making reservations is midnight on Thursday, 11 April. You can also make your reservations by calling LT David Faernrich at 904-463-0482, dcfrich@gmail.com. Cost is \$25 per person, payable upon arrival by cash, check or credit card.



CDR Tom Brennan, USN, Ret., spoke at our March luncheon meeting about services available at the NAS Jacksonville Navy Retired Activities Office .

- Office Hours: Tuesday -- Friday 1000-1400
- Non-Office Hours: Telephone Message Capability **904-542-5790**
- Eight RAO Jacksonville Office Volunteers
- Client Contacts: **382** Retirees/Family Members (Jan through Dec 2023)
- RAO Jacksonville Location:
(Since 16 Jan 2024)
=====
Building 13
Yorktown Avenue
NAS Jacksonville
=====
Yellow, Two-Story building to the left BEFORE entering Yorktown gate (across from the Blue Angel plane).

A map of NAS Jacksonville showing the location of the RAO Jacksonville Office. The map highlights a yellow, two-story building to the left of the Yorktown gate, across from the Blue Angel plane. The map includes labels for Westside Regional Park, Main Gate, Birmingham Ave, Bluff Rd, and Casa Linda Lake.

From Your Secretary

LT David Mosley, USN (Ret)

“Notice of Proposed Revision of Chapter Bylaws”

March 29, 2024

All chapter members are hereby given notice of the proposed revision of the chapter bylaws. The below (updated) executive summary is provided for your reference:

See item 8 below for a description of the portion of the proposed bylaws revision updated from the version previously sent out to the membership.

“Executive Summary of The Proposed Chapter Bylaws Revision”

- 1) The changes made in this proposed Chapter Bylaws are sufficient to constitute a revision of the current bylaws.
- 2) Other than the below specific changes most other changes in this revision of the chapter bylaws are editorial/typographical in nature and do not change the intent of any articles/sections affected.
- 3) The bylaws were changed to reflect the addition of the United States Space Force (USSF) as one of the recognized uniformed services of the United States of America in each article/section where appropriate.
- 4) Wording was changed in each article/section where appropriate to address both military members and surviving spouse members as “regular members” of the chapter.
- 5) The position of “Surviving Spouse Liaison” was added to the list of elected officer positions for the chapter.
- 6) Wording was changed in each article/section where appropriate to designate all elected officer positions, with the exception of chapter President, 1st Vice President & 2nd Vice President, as positions that can be filled by a spouse of a regular chapter member if there is no regular member available to fill the elected officer position.
- 7) The normal date for the monthly chapter board of directors (BOD) meeting was changed to the second Wednesday of each month.
- 8) The duties of the surviving spouse liaison have been added to article IX and the duties of the other elected officers have been put into bullet format to make them easier to understand.

The proposed revisions and update of the chapter bylaws has been approved by the board of directors and will be presented to the general membership at the April 17 luncheon meeting for ratification of the same by the general membership.

To view the complete chapter bylaws with the proposed revisions, follow this link, [https://moaafi.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/documents/SourceDocuments/Bylaws%202024%20Draft%20\(2\).pdf](https://moaafi.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/documents/SourceDocuments/Bylaws%202024%20Draft%20(2).pdf)

Chaplain's Corner— David McCuiston, CWO , USN (Ret)



Awakening to New Openings

April – derived from the Latin name *Aprilis* meaning ‘to open’ – is the opening month of Spring. Yes, Spring is in the air; regardless of the current fluctuations in temperature here in Northeast Florida. Spring is the time of new blossoms, new green grass in our lawns, and leaves returning to our trees.

Figure 1 – The Spiritual Meaning of April's Awakening Moon <https://www.spiritualityhealth.com/spiritual-meaning-april-awakening-moon>

I'm reminded of a quote by Henri Bergman, writing in *Creative Evolution*, which says this about change in our lives, “To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.”

Spring is a time we change from winter thoughts and practices to sunshiny days and warmer temperatures, spring showers, and dreams of summer at the beach. Spring is a time to embrace new ideas, new sources of enlightenment. April is the 4th month of the year. Similarly, there are four seasons, there are four primary directions on earth, and there are four Gospels in the Bible, written by four different disciples with four different point of view. There seems to be a spiritual nature to each of these examples.

April is associated with rebirth and resurrection. In Christianity, April is (normally) Easter, memorializing the death, burial, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time of reflection on our spiritual nature, our spiritual beliefs, and our inner spiritual practices. It is a time of changing from old unsatisfactory times to new methods of personal growth. It is a time of understanding the inner spiritual human nature of discipline and guidance that makes life's journey towards happiness and fulfillment a reality.

Although Easter 2024 is the last day of March, we can use the celebration of the resurrection as inspiration for a new vision and mission statements and projects. Beginning with April may each day of each month be a spiritual awakening of the power of faith living within the spiritual nature of mankind.

Captain Patrick J. Mayhew, SC, USNR (Ret), passed away on February 23, 2024.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Pat grew up on Lakeshore Boulevard. He graduated from Bishop Kenny High School, then from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. Coming of age during the Vietnam War, he entered the Navy in 1969 served as an officer in the Naval Supply Corps until he retired from the Naval Reserve as a Captain in 1994.

Pat and Helene were married at Pat's childhood church, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, on August 1, 1987.

In civilian life Pat worked at Prudential, Ryder-PIE and CSX primarily in Internal Audit and payroll. He served on the board of the Omni Federal Credit Union and Harbor House Group Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults. He was chairman of the board when Harbor House applied for and became a member of the L'Arche worldwide community. His funeral Mass was held at St. John Paul II Catholic Church on March 14, 2024, and he was interred at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.



Please notify the Chaplain of members' illness or passing.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Patty Bransford

Military Health System Reform Oversight – A MOAA *Advocacy in Action* Success Story

If you tried to fill a prescription at the Naval Station Jacksonville Pharmacy in the last couple of years, you might have noticed that service was slower than many of us remember—even for active duty patrons. This article from the MOAA *Advocacy in Action* site testifies to the success of our organization in effecting change.

As part of the FY 2017 NDAA military health system (MHS) reform legislation, Congress directed DoD to restructure the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics to improve focus on military medical readiness. This led to a February 2020 DoD report to Congress outlining plans to downsize [dozens of military treatment facilities](#) (MTFs). It came on the heels of a separate proposal in the DoD budget request to cut 18,000 medical staff to realign resources in support of the National Defense Strategy. With hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries potentially affected by these changes, MOAA immediately pressed DoD officials for the statistics and analysis behind these moves, and asked Congress to exercise its oversight authority and ensure continued access to quality care. Media outlets [amplified MOAA's messages of concern](#).

These messages grew louder as both the military and civilian medical systems began buckling under the strain of COVID-19. MOAA [led the charge](#) to ensure continued access to quality care as MHS reforms are implemented. With the FY 2020, 2021 and 2022 NDAA laws, MOAA has achieved three consecutive halts to planned medical billet cuts along with enhanced congressional oversight to MHS reforms, including:

A DoD [report to Congress](#) on analysis, metrics, and mitigation planning related to proposed billet cuts – [Section 719, FY 2020 NDAA](#).

A DoD review of the medical manpower requirements for all national defense strategy scenarios, including with respect to the homeland defense mission and pandemic influenza – [Section 717 – FY 2021 NDAA](#).

A DoD requirement to certify to the congressional defense committees that beneficiaries impacted by MTF restructuring will have access to civilian care through the TRICARE program – [Section 718 – FY 2021 NDAA](#).

A GAO evaluation of the DoD analyses used to support any reduction or realignment of military medical manning and a compliance report that requires DoD to explain any reductions in MTF staffing – [Section 731 – FY 2022 NDAA](#).

The passage of the FY 2023 NDAA marks the [fourth consecutive MOAA “win”](#) on this issue. Provisions in this act require a series of reports and congressional notification before DoD makes any similar plans to cut personnel at its military treatment facilities (MTFs) and include:

- Congressional notification before modifying the scope of services provided at MTFs.
- Extensive reporting requirements on medical workforce requirements, including risk analysis and mitigation plans.
- A five-year halt to medical billet cuts.
- A one-year suspension on MTF restructuring.
- Reporting on the composition of medical personnel of each military department, including vacancies and a validation against military requirements.

The FY 2023 NDAA also extends the timeframe for a Government Accountability Office report mandated by the previous year's NDAA to evaluate DoD's plans to reduce military medical manning.

This issue also impacts Families, Retirees, and Survivors. It is one of many where we can have a positive impact by letting our Representatives and Senators know how important medical services are to sustaining readiness, quality of life and the perceptions that affect recruiting and retention of personnel.

Scholarship Committee News

CWO5 Wayne Elliott USN (RET)—Scholarship Committee Chair

Bruce Carawon, Committee Member

Maurice Brown, Committee Member

The MOAA NE FL Scholarship Committee met Monday, 20 March to review the Scholarship Applications. The following applicants were selected to receive a \$1,000 *MOAA NE FL (FL-18) Chapter Commander Donald and Mrs Johnnie Walsh Scholarship for 2024*. Each will receive a check for \$1,000 once the applicants submit documentation of enrollment in the school of their choice.

Thanks to all the students who submitted a Scholarship application. We had a quality field from which to choose. After tough competition, two winners were selected—

Congratulations to:

Charlotte Piner - Fleming Island High School - NJROTC

Sierra Crawford - Baker County High School - AFJROTC

We also thank the membership of the MOAA Chapter of NE Florida for their generosity and hard work in raising funds to support our scholarship program.

There is one more step in executing our scholarship program for this year. Commander Bruce Carawon will be coordinating presenters for these monetary scholarships and the leadership awards we present to deserving students at the schools in our large catchment area as part of the schools' pre-graduation awards ceremonies. If you are able to serve as a presenter, or if you simply wish to attend, please let Bruce know.

The awards ceremonies start in late April or early May, so he is taking names already.

Ever wanted to know more about flying “Space-available” on military aircraft?

Space-a travel is one of the many tangible benefits available to military ID card holders.

Sign up for a MOAA webinar on the topic and start packing your bags. Access to useful knowledge is one of the many benefits of your MOAA membership.

Use the link on page 9 to register for the 9 April webinar or view a recording of the event if you can't be on line for the live one.

Northeast Florida Chapter, FL-18
Elected Officers/Board Members, Appointed Committee Chairs and
Support Staff

Chapter Officers/Directors

President: CDR Paul Werring, USN Ret, 571-274-6570, pgwerring@gmail.com
1st Vice President: Vacant
2nd Vice President: LT David Faernrich, USN Ret, 904-463-0482, dcfrich@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: CWO5 Marc Manor, USN Ret, 904-874-1030, manor.marc@gmail.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, 904-610-6366, brcar1@comcast.net
Director: LTC Lee Grannis, USA Ret, 203-627-3715, grannis@nhcleancities.org

Appointed Committee Chairs

Legislative Affairs: Mrs. Patty Bransford, SS, kitchensage@aol.com
Membership: LT David Mosley, USN Ret, 252-469-1824, dlynnmosley@gmail.com
Transition Liaison: CDR David Kennett, USN Ret, 904-790-1630, ddkennett@yahoo.com
ROTC/JROTC: CDR Bruce Carawon, USN Ret, 904-910-6366, brcar1@comcast.net
Scholarship: Vacant
Personal Affairs: Mrs. Wanda Bosworth, SS, 904-634-6945, wpbosw@bellsouth.net
Public Affairs: Vacant
Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Wanda Bosworth, (phone 904-654-6945), wpbosw@bellsouth.net

Chapter Support Staff

Chaplain: CWO4 David McCuistion, USN (Ret), 423-402-1643, davidmcc44@outlook.com
Nor'easter Editor: COL William Bransford, USA Ret, 904-297-4928, bransfordwm52@gmail.com
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Official Greeter: Mrs. Elizabeth Meux, 904-268-5008, Elizfmeux@gmail.com

MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization, widely acclaimed as the leading voice in Congress on compensation and earned benefit concerns for all members of the military community. The phone numbers and e-mail addresses on this page are intended for the use of the members of The MOAA Chapter of NE Florida in conducting the business of the Chapter. Please safeguard it to protect the privacy and security of our members.



Announcing a MOAA WEBINAR on Advanced Space-A Travel

LEARN MORE

Expert military traveler and blogger Stephanie Montague returns with an all-new webinar on Space-A travel. This online event will cover the basics of flying Space-A, then will delve into the strategies you can use to maximize your chances of a successful adventure.



Topics include:

- Where, when, and how to sign up
- How to use the information in the online flight schedules
- The differences between Patriot Express (aka "rotator") flights and other missions
- How to stay flexible to avoid getting stuck in one location
- How to strategize using Space-A vs. flying commercial

COPY AND PASTE THIS LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER TO REGISTER NOW

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4477845/30FF4FE813D7B1552014C0E447AD6A35>

Can't make the webinar? No problem. Register now and MOAA will send you a link to the recording.

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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 May 2024 issue of the Nor'Easter is COB Sunday, 28 April 2024



Thank you for reading and supporting our monthly
membership newsletter

"The NOR'EASTER"





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