



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



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

"Chapter website"

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

"Chapter FB Page"

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NOR'EASTER Editor

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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](mailto:dlynnmosley@gmail.com).



## The President's Corner

CDR Paul Werring, USN (Ret)

I want to thank everyone for their confidence in me to lead this Chapter over the next couple of years. Being elected as your President is an honor and I hope I live up to the standard that Marc Manor established as your previous President. Hopefully together we can continue to build on the great things this organization has accomplished over the years. I want to also thank the Board of Directors who have selflessly volunteered to serve with me. At our January luncheon we had the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Area Vice President, Tony LaVecchia (CAPT USN, Ret), in attendance to officiate the Installation of Officers ceremony. At that ceremony myself, David Faehnrich (Vice President), Marc Manor (Immediate Past President), David Mosley (Secretary), Bruce Carawon (Director), Wayne Elliott (Director), Kathy Spain (Director), and Lee Grannis (Director) were all installed as members of the Board of Directors. Without their dedication and willingness to serve we would not have a functioning Chapter.

David Mosley and I attended the FCOC Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando 26-27 January and came home with the 2022 MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence award recognizing all the great work this Chapter accomplished during that year. Additionally, we were presented with FCOC Leadership Awards recognizing Marc Manor, David Mosley, Wally Bransford, and myself "For Exceptional Leadership and Meritorious Service in support of MOAA Objectives and Programs." I will be presenting the awards to these extremely talented individuals at our February luncheon. I also brought back with me a ton of information on how we can make this already great Chapter even better. I will be sharing these ideas with you over the next few months.

Finally, while we have a great group of volunteers filling both Board Member and Committee Member positions, we could use more help. Positions currently vacant are the First Vice President, Scholarship Chair, and Public Affairs Chair. Additionally, David Mosley holds down the positions of Secretary, Membership, Webmaster, and the assistant to just about everything and could really use some help. None of them take very much time so please consider stepping up and volunteering for one of these positions. Thank you in advance.

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

—Paul

*Happy Valentine's Day*

Free clip art from TOPPING.com

# From Your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**LT David Faehnrich, USN (Ret)**

MEETING UPDATES. We held our January Meeting / Luncheon on the 17th at the River Cove Conference Center on NAS JAX, where we had 26 people in attendance. The program consisted of the Introduction of the Installing Officer & Installation of Chapter Officers:

The outgoing chapter president introduced CAPT Tony LaVecchia, FCOC Northeast Florida Area Vice President, who then installed the following individuals into their respective offices:



Left to Right: Secretary-LT David Mosley, USN (Ret); Director-CDR Bruce Carawon, USN (Ret); Director- Kathy Spain, Surviving Spouse; Director-CWO5 Wayne Elliott, USN (Ret); Director-LTC Lee Grannis, USA (Ret); Immediate Past President-CWO5 Marc Manor, USN (Ret); 2nd Vice President-LT David Faehnrich, USN (Ret) and President-CDR Paul Werring, USN (Ret)

CAPT LaVecchia reported success in working with MOAA on the status of our 2022 Chapter awards, which provided CWO5 Marc Manor the chance to present COL Wally Bransford (USA, Ret) and LT David Mosley (USN, Ret) with the *COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award* for achieving MOAA's "5-Star Level of Excellence" for our MOAA of NE Florida newsletter and website, respectively.

Our February Meeting / Luncheon on the 21st will also be at River Cove on NAS JAX. Social will begin at 1100 and lunch will be served at 1130. Lunch will consist of a Menu as Follows: A Garden Salad, then Roast Beef with Gravy and Roasted Veggies, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Green Beans and Peach Cobbler for dessert.

We will begin our business meeting at approximately 1200 hours.

We will conduct a "Two Bells" ceremony to recognize chapter members who passed away in 2023.

Our guest speaker will be LCDR Joe Snowberger, USN (Ret) – one of our new members, whose first attendance was at our January luncheon.

## **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](mailto: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 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>.

# **FEBRUARY 2024 Meeting**

**Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

**Please join us for our monthly Member Meeting & Luncheon on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, at the River Cove Conference Center, directly across Mustin Avenue from the Golf Club 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.**

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

**Please make your reservation as early as possible so we can provide the caterer an accurate head-count 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, 15 February. You can also make your reservations by calling COL Wally Bransford at (757) 582-9582 or by email at [BransfordWM52@gmail.com](mailto:BransfordWM52@gmail.com).**

**Cost is \$25 per person, payable upon arrival by cash, check or credit card.**

**Our menu will consist of garden salad with ranch & Italian dressings, roast beef w/ gravy and roasted vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes, steamed green beans and peach cobbler for dessert.**

**Cancellation Policy: All reservations are binding financially unless they are cancelled by the cutoff date for making reservations or due to a last-minute hardship that is accepted by the Board of Directors.**

## **Luncheon Speaker, 22 February 2024**

**LCDR Joseph “Joe” Snowberger, USN (Ret)**



A Miami, Florida native and a former, initiated, Chief Electronics Warfare Technician, Joe Snowberger retired as a Lieutenant Commander Cryptologist and Surface Warfare Officer in 2000. His 24-year military career spanning the Cold War, included tours aboard a battleship, a carrier, destroyers, a submarine and an underground Pacific island command – and never being homeported in San Diego, Mayport or Norfolk. The Navy granted him operational time in every ocean and major sea, less Antarctica, and liberty in over 50 countries and territories.

This Shellback, Blue Nose, and Shipmate brought his talents to Jacksonville to be near family and has carved out a successful civilian career in private, public, and non-profit business, showcasing the diverse skills and capabilities military Servicemembers develop at all ranks. Joe has been a college campus director, lead Downtown Jacksonville's Business Improvement District operations, co-authored legislation and lead two start-ups and sold his own company. Joe's list of volunteer work and leadership is long and distinguished. It includes serving as chair of the Sheriff's Advisory Council, the mayor's Citizen Planning Committee, the chambers' military issues committee and a decade of effort to establish a Navy warship museum on the St John's River.

Today, he is the inaugural director of the United Way's MISSION UNITED program and is the co-founder of *Liberty Life Media* and founder of the VA's Community Veterans Engagement Board. Joe serves on numerous other Veteran and community boards focused on assisting military and Veteran families addressing the barriers to living their best lives.

# From Your Secretary

LT David Mosley, USN (Ret)

Chapter dues became due effective January 1, 2024. If you received your dues notice from me via email or postal mail and you have not paid them, please do so ASAP. Better yet if you need to pay your dues sign up and come to the February luncheon and you can pay me there.

Our chapter is in desperate need of a new chairperson for the Chapter Scholarship Fund. If you are interested, please contact your chapter president, CDR Paul Werring.

In addition to the above position your chapter is also needing someone to step-up to fill the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (a special election will be held) if we get a volunteer. And the chapter could greatly benefit from appointing a Public Affairs Chairperson. If you would like to be a superstar, raise your hand and volunteer to fill the position of public affairs chair.

If you want to help your chapter and are reluctant because the commitment may be too much, I want to assure you that I will go out of my way to ensure that you get all the support and assistance you need to make the task very manageable.

As many of you are aware our chapter is actively involved with the Veterans Council of Duval County (VCDC) and I wanted to pass on a request from the council soliciting donations of historical military memorabilia to be placed in the display cases in the lobby of the VYSTAR Veterans Memorial Arena. If you are interested in donating something you can contact Rich Possert, Chairman, Veterans Council of Duval County (904)704-0225, [rpossert@gmail.com](mailto:rpossert@gmail.com)

As your chapter webmaster I need to advise all members that the chapter and council will be transitioning from our current website to a completely new website over the next few months. This transition may prove to be a bit bumpy and some of the things you are used to doing or accessing on the chapter website may not be as easy to locate/access. Bear with us as we go through the process, and I will try to make it as smooth as possible.

Join me in welcoming our newest chapter members and make sure when you see them to give them a great big Northeast Florida Chapter welcome aboard!

**CDR Tom Brennan, USN (Ret)**  
**LCDR Joe Snowberger, USN (Ret)**  
**CDR David Geiss, USN (Ret)**



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

### The Spirit of Valentine's Day

February is “Love” month. It is the time of year of exchanging Valentine cards, candy (especially chocolate), and of course, roses. We openly and enthusiastically tell people – family, friends, loved-ones, and others “We love you.” Valentine’s Day is celebrated world-wide as the one day each year that *love* and spreading joy is paramount.

When the Disciples asked, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40).

In our society today, with all of its disrespect and lack of regard for others, incivility and ungraciousness, not to mention open use of foul and obscene language, it is easy to lose perspective on proper civility. Wouldn't it be great if everyone followed the Golden Rule and treated others as they/we want to be treated.

Santa Clara University Professor of Religious Studies Frederick J. Parrella says, “Love is our destiny. WE do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone – we find it with another.” Furthermore, he says genuine love lies in the deepest level of the person, taking us into the depth of the human heart. He further writes that love means putting our ego aside and opening our minds and hearts to toward others. Robert Greenleaf, the originator of Servant Leadership tells us that we should always put others first.

Professor Parrella tells us that the real St. Valentine of the third century was a model of courtly love, kindness, and generosity. We might find it helpful on February 14 if we exercised the Golden Rule, if we followed Jesus' second commandment to love our neighbor (and others) as we love ourself, and if we viewed everyone with St. Valentine's loving and caring nature.

Since God so loved us and his love abides within us, we also should love one another as we love ourselves.



#### ***Member Passings: Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.***

Margaret Ellen Sunkel-Wright, age 77, of Jacksonville Florida passed away peacefully on October 18, 2023.

A loving wife and mother, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Haskell Edmond Wright. She is survived by her daughter, Wendy Marie Wright and son Josh Edmond Wright.

Margaret was a former registered nurse for the United States Navy Nurse Corps Reserve rising to the rank of Lieutenant, and served during Vietnam at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam.

Margaret was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, and continued her service to her country through her many organizations including the Florida Navy Nurse Corps Association and The Daughters of the American Revolution where she was awarded the DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal.

She was a long-time member of the Jacksonville MOAA Chapter.

# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Patty Bransford

**MOAA's Active Legislative Campaigns** -- MOAA uses an active and robust program of correspondence and contact with members of Congress to support initiatives that benefit U.S. military capabilities, service members and families. The following are some of the MOAA's high priority programs where you can make a real difference by letting your Senators and Representative know what you think and why it is important. To learn more about specific issues and to contact your member(s) of Congress, click on the link after the issues that matter to you.

**Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process --** While a continuing resolution will keep the government open, the lack of a full budget means the prospect of a shutdown still looms. There are many important items in the National Defense Authorization Act that cannot be implemented until the budget is approved. This uncertainty places unnecessary stress on our men and women in uniform and their families. Ask your lawmaker to act today. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/50794/>

**Urge Your Elected Officials to Pay Servicemembers During a Government Shutdown --** Support legislation to ensure members of the uniformed services (active and reserve components) and civilian employees continue to receive pay in the event of a government shutdown. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/36503/>

**Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt --** Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans with less than 20 years of service to receive their full DoD retirement pay earned for years of service and their full VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. The House and Senate have passed the law; now it needs funding. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/>

**Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers --** MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%. Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers and we need to ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/46553/>

**Ask Your Member of Congress to Ensure the Coast Guard is Paid During a Government Shutdown --** It is critical that members of the U.S. Coast Guard receive treatment equitable to that of other members of the armed forces, specifically protecting their pay in the event of a government shutdown or a lapse in appropriations. Contact your legislators today and ask them to support the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/47984/>

**Urge Your House Member to Support Much-Needed Improvements to the Basic Needs Allowance --** Contact your representative and urge them to support legislation to ensure military families struggling with food insecurity have access to the Basic Needs Allowance. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/51059/>

**Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the READINESS Act --** Contact your lawmakers and urge them to support the READINESS Act to enhance policy protections for military spouses employed by the federal government. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/53724/>

**Tell Your Lawmakers to Support the CARE Act of 2023 --** The CARE Act of 2023 would provide a standardized process for stakeholder organizations like MOAA to assist caregivers and veterans in navigating VHA programs. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/55237/>

**Urge Congress to Expand TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees --** The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act would ensure "gray area" retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit. Under current law, gray area retirees who want TRICARE coverage must purchase TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), an expensive premium-based plan, even if they are receiving retired pay. <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/48342/>

**Focus for future editions of the Nor'easter --** New to this job, I am learning how to use the resources of the MOAA.org website to communicate with our elected officials. (I am also learning how hard Kathy Spain worked to keep us informed as our chapter's Congressional Liaison for the past twelve years.) In future editions, we'll devote space to showing how we can use the tools at our disposal to advance MOAA priorities.

—Never Stop Serving!—

## Transition Events



# ***SAVE the DATE***

**Saturday, 23 March 2024**

**(0900 – 1500)**

### What?

- ***NAS Jacksonville Annual Military Retiree Seminar***

### Where?

- ***River Cove Center – NAS JAX on Mustin Rd across from Golf Club***
- ***Also Available via Facebook Live on the NAS Jacksonville Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/NASJacksonville/events](http://www.facebook.com/NASJacksonville/events))***

### Who?

- ❖ ***ALL Military retirees***
- ❖ ***ALL Retiree Family Members***
- ❖ ***Active/Reserve Personnel Planning to Retire***

### Presentations on:

- **Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) – First time in JAX since 2019!**
- **TRICARE/TRICARE for Life**                      - **Financial/Legal Advice**                      - **VA Programs**
- **Scams Targeting Seniors**                      - **FEDVIP Insurance**                                      - **SS/Medicare**
- **Military Medical Support**                      - **Advisory/Support Svcs available to Retirees**

**There will be a Health & Wellness Fair on site as well as numerous experts at Info Tables with even more Information...**

**[Check for periodic updates on the NAS Jacksonville Facebook Page](#)**

For further information, contact Jacksonville Retired Activities Office – 904-542-5790

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

**Chapter Officers/Directors** (Note: Changes will be posted after installation of new officers on 17 JAN)

President: CDR Paul Werring, USN Ret, 571-274-6570, [pgwerring@gmail.com](mailto:pgwerring@gmail.com)  
1st Vice President: Vacant  
2nd Vice President: LT David Faernrich, USN Ret,  
Treasurer: COL Ken Kirkpatrick, USA Ret, 904-718-9789, [kenneth.m.kirkpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.m.kirkpatrick@gmail.com)  
Secretary: LT David Mosley, USN Ret, 252-469-1824, [dlynnmosley@gmail.com](mailto:dlynnmosley@gmail.com)  
Immediate Past President: CWO5 Marc Manor, USN Ret, 904-874-1030, [manor.marc@gmail.com](mailto:manor.marc@gmail.com)  
Director: CWO5 Wayne Elliott, USN Ret, 904-282-9604, [elliottwf@att.net](mailto:elliottwf@att.net)  
Director: Mrs. Kathy Spain, SS, [twin\\_oaks@comcast.net](mailto:twin_oaks@comcast.net)  
Director: CDR Bruce Carawon, USN Ret, 904-610-6366, [brcar1@comcast.net](mailto:brcar1@comcast.net)  
Director: LTC Lee Grannis, USA Ret, 203-627-3715, [grannis@nhcleancities.org](mailto:grannis@nhcleancities.org)

**Appointed Committee Chairs**

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

**Chapter Support Staff**

Chaplain: CWO4 David McCuiston, USN (Ret), 423-402-1643, [davidmcc44@outlook.com](mailto:davidmcc44@outlook.com)  
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Official Greeter: Mrs. Phyllis Dunphy, 904-891-0176, [phyllis.dunphy@icloud.com](mailto:phyllis.dunphy@icloud.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.***



## Chapter Achievements:



Paul Werring accepted a Leadership Award on behalf of the MOAA Chapter of NE Florida at the annual Florida Council of Chapters meeting in Orlando.

Mark Manor, outgoing NE Florida Chapter President, received a Leadership award for his outstanding service in support of



Outgoing MOAA of NE Florida Chapter President Marc Manor passes along the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award to Nor'Easter editor, Wally Bransford.

David Mosley received a 5 Star LOE award for the Chapter's outstanding website.

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A promotional banner for Anchored Real Estate Group. It features five women in black dresses standing in a row. The background is white with the company name and phone number at the top. A large anchor logo is centered over the women. At the bottom, a bold white text overlay reads 'Over \$350,000 Given Back to Veterans'.

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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 March 2024 issue of the Nor'Easter is COB Friday, 23 February 2024**



Thank you for reading and supporting our monthly  
membership newsletter

*"The NOR'EASTER"*





Northeast Florida Chapter  
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