



MOAA Nassau County (FL) Chapter

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



Chapter Board of Directors

- President – CAPT Mike Doran, USN(Ret) *Chairman, Nassau County Veterans Council*
- Vice President – CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN(Ret) *Florida Council of Chapters Northeast Area Vice President*
- Treasurer - CAPT Bob Bell, USN(Ret)
- Secretary – Maj Kate Waldrop, USA(Ret)
- Membership – LtCol Charlie Finnigan, USAF(Ret) *Past President*
- Database – LTC Paul Booton, USA(Ret)
- Legislative Affairs – CW4 Mike McClane, USA(Ret)
- Newsletter – CDR Rich Sharp, USN(Ret)
- Website – LCDR Joe Blanchard, USN(Ret)
- Surviving Spouse – CAPT Mary Gustafson, USPHS(Ret)
- JROTC – LTC Gene Kilkawley, USA(Ret)
- Events/Programs – Capt Harry Henning, USAF(FMR)
- Chaplain – CDR Lou Tonti, USN(Ret)



Chapter Health

- Membership Increase (as of 20 Nov 2023): 17
- Community involvement
 - \$1000 scholarship to West Nassau HS AFJROTC cadet
 - Participation in annual Vets For Vets Event
 - Participation in annual Veterans Day Parade
 - Awarded Community Sponsorship Grant for improving Veterans Memorial Park (not claimed since City of Fernandina Beach ended up covering all costs)
 - Pres Mike Doran serving as Chairman of Nassau County Veterans Council
- MOAA involvement
 - Attended FCoC Training Seminar in Orlando
 - Attended FCoC Conference in St. Augustine
 - VP Tony LaVecchia inducted as FCoC Northeast Area VP

January Events

6-8 Jan: FCoC Leadership Training Seminar

10 Jan: General Meeting

Speaker: newly elected Pres Mike Doran

Article in Fernandina Beach News-Leader, 13 Jan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023 NEWS News-Leader 3

MOAA chapter officers attend annual training

For the News Leader



The newly elected president and vice president of the Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), retired Navy Captains Mike Doran and Tony LaVecchia, participated in the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Leadership Seminar Jan. 5-7 in Orlando. The seminar provided organizational updates, training and legislative affairs information from MOAA staff members. Thirty-one of the 39 Florida MOAA chapters were in attendance as well as the national MOAA board chairman, retired Air Force General Gary North and the Florida Council of Chapters president, retired Navy Commander Pat Kleuver.

MOAA is the nation's most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, non-profit, politically nonpartisan organization and the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for members of the military community. With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service, MOAA supports a strong national defense and represents the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. Membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Nassau County chapter meets at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club for lunch on the second Tuesday of every month. Anyone interested in joining should visit www.moaa.org or the MOAA Nassau County Chapter webpage at nclmoaa.org/about/ or contact the membership director Sonny Mann at sonmann@comcast.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MOAA Nassau County Chapter President Mike Doran, MOAA Florida Council of Chapters President Pat Kleuver and MOAA Nassau County Chapter Vice President Tony LaVecchia, from left, stand together at annual training seminar in Orlando.

February Events

8 Feb: No-Host Social at Mocama Beer Company

14 Feb: General Meeting
Guest Speaker: John Crawford,
Nassau County Clerk of Courts and
Comptroller

*Article in Fernandina Beach News-Leader,
15 Feb*

2/15/23

MOAA Chapter holds social at Mocama Beer Company

For the News Leader

dent Tony LaVecchia.

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To see the schedule for upcoming chapter events, visit www.nclmoaa.org.

The Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) held its first evening social event of the year Feb. 8 at the Mocama Beer Company in Fernandina Beach. More than 35 members, along with spouses and friends, attended for an evening of camaraderie and fun.

"Our chapter is always looking for active duty, retired and former military officers who are interested in joining a great organization. Our goal is to grow our chapter membership by 10% this year. We realize that there are many potential members who can't make it to our monthly luncheons, so we are going to do more events in the evening, like this one. Tonight we garnered several new potential members, including a retired Navy vice admiral, a retired Army colonel and an active duty Navy lieutenant junior grade submarine officer," said chapter vice presi-



MOAA Nassau County Chapter at Mocama Beer Company.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

March Events

1 Mar: Tour of Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility at Mayport Naval Station (with Historic Mayport Chapter)



8 Mar: General Meeting (first evening meeting)
Guest Speaker: Former astronaut
Col Bob Springer, USMC(Ret)



Article from FB N-L, 24 Feb



Article in Westside Journal, 23 Mar



April Events

11 Apr: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Mark VanLoh, CEO of Jacksonville Aviation Authority



19 Apr: No-Host Social at Duck Pinz Bowling



22 Apr: Had recruiting table at annual Nassau County Vets For Vets (V4V) Event



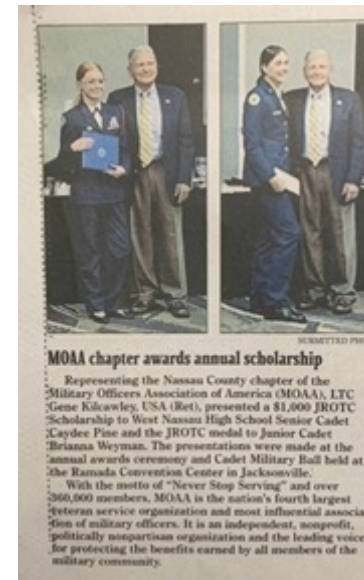
May Events

9 May: General Meeting
 Guest Speaker: Bob Sullivan, Nassau County Veterans Service Officer

19-21 May: Attended FCoC Convention in St. Augustine

20 May: Presented \$1000 scholarship to local AFJROTC cadet

29 May: Laid three bricks at the Veterans Memorial Park in honor of chapter members who passed away during the year



FB N-L 24 May

FB N-L 21 June



June Events

14 June: General Meeting (Night Event)

Guest Speaker: Mike Hickox,
Nassau County Property
Appraiser

21 June: No-Host Social – Wine
Tasting at the Wine Shop



July - August Events

No General Meetings held

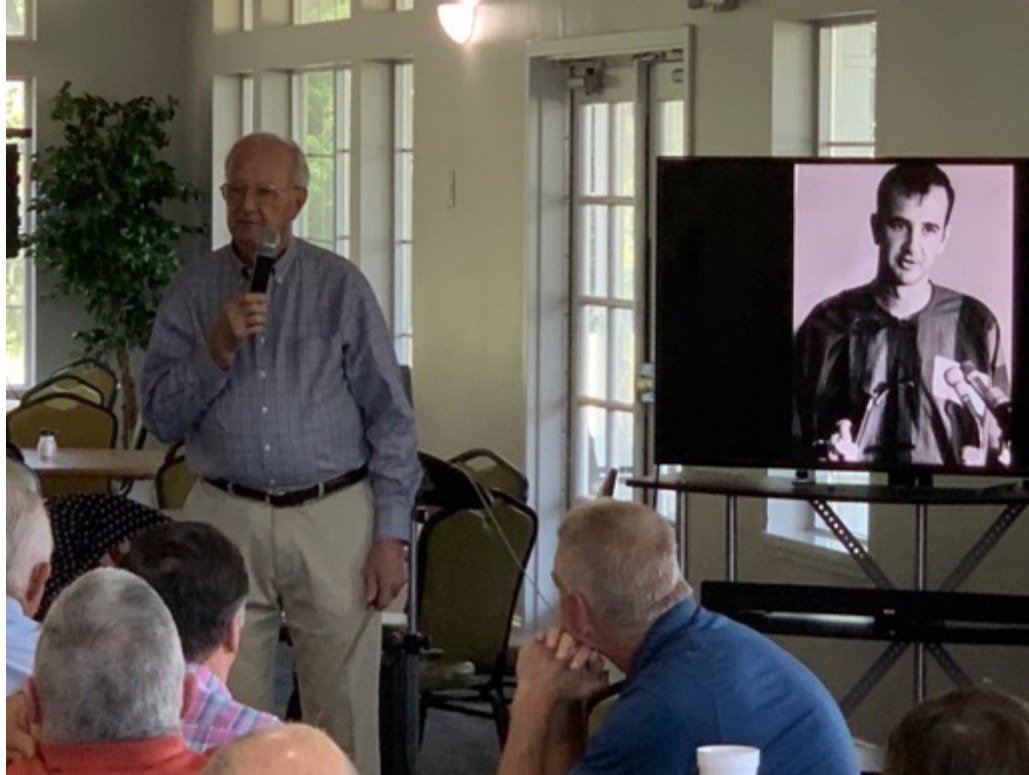
27 Aug: President and Vice President visited the Michael Murphy Museum in Sayville, NY; met with LT Murphy's father and exchanged cards



September Events

12 Sep: General Meeting
Guest Speaker: CAPT Dale Raebel, USN(Ret)

This meeting commemorated the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. For the second year in a row, we had a former POW as a guest speaker. CAPT Raebel was shot down over Vietnam in 1972 and held for 225 days.



The Yulee News 28 Sep



October Events

10 Oct: General Meeting
Guest Speaker: Rep. Aaron Bean (FL-4)

19 Oct: No-Host Social at The Alley
VIP Guest: CAPT Frank Michael,
USN(Ret) *MOAA Program Director for
Councils and Chapters*

20 Oct: Chapter President Mike Doran
and Vice President Tony LaVecchia
invited to play in Folds of Honor Golf
Tournament (with Nassau County
Commissioner John Martin and
Veteran Service Officer Bob Sullivan)



November Events

11 Nov: Veterans Day Parade

14 Nov: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: John Drew, Nassau
County Tax Collector



December Events

12 Dec: Chapter Holiday Party

