



## NOVEMBER 2024 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

### CALENDAR EVENTS

10 Nov: USMC Birthday  
(1775)

11 Nov: Veterans Day

12 Nov: MOAA Mtg

28 Nov: Thanksgiving

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day

13 Dec: MOAA Christmas  
Party

25 Dec: Christmas Holiday

1 Jan: New Year's and  
MOAA Dues \$25.00 go to  
[www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org)

### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 12 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11:30 FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its next meeting on 12 November 2024 @ 1130. Our guest speaker will be Captain Janet D. Espino-Young, Commanding Officer United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area. Captain Espino-Young enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1995.

Following graduation from Cape May, she was assigned to Support Center New York on Governors Island. After the closure of Governors Island, she was transferred to Coast Guard Station Chincoteague, Virginia, serving as a duty boat crew member and radio watch stander. She attended Officer Candidate School in



Yorktown, Virginia. Throughout her career, she oversaw the full range of Coast Guard maritime safety and security missions in Miami, Morgan City, San Juan and the Seventh Coast Guard District. She served as pollution responder, federal on scene coordinator's representative, facility inspector, container inspector, contingency planner, investigating officer, marine inspector, senior investigating officer, chief of inspection and prevention department head. She has been involved in significant events from Deepwater Horizon, 9 hurricane responses, overseas marine casualty investigations, cruise ship fires, mass rescue operations, large-scale salvage

and pollution incidents and COVID-19 response efforts. She served as the Coast Guard's representative for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Port State Control matters for the Caribbean region. She assisted the International Port Security liaison conducting foreign port security assessments in South America and the Caribbean region.

As always, spouses are invited and encouraged to attend, since they are a key component of the group and can contribute with valuable input. As a reminder, in accordance with our arrangement with the golf club, if you reserve lunch/dinner, you have obligated the chapter for your expense and will be requested to reimburse the chapter. However, if you can provide at least 24-hour notice prior to the event of your change in plans, we can then modify the number of meals requested from the club and remove this obligation. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated, as we have reached this agreement with the club to keep the individual costs to a minimum. Lunch will be \$15.00 to be paid at the door. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Kate Waldrop ([kate32034@yahoo.com](mailto:kate32034@yahoo.com)).

Our October general meeting was well attended with over 30 members attending. Our guest speaker was Congressman Aaron Bean. Representative Aaron Bean was elected to the House of Representatives in 2022 and proudly represents the people of the 4th District in Northeast Florida. He began his legislative service as City Commissioner and Mayor of his hometown of Fernandina Beach, Florida in 1996. In 2000, Bean was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives and served eight years. In 2012, Bean was elected to the Florida Senate and served 10 years. In the Florida Senate, Aaron presided as Senate President Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services overseeing over one-third of the Florida budget. Congressman Bean's office to assist you with a military or veterans' matter, you can contact Ms. Troope at [Christina.troope@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christina.troope@mail.house.gov) or by phone at 904-319-9433(o) or 904-403-7557(C).

We have 90 active members that support our JROTC scholarships and other activities with their \$25.00 annual dues. They are due starting in October. Please pay

Bob at the door or go to  
[www.nassaumoaa.org](http://www.nassaumoaa.org)



## **“From the Chapter President”**

Thanks to everyone who came out to our two great events in October. Our monthly meeting was lively, entertaining, and informative with our guest speaker, Rep Aaron Bean. Just like his visit last year, he was dynamic and stuck around far longer than his staff wanted him to (undoubtedly, we threw his schedule off track). We also had a great turnout for our quarterly Officers Call - this one was at Golf Pub Social. What a cool place - they have a very friendly staff and it is a great place for our golfers to go to work on their game or just have some fun playing all the most famous courses in the world.

This month is going to be just as eventful: first is the annual Veterans Day Parade in Fernandina Beach on 11 Nov. Please come out to support! We have steadily grown our participation every year and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you come out to help show pride in our service to the country and inspire the next generation to serve.

Our monthly meeting on 12 Nov will feature CAPT Janet Espino-Young, USCG. She is the Commander of USCG Sector Jacksonville and Captain of the Port of Jacksonville. It will undoubtedly be a very informative presentation.

Also, during the chapter business portion of our meeting, we will be officially voting on the next slate of board members. As a reminder, that slate is:

President: Tony LaVecchia

First VP: Jeff Carr

Second VP: Dwight Collins

Treasurer: Bob Bell

Secretary: Lou Tonti

See you there!

Mike

## **NOVEMBER CHAPTER ELECTIONS**

The two-year term for our current chapter officers is ending in December 2024. The nominated slate of officers for the next two-year term, as well as the appointed board of directors is below-please take time to review them since we will have a voice vote during our November meeting. Also, please note that there are a few vacancies we are looking for interested members to fill these positions. Please feel free to contact Mike Doran or any board member if you have questions.

President: Tony LaVecchia	Newsletter: Rich Sharp	Database Manager: Dave Kriete
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jeff Carr	Website/PA: Tracy Connors	Surviving Spouse: Mary Gustafson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Dwight Collins	JROTC: Gene Kilkawley	Membership: Charlie Finnigan
Treasurer: Bob Bell	Legislative Affairs: Mike McClane	Chaplain: Lou Tonti
<b>Secretary: VACANT</b> <b>Events: VACANT</b>		



The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its annual Holiday Celebration at the FBGC on **13 December 2024**, so save the date. Cocktails at 05:30 pm, followed by dinner. This is going to be a huge event with lots of surprises. The menu and cost will be like last year's and will be posted in next month's newsletter and future emails. Come on out and support the local community. All proceeds are used for our **JROTC scholarships**. Please contact Kate Waldrop ([kate32034@yahoo.com](mailto:kate32034@yahoo.com)) for reservations.



We had our quarterly "Officer's Call" on 16 October at Golf Pub Social. It was a great success with over 25 people showing up for some local atmosphere and spirits. Look for more Officer's Call socials to come next year as we continue to grow and mold into one of the most successful chapters on the east coast. We will see you on the island.

October 2024

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**Florida Council of Chapters**  
Military Officers Association of America



**Join The MOAA Florida Council and our Chapters  
for a Casino Night-Charity Fundraiser in support of  
The MOAA Foundation**

**Play**

- Blackjack
- Texas Hold'em
- Roulette
- Craps
- Slots



**Support  
Veterans!**

Play for Prizes, Net  
Proceeds Support  
The MOAA Foundation  
Complimentary  
Hors d'Oeuvres &  
Cash Bar  
Entry Fee: \$40  
(Includes \$500 in  
"FCoC Bucks"!)



FUNDRAISER



at the

**Rosen Centre Hotel, International Drive, Orlando,  
Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM to 9 PM  
All MOAA Members and Guests Invited!**

**For More Information and to Register,**

**Go to: [www.FLMOAA.org](http://www.FLMOAA.org)**

The MOAA Foundation (TIN 46-4219250), is a 501(c)(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). It offers grants to MOAA, its councils and chapters in support of veterans' community outreach programs and services. In 2024, The MOAA Foundation provided 15 Community Grants, and over \$40,000 to Florida Chapters, to directly aid Veterans in Florida. The MOAA Foundation is also at the forefront of relief to veterans impacted by natural disasters.

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) (TIN 85-8012673081C-9) is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans service organization that represents 37 MOAA Chapters across the state.

**MOAA Take  
Action**

## FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS NOVEMBER 2024

### Daddy Long Legs

Music & Lyrics by Paul Gordon

Book by John Caird

7:30 pm: November 22, 23, 29, 30, December 5, 6, 7

Matinee 2pm November 24, December 1, 8, 2024

Musical. A heartwarming Cinderella story based on the treasured novel, this endearing musical tells the story of an orphan, Jerusha Abbott. A mysterious benefactor agrees to send her to college on the condition that she writes him a letter once a month. Unaware of the benefactor's identity, she invents a nickname for him: Daddy Long Legs. In her letters, Jerusha shares her experiences of discovering the wonders of literature, adventure, love, and self. But one key fact eludes her—who is Daddy Long Legs? G: General Audiences.

Go to <https://bit.ly/3NeQ6HN> for tickets.



**Council on Aging, COA** (bingo, line dancing, ask a lawyer, cooking, pet therapy, etc.) They have **four** different calendars of events that cover just about every aspect of life. Go to <https://bit.ly/2TPpFNp> for more information on activities and social engagements. If you need transportation to any event on the island or Council of Aging, just contact Nassau transit at <https://bit.ly/3wpU2zf> and they will come and get you.

### 2024 Right Whale Festival

Free Admission - Come early and spend the day. 2024 Right

Whale Festival Saturday, November 2, 2024 10am-6pm

Sunday, November 3, 2024 10am-3pm Main Beach Park

32 N. Fletcher Ave. Fernandina Beach, FL

The Right Whale Festival celebrates the annual return of endangered North Atlantic right whales to the warm coastal water off northeast Florida and Georgia, where they give birth to and nurse their young. With less than 350 remaining, this family-fun event raises awareness of the threats to right whales and how we can help in their recovery. Go to

<https://rightwhalefestival.com> for more information.



**Cross The Line 5K- Veteran's Run**

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Begins in Marina Lot A in downtown Fernandina Beach

The Cross the Line Foundation will host the Cross the Line.

The out and back course will begin and end in the marina parking lot at the foot of Centre Street (near the Remember Our Fallen Memorial) in Fernandina Beach, FL.

Go to <https://bit.ly/3UjPrd7> for more information.

**Veteran's Day Parade**

November 11, 2024, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Annual Veteran's Day Parade, held downtown in the historic district. The parade begins at Central Park and follows the traditional parade route.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MARCH IN THE PARADE!!**

**Pétanque Amelia Island**

November 15-17, 2024

Marina Lots C & D

8:00am - 7:00pm

The Pétanque Amelia Island Open is the largest Pétanque event in America, drawing players from all over the globe to compete for the Pétanque championship in the beautiful Fernandina Harbor. Go to <https://www.unitedpetanque.com/> for more information.



## Run The Runway 5K - Southern Timing

November 16, 2024

Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport

7:30am - 9:30am

The 3rd annual Run 'The Runway event" is a one-of-a-kind race where you are running on an actual runway! There is a 25% discount for participants 17 & under that is automatically applied at registration. Go to <https://bit.ly/4ocS9VC> for more information.

## Black Friday PJ Party

November 29, 2024, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Join the annual Black Friday Pajama Party that will take place in the Historic District of Downtown Fernandina Beach. Wear your PJ's while shopping, enjoying hot chocolate, activities, music, and a pajama contest!



## Annual tree lighting

November 29, 2024

Downtown Lot A

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Annual downtown tree lighting. Kid friendly activities with music, smores, entertainment, and a visit from Santa. Tree lighting will be at 6pm.



## Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2024

Date	Event	Time	Location	Guest Speaker / Comments
<b>9 January</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Mike Doran, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter MOAA
<b>13 February</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Ed Turner, USN (Ret) Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum
<b>15 February</b>	Social	1730	DISCO WITCH BREWING	PIZZA from BLACK CAT PIZZERIA
<b>12 March **Evening Mtg**</b>	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Melissa Yuchasz, Executive Director of YMCA at Wildlight
<b>9 April</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Matt Davis Publisher Yulee News (Cancelled). Tony Lavecchia Vietnam and Singapore trip.
<b>25 April</b>	Social	1730	A1A Cidery	230 South 8 <sup>th</sup> St, Fernandina Beach Fl 32034
<b>14 May</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Dean Black, State Representative Florida House of Representatives
<b>11 June **Evening Mtg**</b>	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Robin Lentz, Executive Director Take Stock in Children Nassau County
<b>20 June</b>	Social	1730	The Hidden Crab (Off Island)	942699 Old Nassauville Rd, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Officer's Call
<b>10 September</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	State Senator Clay Yarborough (Cancel) Mike Doran
<b>8 October</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	House Representative Aaron Bean
<b>16 October</b>	Officer Call	1700	Golf Pub Social (On island)	1531 Sadler Road, Fernandina Beach, Fl 32034. <a href="http://www.golpubsocial.com">www.golpubsocial.com</a>
<b>12 November</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Captain Janet D. Espino-Young, Commanding Officer United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area
<b>13 December</b>	Christmas Party	1830	FBGC	1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner

FBCG – Fernandina Beach Golf Club, located at 2800 Bill Melton Rd, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter and MOAA national are non-partisan organizations. This newsletter is published monthly. A current issue of this newsletter can be found at our website [www.nassaumoaa.org](http://www.nassaumoaa.org). This newsletter is intended for wide distribution via e-mail within the Nassau Florida Chapter. Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and may not express the positions of MOAA Nassau County Florida Chapter or MOAA national.

# **MOAA's THREE KEY PRIORITIES**

## **CALL TO ACTION**

### **2024 ISSUES**

#### ***Targeted pay raise***

*A boost for junior enlisted personnel has been proposed in Congress, with House and Senate each offering different numbers.*

*MOAA's advocacy can make a difference in ensuring a fair pay raise for those servicemembers and families who are most in need.*

#### ***Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing***

*Ever-growing housing costs are just one of the financial challenges faced by servicemembers and their families, especially young enlisted personnel. Restore the BAH back to 100%.*

#### ***Concurrent receipt and the Major Richard Star Act***

*MOAA is staying in the fight to end an injustice facing combat-wounded retirees.*

Go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action-2024/> and let your legislators know we support.

Congressman Bean's office can assist you with a military or veterans' matter, you can contact Ms. Troope at [Christina.troope@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christina.troope@mail.house.gov) or by phone at 904-319-9433(o) or 904-403-7557©.

## **NEWSLETTER CORNER**

### **MOAA Newsletter Nov 2024 (highlights)**

Free with your MOAA membership –  
go to <https://bit.ly/3wAUeLR> for more information.

1. FLASH SALE: Save big at the MOAA Store.
2. What more pharmacy closures could mean for your TRICARE benefit.
3. TRICARE PRIME: understanding your care, your coverage, and your options.
4. Comprehensive health care in focus at VA nurses' convention.
5. STEM support: Expert advice for finding your next position.
6. Check out these must-read salary and benefits resources from MOAA.
7. From Military Officer Magazine: How to maximize your social security benefits.
8. Army to boost pay for soldiers on extended deployments.
9. MOAA's TRICARE Toolkit: getting ready for open season.

### **Veterans Affairs website (highlights)**

Go to [VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov/veterans-affairs) to sign up for monthly newsletter

1. Gaming PC giveaway.
2. Veteran athletes compete in Olympics and National events.
3. October blowout sale deals on Shop VCS.com.
4. Free suicide prevention training for all.
5. Protect yourself from cyber-attacks and scams.
6. Afghanistan War Commission reports on historic research effort.
7. NEW: Veteran Job postings over 100 positions are available.

### **TRICARE EAST Newsletter Issue 3/2024**

**Go to ([www.humana.com](https://www.humana.com))**

1. Know how TRICARE regions are changing in 2025.
2. Your TRICARE guide to overseas travel.
3. TRICARE coverage for your children: what you need to know.
4. Unlock your health with TRICARE tips for managing your DEERS record.
5. TRICARE Claim form updated to assist in processing overseas claims:  
go to <https://bit.ly/4eW5kyK> for more information.

If you know someone who wants to **join the MOAA** and meets the below eligibility requirements, please have them fill out the attached application.



## NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA CHAPTER

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Eligibility:** Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA and the US Public Health Service (USPHS), or the Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services. A current or surviving spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member. MOAA is a Non-Partisan Organization.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Please PRINT (Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Suffix)

**MIL. RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GENDER:** { } M { } F **BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse/widow(er) leave blank) (mm/dd/yyyy)

**SERVICE:** { } USA { } USN { } USAF { } USMC { } USCG { } USPHS { } NOAA { } USSF

**STATUS:** { } Retired { } Active { } NG/Reserves { } Former Officer { } Spouse { } Widow(er)

**Mail ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **APT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_, **FL ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_-  
**HOME PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SPOUSE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**National MOAA Member:** { } YES { } NO **National MOAA#:** \_\_\_\_\_

### WELCOME!

#### PLEASE CHECK CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU DESIRE TO ASSIST:

- { } Program/Event Planning (PP) { } Membership (MO) { } Legislative Affairs (LA)
- { } Phoning Members (PM) { } Personal Affairs (PA) { } Newsletter (NP)
- { } Public Relations (PR) { } ROTC/JROTC { } Advertising (AD)
- { } WEB Site (WM) { } Data Processing (DP)

Thanks for your Chapter membership commitment  
Chapter Dues \$25.00 Annually Payable to "Nassau MOAA"

#### PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND DUES PAYMENT TO:

Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA  
ATTN: Database Administrator  
PO Box 16313  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035