



MARCH 2025 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 11 Mar: MOAA Mtg
- 17 Mar: Saint Patrick's Day
- 29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day
- 01 Apr: April Fools
- 08 Apr: MOAA Meeting
- 15 Apr: Taxes Are Due
- 18 Apr: Good Friday
- 18 Apr: Arbor Day
- 20 Apr: Easter

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 11 MARCH 2025 AT 1130 @ FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 11 March 2025 @ 1130.

Our guest speaker will be Kenneth R. Timmerman, a best-selling author and the executive director of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran, an organization that works to support democratic



movements in Iran. He obtained a BA from Goddard College in 1973 and an M.A. from Brown University in 1976. He moved to France, where he pursued a career as a novelist, publishing a novel called *Wren Hunt* in 1976 and a novella called *The Iskra Scrolls* in 1980. In the early 1980s, Timmerman became a Middle East correspondent for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and developed an expertise in arms trade. In 1982, he was taken prisoner for 24 days by Fatah guerrillas in Lebanon. He was the first U.S. journalist on the scene when Islamic militants bombed the U.S. Embassy in 1983. Ken has published numerous books and was

nominated for the Noble Peace Prize in 2006. For more information about Mr. Timmerman go to <https://www.kentimmerman.com/>.

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/Dinner will be \$15.00/\$25.00 to be paid at the door. To make, change, or cancel your reservation, please contact Louis Tonti @ louistonti@gmail.com.

“A nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”
- Calvin Coolidge-

Our February general meeting was well attended with over 45 members attending our second meeting of the year. Rocky McPherson, Col USMC (Ret) was our guest speaker. His lecture on how his identification was stolen to purchase an automobile was very moving and interesting. From the start of his lecture, he was very thorough and detailed about every step in his experience to recoup his identity. His recommendations on which organizations to call throughout the process were a game changer and will help most of us if our identification is ever compromised. Thank you Rocky.

This year is going to be full of events and excellent speakers that will make our chapter stronger and even more flexible. Mark your calendars.



“From the Chapter President”

Hello fellow Nassau County Chapter of MOAA members –

February was a busy and fun month with much Camaraderie. We held an evening dinner meeting, listening to Rocky McPherson’s experience with identify theft...thanks Rocky for better informing the Chapter. We also held another well attended Officer Call at Gator’s Dockside. Spouses, it was great to see you at both events. Keep coming out, as you are more than welcome to attend either as a guest of your spouse, or by joining the Nassau County Chapter Auxiliary. It does not matter to me, just come on out!

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for 11 March and it will be a luncheon held at 1130. It should be a great meeting as our scheduled speaker will be best-selling author Kenneth R. Timmerman. Mr. Timmermann has spent his career investigating the dark side of national security. Over the past four decades he has interviewed dissidents behind the Iron Curtain, covered numerous Middle East wars, interviewed suicide bombers, and debriefed defectors from Iranian intelligence organizations.

April is just around the corner, and MOAA will be holding their Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign on Capitol Hill, 7-10 April. To prepare for expected MOAA Calls to Action, be sure you are registered in the Legislative Action Center (LAC) so you can easily make your voice heard to your Members of Congress in supporting MOAA legislative priorities. Use the following link to register in the LAC:
<https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/> or use the QR Code:



Also in April, the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall will be at the Fairgrounds in Callahan, 17-21 April. You will be able to visit the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall on a 24-hour basis. For additional information, or if you want to volunteer, contact the town of Hilliard Parks and Services at 904-845-2733 or at: www.townofhilliard.com

There are two Chairperson positions open on the Chapter’s Board. Those positions are the Events Chair and the Fundraising Chair. Please let me know if you are interested in serving in one of these Chair positions or if you have any questions regarding them.

Please....

- Be a Recruiter – Get one person to join our Chapter
- Participate in Calls to Action
- Donate to the Chapter’s Scholarship program and The MOAA Foundation
- Attend as many Chapter events as possible

I look forward to seeing you at the 11 March meeting.

Very Respectfully,

Tony

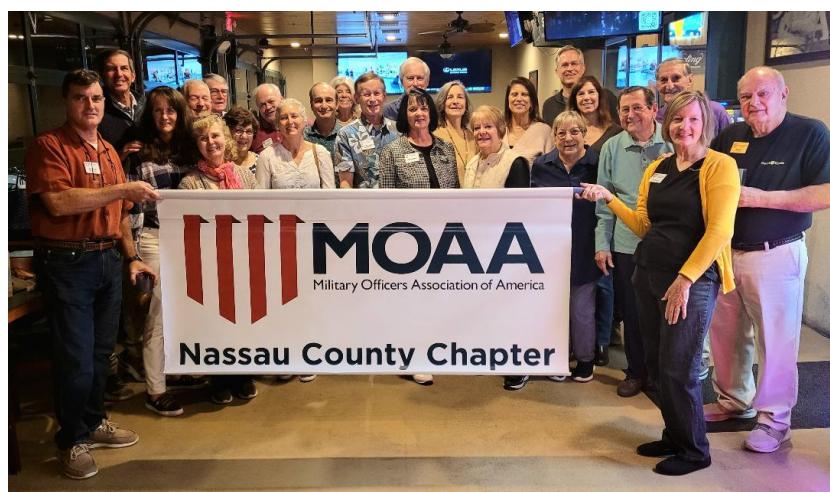
We have 94 active members that support our JROTC scholarships and other activities with their \$25.00 annual dues. Please pay Bob at the door or go to www.ncflmoaa.org

AWARDS AND OFFICERS CALL

Congratulations to MOAA's VADM Dave Kriete, USN (ret) and CWo4 Mike McClane, USA (ret) who were presented with the "Leadership Award" by "The Florida Council of Chapters" for their outstanding work in support of MOAA objectives and Programs.



Gator's Dockside "Officers Call" was a blast. Based on the turnout and responses, we will keep our "Officers Call" as a quarterly event. Stay tuned for more information about our next "Officers Call" in April.



FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR MARCH 2025



COOL CARS, FAMOUS FACES, FREE ADMISSION

Friday, March 7, Main Beach 1 p.m.-5 p.m. We're kicking off the Amelia weekend in style with the Classic Motorsports Amelia Island Kickoff presented by Sunoco! Our plan is to fill the green space of Main Beach Park, just a few miles north of the Ritz-Carlton, with awesome cars and great people. Along the

way, we'll send some of the classic car world's biggest celebrities through the field awarding prizes to their favorite cars. Spectator entry is **free** – just walk right in, with no registration required.

AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS A MOTORING EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

6-9 March, Amelia Island, FL

Four days of automotive excellence. Amelia is fully loaded with something for everybody. Bring the whole family for automotive fun that will delight all ages, get behind the wheel of a cool car, take a close-up look at some of the world's most impressive vehicles at Sunday's Concours d'Elegance and more. Go to

<https://www.ameliaconcours.com/event/schedule> for more information and tickets.



THE NIGHTHAWKS

One Night Only!

March 2, 7:30 pm

Live Music. Established in 1972, The Nighthawks celebrate over 50 years in rock and roll. Decades of

gigs and countless rabid fans have earned them the name "The Best Bar Band In The World." Founder, lead singer and harpmaster Mark Wenner is still at the helm, while drummer Mark Stutso, guitarist Dan Hovey and bassist Paul Pisciotta all share vocals and songwriting, making this lineup one of the strongest ever. More than a bar band or blues band, as they're frequently labeled, this is a band that played with Carl Perkins in addition to Muddy Waters. Go to <https://www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org/> for tickets and more information.

Markets By Mariah

Pet adoption and vendor event

March 22, 2025

Central Park

10:00am-4:00pm

Vendor market and pet adoption opportunities at Central Park greenspace.



Council on Aging, COA (bingo, line dancing, ask a lawyer, cooking, pet therapy, etc.). If you are active or just want to do something, this is the place for you. 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

Crescendo Amelia

The tradition continues! Since 2019 the Amelia Island Dance Series has grown to reach thousands of guests, bringing the joy of live music & dancing to our community. Complete with a high-energy 6-piece horn section and a cast of local celebrity singers, these events are perfect for dancing or just enjoying the sounds of a classic big band with a modern flair. Featuring over 100 years of music from the 1920's through the present day, and all the ballroom dance styles, we are proud to continue our incredible partnership with Ballroom on Amelia. All dances take place at the Fernandina Beach Woman's Club on select Sundays starting at 4pm. BYOB, with reserved tables available and light concessions available for purchase. Go to <https://www.crescendoamelia.com/> for more information.





Nassau County Chapter

Meeting and Social

Schedule for 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Location | Guest Speaker / Comments |
|--|-----------------|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 14 January | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter MOAA |
| 11 February **Evening Mtg** | General Meeting | 1730 | FBGC | Col Rocky McPherson, USMC (Ret) Member, Nassau County Chapter MOAA |
| 13 February | Officer Call | 1730 | Gator's Dockside (Off Island) | Gator's Dockside, 96150 David Hallman Pkwy, Yulee, FL 32097 (Behind Publix) |
| 11 March | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | Ken Timmerman Journalist, Best selling author |
| 8 April | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | Bill Leeper Sheriff, Nassau County FL |
| Xx April | Officer Call | 1730 | TBD – On Island | |
| 13 May | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | |
| 10 June **Evening Mtg** | General Meeting | 1730 | FBGC | Mr. Kevin Lilly Nassau County Property Appraiser |
| Xx June | Officer Call | 1730 | TBD – Off Island | |
| 9 September | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | |
| 14 October **Evening Mtg** | General Meeting | 1730 | FBGC | |
| Xx October | Officer Call | 1730 | TBD – On Island | |
| 11 November | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC | |
| 12 December | Christmas Party | 1730 | 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.ncflmoaa.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 national MOAA.

NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION

MOAA 2025 ISSUES

Currently serving unaccompanied housing:

Recent reporting from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals the myriad challenges servicemembers in unaccompanied housing are facing.

Retirees/Veterans Toxic exposure:

MOAA will focus on capitalizing on our recently released report *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed veterans* to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service.

Family/Survivors Spouse employment:

Rates of unemployment for military spouses continue to be four to five times higher than the national average.

DOD/Health Care access to care:

DOD has acknowledged that congressionally directed reforms to the Military Health System (MHS), together with U.S. medical workforce volatility, exacerbated long-standing access challenges and led to a destabilized MHS that does not consistently deliver timely care to beneficiaries.

Go to <https://bit.ly/434koqN> and let your legislators know we support.

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

NEWSLETTER CORNER

MOAA Newsletter Mar 2025 (highlights)

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

1. TRICARE users: Have you faced access barriers? Share your story with MOAA.
2. VA's latest toxic exposure moves show progress, point to need for big changes.
3. New bipartisan house bill would protect federally employed military spouses.
4. Making a "Master Resume".
5. Why it's never too early to prep for your annual performance review.
6. COLA watch: Get the latest update.
7. DOD expands flexible spending account eligibility to some guard members.
8. Kroger rejoins TRICARE retail pharmacy network.
9. Military families to see drop in TRICARE dental premiums.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. Free career guidance: gain the edge with a mentor.
2. Tax season guidance for veterans.
3. Your personal information is no one else's business.
4. Putting family and friends in your mental health picture.
5. Learn desk-friendly yoga for back relief.
6. Step into a career in construction.
7. Personalized career planning and guidance.
8. Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the Week.

Applications for the MOAA Scholarship fund. The deadline to submit application for the MOAA scholarship fund's education assistance program is March 1, 2025. Go to [MOAA - About MOAA Scholarship Fund](https://www.moaa.org/about-moaa/scholarship-fund) 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