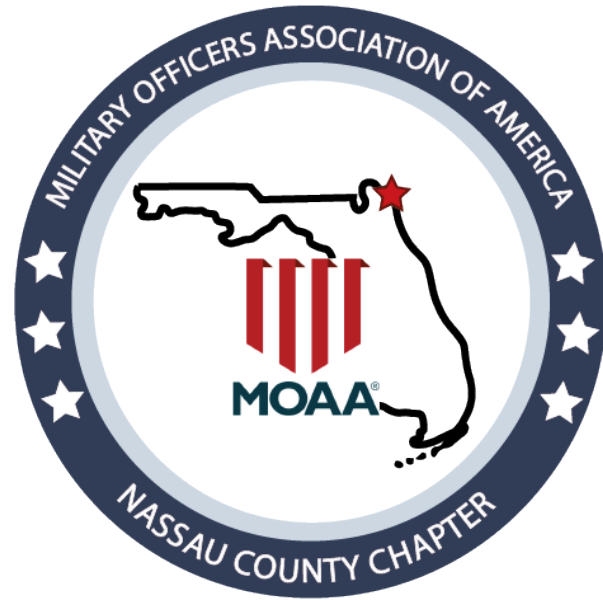
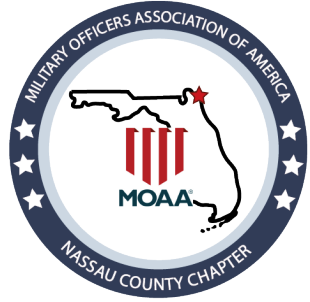


***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# **General Meeting – 11 Feb 2025**

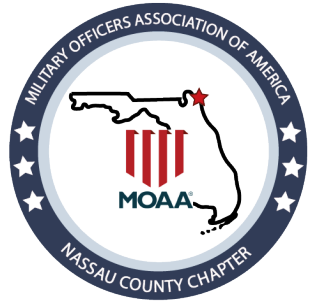


## **Call to order:**

- **New Members and Guests**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***



# **Pledge of Allegiance**



---

**"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# Invocation



**Jim Mackowski**  
**CDR USN (Ret)**

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# POW/MIA Moment of Silence



- 
- The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.
  - The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.
  - The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans...and the loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers.
  - The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them.
  - A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land.
  - A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families.
  - The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return.
  - The glasses are inverted - to symbolize their inability to share a toast. The chair is empty – they are missing.

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**



# Dinner

---

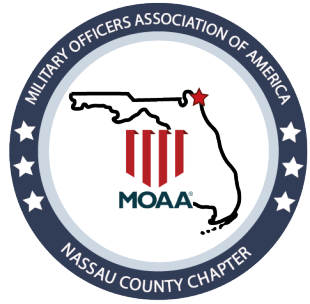
- **Your Selection Choice of Either:**

- Chicken Piccata
- or
- Meat Loaf



- Your Dinner Payment is for One Portion of Either Selection...**not one of each** 😊

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# Guest Speaker



---

## Rocky McPherson, Col USMC (Ret)

**Colonel McPherson graduated from the US Naval Academy with a BS degree in Engineering in 1966. He began his military career with a combat tour in Vietnam as an Infantry Officer with “A” Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. His career spanned multiple duty stations that included US Air Force Academy, USS Ranger (CV-61), National War College, and Chief Staff, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force in Japan and Deputy Director of Manpower. After retirement, he served in multiple positions for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs which included Administrative Director, Executive Director and served with Enterprise Florida as Vice President, Military and Veterans. He currently resides in Yulee.**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# **President's Report**



# **MOAA**

## **Nassau County (FL49) Chapter**

### **2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

# January Events



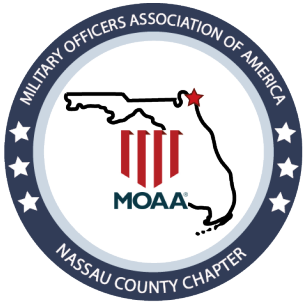
- 9 Jan: General Meeting

Speaker: President Mike Doran

25-27 Jan: FCoC Leadership Training Seminar



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

# February Events

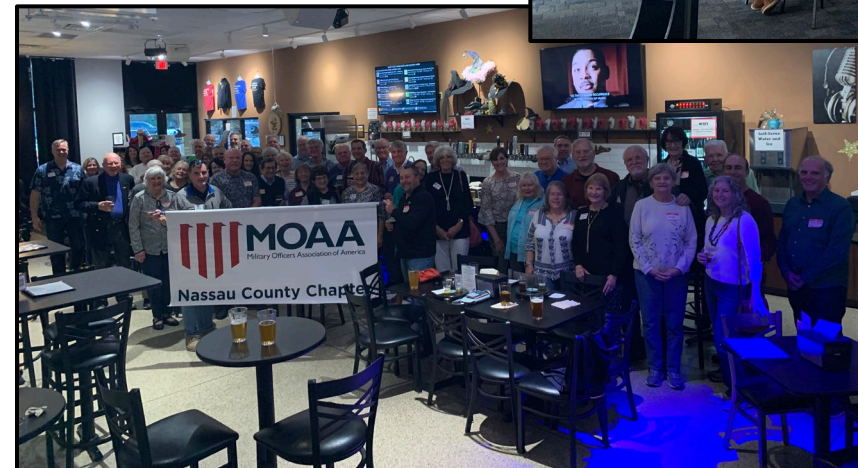


- 3 Feb: Had recruiting table at annual Nassau County Vets For Vets (V4V) Event

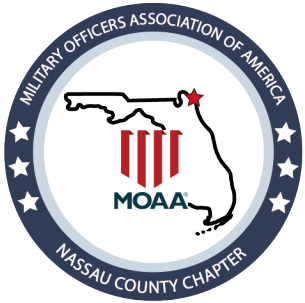
13 Feb: General Meeting

- Guest Speaker: CAPT Ed Turner USN(Ret), Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum

- 15 Feb: Evening Social at Disco Witch Brewing



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# March Events



- 12 Mar: General Meeting – 10 Year Anniversary of the Chapter
  - Cutting of the cake by oldest and youngest charter members, Charlie Finnigan and Rich Sharp
- Guest Speaker: Melissa Yuchasz, the Executive Director and Military Outreach Co-Leader for the Wildlight YMCA



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

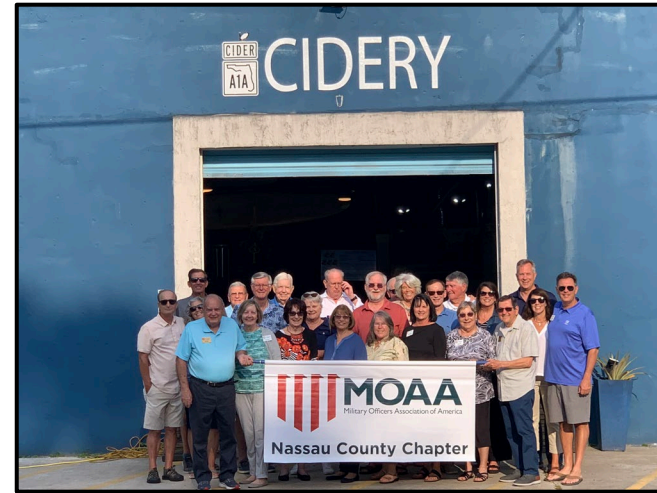
# April Events



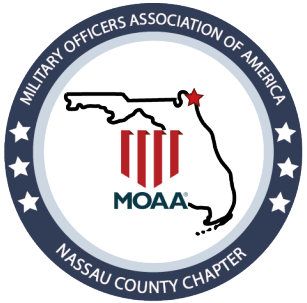
- 9 Apr: General Meeting

Speaker: 1<sup>st</sup> VP Tony LaVecchia discussing MOAA Vacations

- 17 Apr: 1st VP Tony LaVecchia participated in Advocacy in Action
- 25 Apr: "Officers Call" (No-host Social) at A1A Cidery
- 26 Apr: West Nassau County HS JROTC MOAA Scholarship Presentation



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

# May Events



- 12-15 May: 1<sup>st</sup> VP Tony LaVecchia attended the FCoC Daytona Convention
  - 14 May: General Meeting
- Guest Speaker: State Rep. Dean Black (R-15)



- 27 May: Brick laying ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in memory of former chapter VP Sonny Mann and charter member Jim McFarland



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# June Events



- 11 June: General Meeting  
Guest Speaker: Robin Lentz, Executive Director for Taking Stock in Children for Nassau County. She is also a former Mayor of Fernandina Beach.



- 20 June: "Officers Call" (No-host Social) at the Hidden Crab



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***

# July-August Events



- 
- No General Meetings held during the summer
  - 1<sup>st</sup> VP Tony LaVecchia participated in Summer AiA by visiting Rep Aaron Bean’s local office



***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***

# September Events



- 10 Sep: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: President Mike Doran. Originally scheduled speaker was State Sen Clay Yarborough but he cancelled at the last minute.



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

# October Events

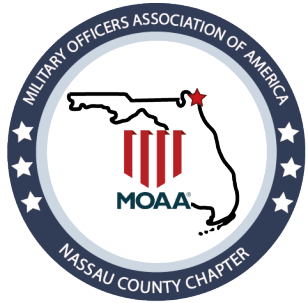


- 8 Oct: General Meeting  
Guest Speaker: Rep. Aaron Bean (R-FL4)



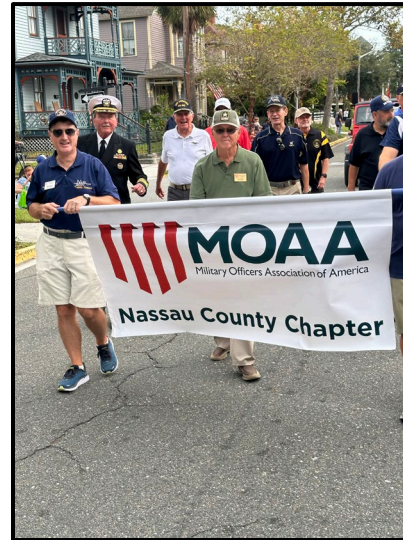
- 16 Oct: "Officers Call" (No-host Social) at Golf Pub Social  
*Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie*

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**



# November Events

- 11 Nov: Fernandina Beach Veterans Day Parade

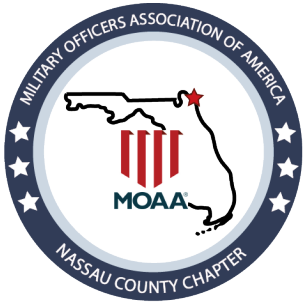


- 12 Nov: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: CAPT Janet Espino-Young, USCG, Commander of USCG Sector Jacksonville and Captain of the Port of Jacksonville

- Held our biannual elections for the Chapter leadership. 1stVP Tony LaVecchia was elected President, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jeff Carr was elected 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Dwight Collins was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Bob Bell was reelected as Treasurer, Lou Tonti was elected as Secretary

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# December Events



- 13 Dec: Chapter Holiday Party



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

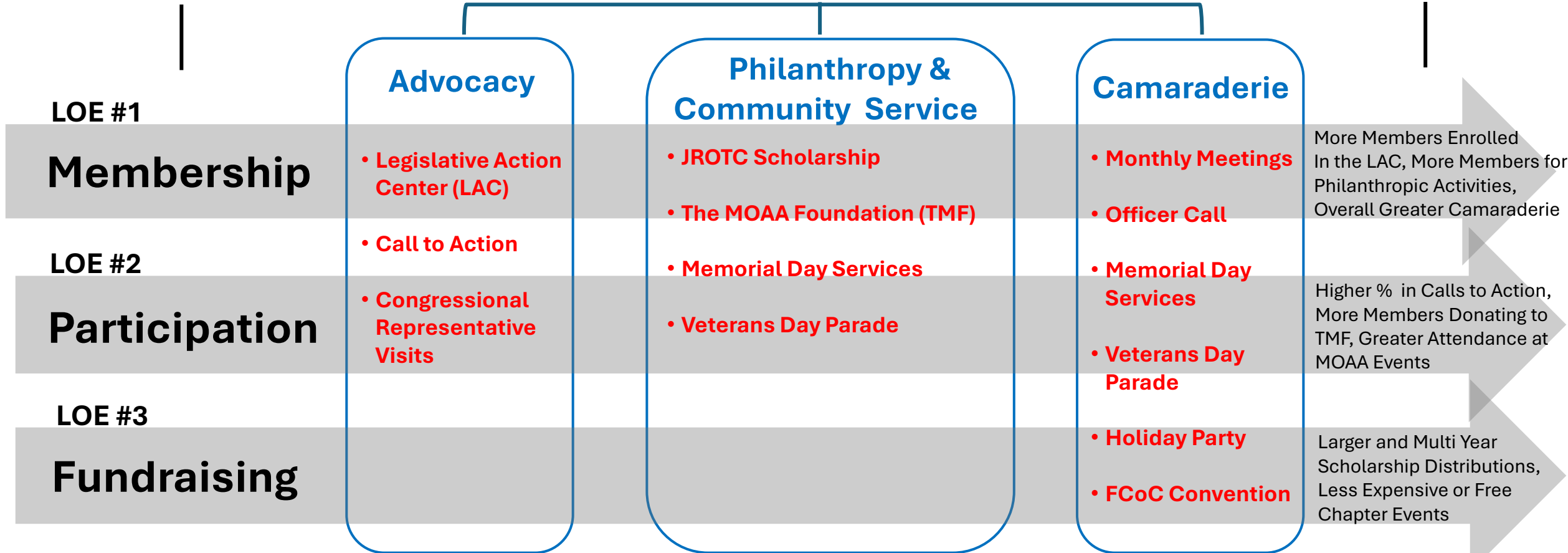
# Chapter Plan



## Lines of Effort

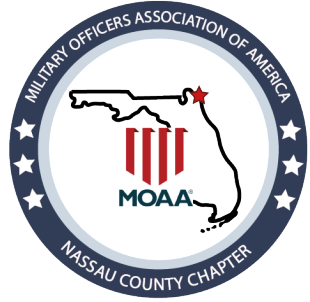
## Objectives

## Outcomes



**Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie**

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**



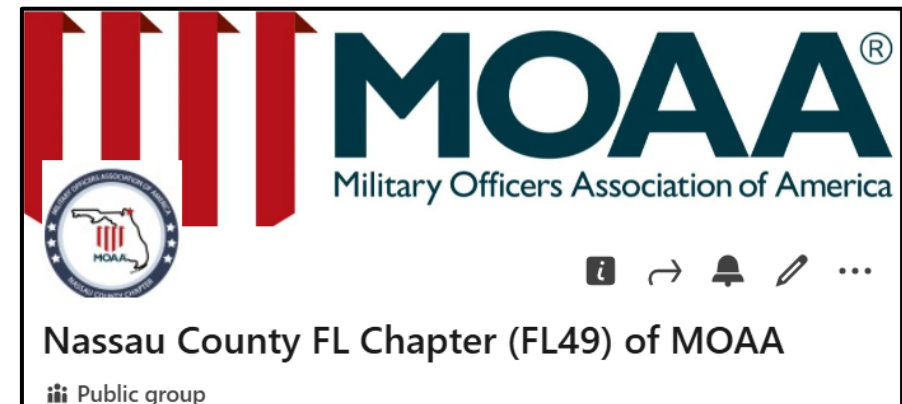
# President's Report

- **What's New:**

- Vets-4-Vets: West Nassau County HS, 1 Feb 2025
- Nassau County Chapter Receives \$300 MOAA Grant
- Donations Page – [www.ncflmoaa.org/dontate](http://www.ncflmoaa.org/dontate)

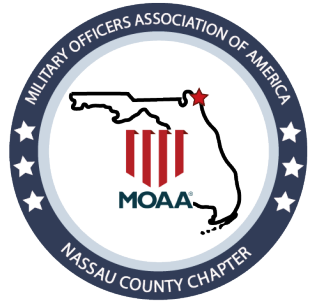
- Nassau County FL Chapter (FL49) of MOAA **on LinkedIn**

**- Branding -  
Spreading the Word**



***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**



# President's Report



**Yulee News**  
**Community Spotlight**  
**23 Jan 2025**

**Community Spotlight:**  
*The Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America*






Capt. Dale V. Raebel, USN (Ret.), a former Vietnam Prisoner of War was a past guest speaker. After flying off the USS Saratoga, he was forced to eject from his A-7 aircraft over North Vietnam and was made a POW in August 1972. He was captive in Hanoi for 225 days until his release in March 1973. (MOAA Photo)

**R. Eschmann**  
*Yulee News*

The Military Officers Association of America, or MOAA, is one of several veteran's groups in Nassau County. The MOAA has 37 individual chapters around the state and has 3,500 MOAA members. The Nassau County Chapter has nearly 100 members. Nationwide, the organization has about 352,000 members, making it the largest military officer association.

Membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. Services are also available for surviving spouses of deceased officers.

"Though the MOAA is an association made up of officers, it is not an association about officers", Tony LaVecchia, MOAA Nassau County Chapter President said. The retired Navy Captain added, "MOAA advocates on behalf of all military members, retired and active-duty."

increase," LaVecchia said. The Florida Chapter 49 President emphasized that MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

The organization was founded in Los Angeles in 1929 with the intention of unifying military officers of all services as well as provide them with assistance and advice. MOAA's purpose has grown to include career transition assistance, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families, involvement with military professionalism activities across all ranks and service, scholarships and crisis assistance.

"We additionally advocate legislative and administrative actions to protect the rights and interests of service retirees and active-duty military members in matters of state legislation," LaVecchia said.

**Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie**

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**

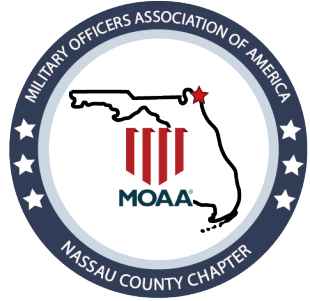


# President's Report



**Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie**

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**



# President's Report

## MOAA 2025 Florida Friends and Family Cruises

*Sponsored by the Florida Council – Choose from two cruises!*

**INCREASE THE FUN FACTOR** —Being surrounded by like-minded people offers you the chance to share experiences and make new memories together. Group travel can give you the chance to meet people and make new friends. You'll meet individuals who are also passionate about travel and have experiences that are similar to your own. Plus, you save money and receive free amenities!

### 7-night Western Caribbean cruise

Royal Caribbean – Grandeur of the Seas

July 19-26, 2025

Inside from **\$877** Oceanview from **\$1,061**

#### MOAA Amenities/Savings

- \$50 Onboard Credit per stateroom
- Save up to \$557 per person on Inside Staterooms
- Save up to \$436 per person on Oceanview Staterooms

### 9-night Southern Caribbean Cruise

Celebrity Cruises – Celebrity Reflection

September 11-20, 2025

Inside from **\$1,463** Verandah from **\$1,939**

#### MOAA Amenities

- Complimentary Classic Beverage Package
- Complimentary Basic WiFi
- \$50 Onboard Credit per stateroom

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES** from The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

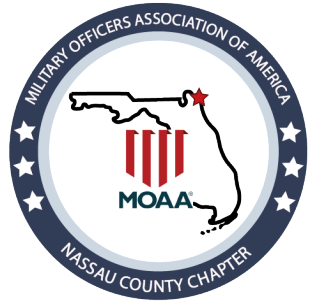
Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**

Please visit us  
online for more  
details



**Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie**

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**



# President's Report

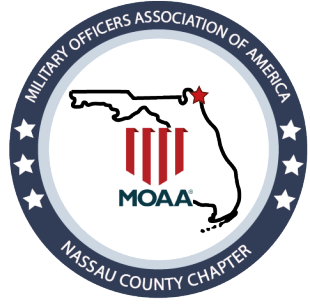
---

## **The Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Awards** *For Exceptional Leadership and Meritorious Service*

- **VADM Dave Kriete, USN (Ret)**
- **CW4 Mike McClane, USA (Ret)**
- **Capt. Harry Henning, USAF (Fmr)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report**



---

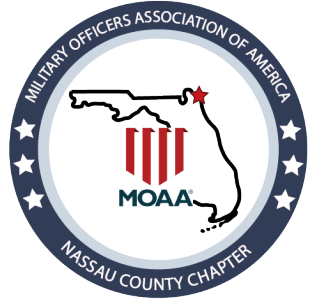
**Jeff Carr, COL USA (Ret)**

**FCoC Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) /  
Convention, Orlando FL 17-19 Jan 2025  
Summary**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President’s Report**

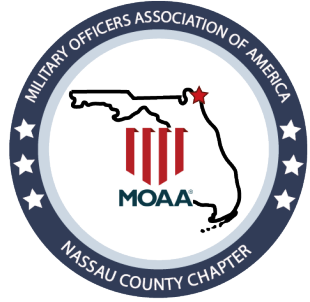


---

**Dwight Collins**  
**CAPT USCG (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# Treasurer's Report

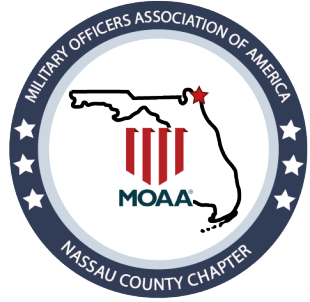
---

## Bob Bell, CAPT USN (Ret)

- I will be placing an order for name tags this week. The cost is \$15 payable when received. Sign up sheet is at the sign in table.
- Zeffy is live and we are ready to start receiving donations. The Link to Zeffy will be in the next newsletter and on the web site.

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***

# **Secretary’s Report**

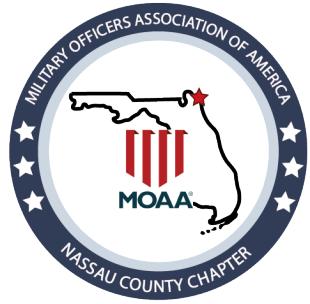


---

**Lou Tonti**  
**CDR USN (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



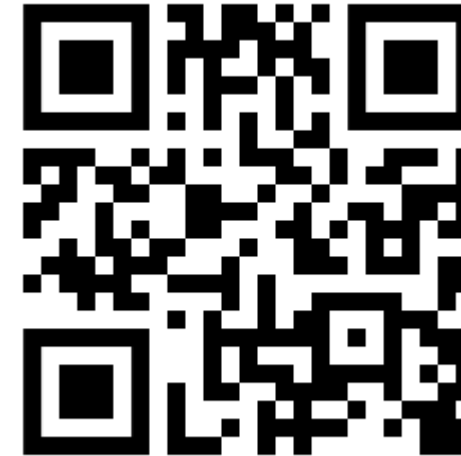
# Legislative Affairs

---

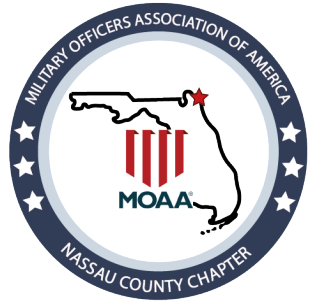
**Mike McClane, CW4 USA (Ret)**

## **Legislative Action Center (LAC):**

- 1. Register/Sign Up**
- 2. Respond to Calls to Action**



<https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# **Membership**

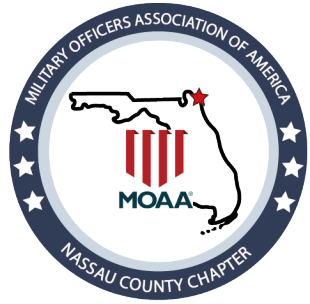


---

**Charlie Finnigan**  
**Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# Data Processing

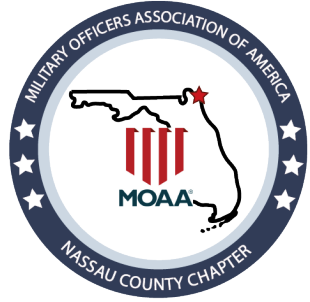


---

**Dave Kriete**  
**VADM USN (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



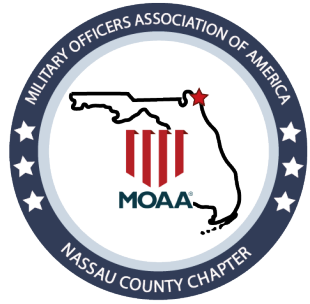
# **Surviving Spouse Liaison**



---

**Mary Gustafson**  
**CAPT USPHS (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



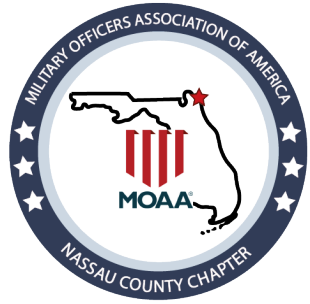
***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***

# Fundraising



# Vacant

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

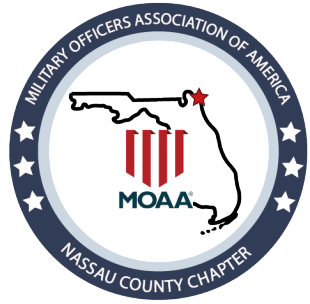
# Programs



# Vacant

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# JROTC



**Gene Kilcawley**  
**LTC USA (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# **Website / Public Affairs**

---

## **Dr. Tracy Connors CAPT USN (Ret)**

- Reviewed and updated web site with current information, e.g., programs, legislative action, images.
- Added new pages and posts reflecting expanded coverage of programs and legislative action.

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# **Newsletter**



**Rich Sharp**  
**CDR USN (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***



***"NEVER STOP SERVING"***

# Chaplain

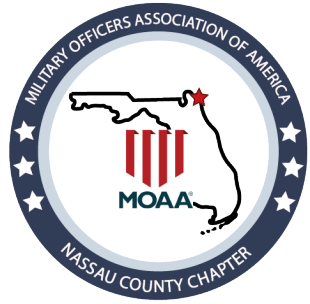


---

**Jim Mackowski**  
**CDR USN (Ret)**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

**“NEVER STOP SERVING”**

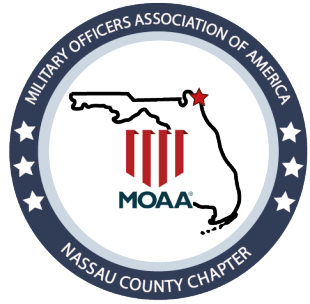


# Upcoming Events

---

- 13 Feb:** Officer Call – Off Island, Gator’s Dockside (Yulee), 1730 (**Mea Culpa**)
- 14 Feb:** Valentine’s Day
- 11 Mar:** Chapter Meeting – 1130, **Guest Speaker: Ken Timmermann - Author**
- 7-10 Apr:** Advocacy-in-Action (AiA) Campaign, Washington DC
- 8 Apr:** Chapter Meeting – 1130, Guest Speaker: Bill Leeper, Sheriff – Nassau County
- 17-21 Apr:** **Traveling Vietnam War Memorial – NEFL Fairgrounds, Callahan FL**
- 20 Apr:** **Easter Sunday**
- xx Apr:** **Officer Call – On Island, TBD, 1730**
- 13 May:** Chapter Meeting – 1130, Guest Speaker: TBD
- 10 Jun:** Chapter Meeting – 1730, Guest Speaker: Kevin Lilly, Property Appraiser - Nassau County
- xx Jun:** **Officer Call – Off Island, 1730**  
*Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie*

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



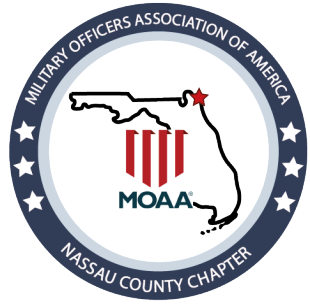
# Q & A



# Saved Rounds / Questions / Comments

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***

*“NEVER STOP SERVING”*



# General Meeting – 11 Feb 2025

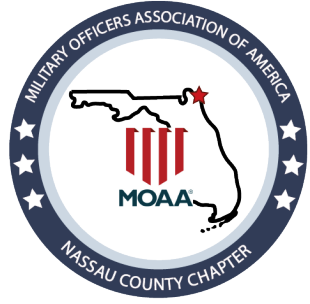


- 
- **Be a Recruiter** – Get one person to join our Chapter
  - **Participate** – Call to Action / Donate / Attend MOAA Events

## Adjourned

*Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie*

***“NEVER STOP SERVING”***



# **General Meeting – 11 Feb 2025**



---

**50 - 50**

***Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie***