



## MAY 2025 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

### CALENDAR EVENTS

09 May: Military Spouse  
Appreciation Day  
11 May: Mother's Day  
13 May: MOAA mtg  
17 May: Armed Forces Day  
26 May: Memorial Day  
14 Jun: Flag Day  
15 Jun: Father's Day  
21 Jun: Start of Summer  
27 Jun: PTSD Awareness  
Day

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 13 MAY 2025  
AT 1130 @ FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 13 May 2025 @ 1130. Our guest speaker will be Pat Green, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council Member.

Pat graduated from Pennsylvania State University with majors in Mathematics and Chemistry. Employment at PSU varied from air pollution research to technical analysis to administration of a technical information center within the Chemical Engineering Department. Her business experience came from being a systems analyst for the production and purchasing departments of a large manufacturing firm. Beginning with her family in her 30s, Pat's new career was full-time motherhood and part-time volunteering and seasonal work. Once the children were raised, full-time volunteering in community affairs filled her days. Pat Green is a surviving spouse of Col. Dave Green, USA, a Life Member of MOAA. When her husband passed, his MOAA membership transferred to Pat. Although she was not married to Col. Green while he served, she felt compelled to support and serve her local military community by joining



the Central Florida Chapter of MOAA in appreciation of the benefit he left to her.

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](mailto:louistonti@gmail.com).

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***“The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”***  
***- Norman Schwarzkopf -***

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Our April general meeting was well attended with over 40 members attending our meeting. Our speaker was Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper. His lecture covered many topics about his department of over 350 employees and their responsibilities in our county. In addition, he shared last year's data on crime, 911 calls, illegal drugs, and population growth of our county. His recommendations for homeowners to prevent criminals from stealing our cars, breaking into our homes and stealing our possessions were impressive and straightforward. For more information about Sheriff Leeper and our county Sheriff's department visit [Nassau County Sheriffs Office](#).



## “From the Chapter President”

Hello fellow Nassau County Chapter of MOAA members –

April was a month filled with many events and May will also be a busy month for our Chapter. There will be an Officer Call at First Lover Brewery on 22 April at 1730, and the Chapter will be paying for the pizza. If you have not yet RSVPed, please do so now by responding to Lou Tonti's Evite for the event. Pat Green, MOAA National's Surviving Spouse Advisory Board member will be our guest speaker for our 13 May luncheon meeting. Pat will share some important information in order to properly prepare for the future. The information Pat will present is equally important for the MOAA member as well as their spouse. Please consider having your spouse attend the 13 May luncheon.

On 10 May the Chapter will be presenting our JROTC Scholarship to the awardee from West Nassau County High School at the Awards Dinner. I will provide you with highlights from the event at the 13 May meeting. Memorial Day falls on 26 May this year and the Chapter will be remembering two Chapter members that have passed away during the past year. A Memorial Day remembrance will be held at Veterans Memorial Park. Additional information will be provided in May via email.

I'm happy to share the Chapter's application for a MOAA Community Outreach Grant was approved. The grant of \$3,250.00 will assist the Chapter in advancing our Philanthropy and Community Outreach mission. This Nov/Dec, the Chapter will distribute Commissary gift cards to Junior Enlisted personnel/families at Submarine Base Kings Bay. Several Chapter members have already mentioned to me that they would like to participate in this event. More information will be provided in the coming months.

I was sorry for not being able to attend the April Chapter meeting. I was told Sheriff Leeper provided a great presentation. I was not able to attend the April meeting as I was in Washington DC participating in MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign. I met with several Congressional offices to advocate for MOAA's 2025 legislative priorities and to ask lawmakers for their support. Go to the Legislative Action Center (LAC) and make your voice heard to your Members of Congress in supporting MOAA's legislative priorities. Use the following link to register in the LAC and send a letter: <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>. Congratulations to Harry Henning and Rich Sharp; both were recognized at the April meeting for their contributions as Events Chair and for the Chapter receiving its first MOAA Communications FIVE star award (Newsletter), respectively.

Several members of the Chapter attended the opening ceremony for The Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall at the Fairgrounds in Callahan on 19 April. The ceremony was very well attended by veterans, Nassau County residents and others from Florida and Georgia. For me, the event was very moving as I heard firsthand accounts of Vietnam Service from veterans that served in combat during the Vietnam War.

There are four Chairperson positions open on the Chapter's Board; those positions are the Membership Chair, Events Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Webmaster. 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

Very Respectfully,

*Tony*

We have 91 active members that contribute to our activities and volunteer work with their \$25.00 annual dues. Please pay Bob at the door or go to [www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org)



## AWARDS

Congratulations to Nassau Chapter Newsletter Editor Richard Sharp, Cdr. USN (ret). His newsletters were recognized by National MOAA for doing an outstanding job communicating with our members and he was honored by being awarded the 2023 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award the Chapter's first 5 Star award. The picture below is past president Mike Doran, Capt. USN (ret) helping Richard Sharp hang our first Communication Award (5 Star award) on the Chapter MOAA Flag.



Congratulations to Capt. Harry Henning USAF (ret), for being recognized by MOAA Florida Council of Chapters for his outstanding contributions as Nassau County Chapter Events Coordinator.



Nassau County Chapter members Dave Kriete, Jim Jarvis, and Tony LaVecchia visit the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall opening ceremony on 19 April in Callahan Florida.



## **DONATIONS**

If you or someone you know would like to donate to our chapter, please go to the following link <https://bit.ly/3DQRDnm> or take a picture of the below QR code.

Thank you.





**FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR MAY 2025**


**Sounds on Centre**

**Amelia Blues Band**

**FREE**  
Community  
Concert

**\*\*THURSDAY\*\* May 1, 2025**

**After the Shrimp Festival Parade**

**SOUNDS ON CENTRE**

Sing and dance to the beat with free outdoor concerts held downtown on the first Friday of every month from April through October but skipping July! Classic rock, blues, oldies and more fill the waterfront area in historic Downtown Fernandina Beach. For more information go to

<https://bit.ly/4cKYAn5>.

**60th Annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival**

May 2-4, 2025

The 60th annual Shrimp Festival. Food, vendors, and entertainment in Historic Downtown Fernandina. Go to <https://www.shrimpfestival.com/> for more information.

**28th Annual Shrimp Festival 5K Run/Walk**

May 3, 2025

7:00 am-12:00pm

The 28th annual Shrimp Festival run/walk. The 5K begins at Main Beach Greenspace and heads north. Registration opens at 7am and run begins at 8am. Go to <https://fcymca.org/> for more information.



## Cocktails For The Gardens - Keep Nassau Beautiful

May 16, 2025

Main Beach

6:00-9:00pm

Cocktails for the Gardens is an event to benefit Gardens Of Amelia and hosted by Keep Nassau Beautiful. There will be food, drinks, live music, and prizes. This is a ticketed event. Go to <https://bit.ly/3RsM2ag> for more information.

## Opening of the beaches and Wild Amelia Nature Festival

May 17, 2025

10:00-5:00pm

Opening of the beaches, featuring the Wild Amelia Nature Festival, Saturday May 17th at Main Beach. Over 60 exhibitors, vendors, live animal partners, Touch a Truck, and bounce houses will provide hands on, nature-based activities outdoors at Main Beach Greenspace. Music from local favorites and food trucks will be on site. Bring your reusable water bottles for a free water refill. Go to <https://bit.ly/3RsM2ag> for more information.



## Fernandina Beach Fishing Rodeo

May 30-31, 2025

Marina Lot A

Come and join the Nassau Sport Fishing Association in the first Kingfish Tournament in Northeast Florida for 2025. 6 Species will be targeted in the Rodeo division: Trout, Flounder, Redfish, Sheepshead, Cobia, and Sea Bass. \$10,000 First place guaranteed and an expanded eastern boundary to 12 miles. Go to <https://bit.ly/4iqe4Oo> for more information.



## Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2025

Date	Event	Time	Location	Guest Speaker / Comments
<b>14 January</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter MOAA
<b>11 February **Evening Mtg**</b>	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Col Rocky McPherson, USMC (Ret) Member, Nassau County Chapter MOAA
<b>13 February</b>	Officer Call	1730	Gator's Dockside (Off Island)	Gator's Dockside, 96150 David Hallman Pkwy, Yulee, FL 32097 (Behind Publix)
<b>11 March</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Ken Timmerman Journalist, Bestselling author
<b>8 April</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Bill Leeper Sheriff, Nassau County FL
<b>22 April</b>	Officer Call	1730	First Love Brewing company	22 South 8th Street Suite 5 Fernandina Beach FL 32034
<b>13 May</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Pat Green, MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Member: Important Info to know being a surviving spouse
<b>10 June **Evening Mtg**</b>	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Mr. Kevin Lilly Nassau County Property Appraiser
<b>Xx June</b>	Officer Call	1730	TBD – Off Island	
<b>9 September</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
<b>14 October **Evening Mtg**</b>	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
<b>Xx October</b>	Officer Call	1730	TBD – On Island	
<b>11 November</b>	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
<b>12 December</b>	Christmas Party	1730	FBGC	1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner

FBGC – 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](http://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.



## THE OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY OF MOAA

### Booking travel through MOAA Vacations offers several advantages for members including:

**Exclusive Discounts:** MOAA Vacations provides exclusive deals and discounts that are not available to the general public. This can lead to significant savings on cruises and vacation packages.

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**Book with Confidence:** MOAA Vacations always guarantees the lowest price and is the only travel agency in the country that provides travel on a Satisfaction Guaranteed basis. Should you have any issue or problem before or during your trip, we guarantee to resolve the issue to your satisfaction.

**Group Travel:** We offer the opportunity to travel with your fellow MOAA members from your local chapter and across the country, thereby increasing the fun for your next vacation.

**MOAA Support:** MOAA Vacations supports MOAA National and Local Chapters. By booking through us you are also supporting MOAA's mission and initiatives, as a portion of the proceeds helps fund advocacy and support programs for the military community and their families.

**If you're considering booking a trip, it's worth exploring what MOAA Vacations has to offer!**

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# **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](mailto:Christina.troope@mail.house.gov) or by phone at 904-319-9433(o) or 904-403-7557©.

## **NEWSLETTER CORNER**

### **MOAA Newsletter May 2025 (highlights)**

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

1. What budget constraints could mean for your earned benefits.
2. MOAA's Mission continues: Advocacy in action 2025 still needs your support.
3. More than medicine: Understanding the value of VA health care.
4. Considering a career pivot? Here's why apprenticeship could be your next step.
5. MOAA workshop: How to succeed in your new role.
- 6 Report: Military-connected consumers lost over \$580 million to fraud last year.
- 7 Why now is the perfect time to kick off next year's taxes.
- 8 How far will DOD take privatization efforts on military bases.
- 9 No waivers needed for TRICARE Prime users outside drive-time standard.

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

Go to [VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs](#) to sign up for monthly newsletter

1. Win a gaming PC.
2. Join VFW's exclusive gaming league for veterans.
3. Free repository of knowledge for veteran research and data.
4. How to open protected emails from VA.
5. Join VA in supporting a National Day of Service, April 23.
6. Preventing a crisis before it occurs for my veteran spouse.
7. Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the Week.

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