



JUNE 2025 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 10 Jun: MOAA Mtg
- 14 Jun: Flag Day and U.S. Army Birthday
- 15 Jun: Father's Day
- 21 Jun: Start of Summer
- 23 Jun MOAA Officer's Call "Bohemian Bull"
- 27 Jun: PTSD Awareness Day
- 01 Jul: Canada Day
- 04 Jul: Independence Day

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 10 JUNE 2025 AT 1730@ FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 10 June 2025 @ 1730. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Kevin Lilly Nassau County Property Appraiser.

Kevin Lilly began his career over 30 years ago when he joined the Florida Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division. He started with the Nassau County Property Appraiser's office in 2012 as Chief Deputy. During his tenure, he has earned the respect of the staff and his colleagues through professionalism, honesty, and transparency. As Chief Deputy, he worked closely with the Property Appraiser to strengthen the customer service experience, while providing an equitable tax roll in compliance with Department of Revenue standards. His leadership will continue to streamline processes that reduce taxpayer expenses and increase operational efficiency.



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.

“Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard.”
-- President John F. Kennedy --

Our May general meeting was well attended with over 30 members attending our meeting. Our speaker was Pat Green, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council Member. Pat has been an active and engaged member of MOAA for 15 years, serving in many leadership roles including Chapter Secretary, Board Member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and Chairperson/Liaison for the Florida Council of Chapters Surviving Spouses Committee. She covered a variety of subjects that included estate planning and information about preparing for the future.



“From the Chapter President”

Hello fellow Nassau County Chapter of MOAA members –

May was another busy month for the Chapter with activities furthering our missions of Advocacy, Philanthropy & Community Service, and Camaraderie. At an awards ceremony on 10 May, the Chapter awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Olivia Cauchon of West Nassau County High School, a graduating senior and Cadet at the school’s JROTC program. Olivia will be pursuing a degree in nursing this Fall at a school in Vermont.

Pat Green, MOAA National’s Surviving Spouse Advisory Board member was the guest speaker at the May luncheon meeting. Pat shared important information in order to properly prepare for the future. I was very happy to see a good turnout of spouses at the May meeting. Spouses, you are welcome to attend all Chapter events, we want to see MOAA of you! Thank you, Mary Gustafson, for coordinating Pat’s visit.

Memorial Day falls on 26 May this year and we will be remembering two Chapter members that have passed away during the past year. Please come out and join other Chapter members to pay honor to Chapter members Bob Kiebler and Kate Waldrop at a Memorial Day remembrance at Veterans Memorial Park on 26 May at 1215.

For June, the Chapter will be conducting a fundraising event at the Publix in Yulee to support the Chapters’ Charitable Efforts Program (CEP). The fundraising event will be held on 7 June from 1100-1600. Additional information will be provided should you want to participate in the event. The Chapter is also conducting a concurrent donation effort to support the CEP. On 13 May, I sent an email to all Chapter members requesting their assistance in reaching out to persons in their social circles to ask for donations to our CEP. In that email, I provided a letter that can be used to facilitate my request for assistance. Please consider contacting people in your social circles and asking them to donate. I reached out to 18 people and have thus far heard back from five committing to donate. My letter is also included in this newsletter for reference and your use! Thank you!

There will be an Officer Call on 23 June at 1730. The Officer Call will be held at the Bohemian Bull in Wildlight (Publix Shopping Center). Please RSVP to the Evite.

Finally for June, 14 June is Flag Day and Happy Birthday U.S. Army!

MOAA’s #1 mission is Advocacy and in order to execute that mission, 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. Currently, approximately 45% of Chapter members are signed up

in the LAC. Let's turn this around and get that percentage much higher. Use the following link to register in the LAC: <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/> or use the QR Code:



There are three Chairperson positions open on the Chapter's Board; those positions are the Events Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Webmaster. Thank you to Dave Kriete for stepping up and volunteering to take the Membership Chair position. 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

We have 93 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

Very Respectfully,

Tony

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.





Nassau County Florida MOAA
PO Box 16313
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

May 10, 2025

Dear Supporters of Veterans,

As Flag Day approaches on June 14th, we at the Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) are reminded of the sacrifices made by our veterans to uphold the values our flag represents. MOAA is dedicated to honoring and supporting the brave men and women who have served our country by advocating to protect the benefits they earned. In addition to advocacy, our mission also includes philanthropy and giving back to our community.

The Chapters' Charitable Efforts Program includes a scholarship to a West Nassau County High School graduating senior that is a member of the school's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. The scholarship provides the recipient with funding for college or vocational training. The Charitable Efforts Program also contributes to The MOAA Foundation (TMF) by offering grants to the nation's uniformed servicemembers and veterans of all ranks and their families in times of crisis.

To continue this vital work, we rely on the generosity of supporters like you. Your donation, no matter the size, can make a profound difference in the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and our future warriors. For example, in 2024, TMF disbursed grants to over 200 Floridians (active duty/veterans) following hardships caused by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Please consider making a donation today. You can contribute by check, credit card, or ACH from your bank account securely online using Zeffy at www.ncflmoaa.org/donate. Go to the aforementioned web address to learn more about the Charitable Efforts Program, make an online donation, or if donating by check the address where it is to be sent.

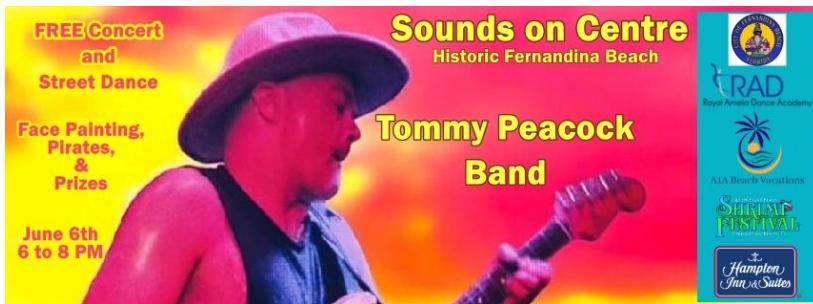
Thank you for standing with us in supporting our Charitable Efforts Program. Together, we can make an impact on the lives of servicemembers and veterans locally and across the nation and also help start the future of a deserving West Nassau County High School senior.

Very Respectfully,

Tony La Vecchia

Tony LaVecchia
Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret)
President, Nassau County Chapter of MOAA

FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR JUNE 2025



historic Downtown Fernandina Beach. For more information go to <https://bit.ly/4cKYAn5> .

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

Fernandina Beach Pride parade and festival

June 7, 2025, 10am- 3pm, Central Park

The Pride Parade and Festival is a celebration of love, acceptance, and equality throughout Fernandina Beach and Nassau County communities. The parade begins at 10am and follows the traditional parade route. The festival begins at 11am at Central Park. Go to

<https://www.fernandinabeachpride.com/> for more information.



YMCA Pickleball Open Tournament

June 21, 2025, 9:00 AM - June 22, 2025, 5:00 PM

@ Central Park Pickleball Courts

Play will begin Saturday and end with finals on Sunday. Saturday 9am-6pm and Sunday 1pm-5pm.

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.



Fernandina Beach Marketplace: Join your family, neighbors and friends at this weekly event where farmers, growers, and entrepreneurial individuals sell locally grown and produced goods to those living in, and visiting, our friendly, little community. The farmers' market is open **EVERY Saturday** from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., year-round, rain or shine. For more information about the Fernandina Beach **Market Place farmers' market**, please explore this website or send an email to: Info@FernandinaBeachMarketPlace.com. Located on N. 7th Street, in the historic district of Fernandina Beach, and their newest market, the Fernandina Beach Arts Market, features local arts & crafts by talented artisans from our community, and is located adjacent to the farmers market on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

Christian Heritage Parade

June 28, 2025

Parade begins at Central Park

11:00am-12:00pm

This is a parade celebrating the Christian heritage. The parade begins at 10am and follows the traditional parade route. Go to

<https://bit.ly/4bwJ1he> 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, Bestselling author
8 April	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Bill Leeper Sheriff, Nassau County FL
22 April	Officer Call	1730	First Love Brewing company	22 South 8th Street Suite 5 Fernandina Beach FL 32034
13 May	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Pat Green, MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Member: Important Info to know being a surviving spouse
10 June **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Mr. Kevin Lilly Nassau County Property Appraiser
23 June	Officer Call	1730	Bohemian Bull	76030-1 William Burgess Blvd Yulee, FL 3209
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.

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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PLEASE JOIN US for an online webinar – use the QR code or call for the date & time for the next presentation.

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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 or by phone at 904-319-9433(o) or 904-403-7557©.

NEWSLETTER CORNER

MOAA Newsletter June 2025 (highlights)

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

1. Life members save big with Everplans.
2. COLA Watch: Get the latest update.
3. MOAA CEO meets with VA secretary to discuss future of Veterans care and benefits.
4. Student-Veterans are more than ‘Dollar signs in Uniform’.
5. Considering the ‘RV life’? Get some advice for the road ahead.
6. MOAA members support the program honoring new enlistees.
7. Protecting what matters, unexpected health needs.
8. Help MOAA keep VA insurance programs safe from inflation.
9. MOAA-backed bill cuts health care red tape for servicewomen, military families.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. Veterans, Professional athletes join forces to support one another.
2. VA Secretary Collins/keep hammering collective.
3. Glad you asked: how to get started with your benefits.
4. VA announces major survivor benefits reforms.
5. Honor fallen Veterans during Memorial May.
6. Calling all Warriors: Don’t struggle with trauma, train for it.
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