



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 on our website [NCFL](#). 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.

**OCTOBER 2026**

## **MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 13 OCT 2026 @  
1130 AT FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

### **CALENDAR EVENTS**

01 Oct: Local MOAA dues  
\$25.00.

13 Oct: Navy Birthday  
celebration 250th

13 Oct: MOAA Mtg

10 Nov: USMC Birthday  
celebration 250th

10 Nov: MOAA Mtg

11 Nov: Veterans Day

26 Nov: Thanksgiving

11 Dec: MOAA Xmas party

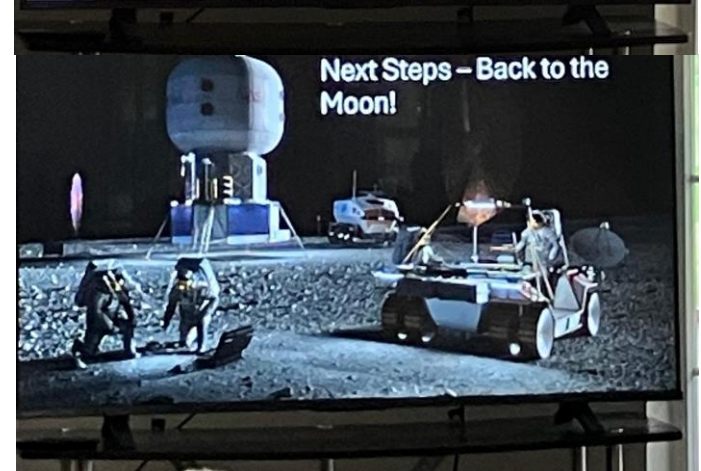
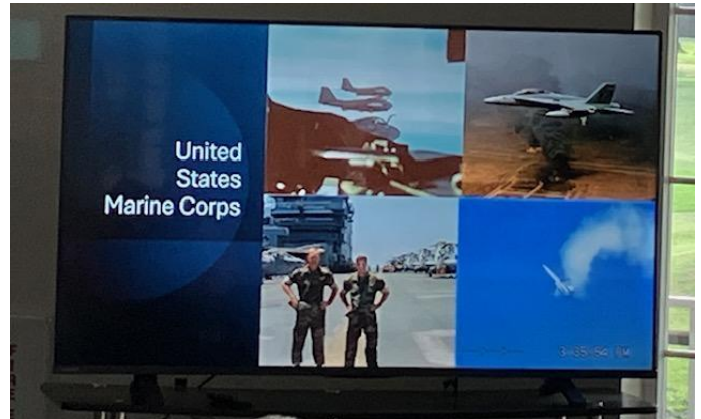
The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 13 Oct 2026 @ 1130. Our speakers will be Will and Amanda Stanger. They are certified Florida insurance agents authorized to represent Veterans Healthcare. Will and Amanda reside in Pensacola. As an Affinity Partner with MOAA, Veterans Healthcare is dedicated to helping veterans and retirees protect their coverage and enhance their retirement benefits by understanding their full range of Medicare options. Veterans Health Care tailor insurance plans with U.S. Military veterans in mind to take advantage of Medicare and Tricare for Life benefits. For more information



go to [VA Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#).

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 48-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 \$20.00/\$30.00 to be paid at the door or go to [Lunch/Dinner](#) to pay online. To make, change, or cancel your reservation, please contact Louis Tonti at [louistonti@gmail.com](mailto:louistonti@gmail.com)

Our September general meeting was one of the largest gatherings with over 69 members attending and this was our first meeting after summer break. Our speaker was Colonel George Zamka, USMC (Ret.), a former two-time Space Shuttle astronaut. His presentation covered the many facets of his remarkable career as both a fighter pilot and an astronaut. He shared his experiences serving as a Marine Corps fighter pilot during Operation Desert Storm providing insight into the challenges and responsibilities of military aviation. Following his distinguished aviation career, Colonel Zamka was selected for NASA's astronaut program. He described the rigorous training process, the experience of being chosen for spaceflight, and what it was like to travel into space and live aboard the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. In conclusion, he provided an informative briefing on the future of space exploration and NASA's ongoing efforts to advance human space travel for more information go to [George](#).



## “From the Chapter President”

October 2026

Aloha Nassau County Chapter of MOAA Members –

Happy Birthday to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 3 October and to the U.S. Navy, 13 October.

**We have a great and pertinent topic for the next Chapter luncheon meeting** scheduled for 13 October at 1130. Amanda and Will Stanger represent Veterans Healthcare and will be discussing tailored Medicare options for veterans. Veterans Healthcare is an Affinity Partner with MOAA. As a preview of the meeting, watch the 3:30 minute video: <https://veteran.healthcare/moaa> Speaking of great meetings, how about the phenomenal Dinner Meeting we had in September with a presentation from Colonel George Zamka, USMC (Ret), a former Astronaut. There was a record turnout for the meeting with nearly 70 people attending. Thank you for supporting your Chapter.

Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) concluded at the end of August and Florida MOAA and the Nassau County Chapter made their Voices Heard. Over 18,000 messages were sent to Congress supporting MOAA's Summer AiA priorities. More than 5,000 of those messages came from Florida MOAA Members and **more than 300 were sent from Nassau County Chapter Members, Well Done!** 85% of Chapter Members are signed up in the LAC, and if you are not signed up yet, please do so at: [Sign Up](#). See helpful instructions at: [Instructions](#).

Our Chapter Membership is at an all time high with 121 Chapter members, 33 new members in 2026 thus far. **Great Job by Dave Kriete, Membership Chair and thank you to all that have recruited a new member.** Welcome new Chapter Members!

**The Chapter will hold elections at the November Chapter luncheon meeting.** You must be present to vote, there is no proxy voting. The election slate immediately below my signature.

Get ready for Veterans Day with a new flag. The Florida Council of Chapters of MOAA has partnered with Allegiance Flag Supply. **Receive a 15% discount** by using the below link when purchasing a flag...see the ad below or use: <https://www.showallegiance.com/FLYITFORWARD442258>  
Please share the link with family, friends, neighbors, and HOA's.

**I encourage all members to pre-pay for meals at the Chapter luncheons and dinners** via our online payment option at: [Meal Payments](#). By pre-paying you can use your credit card and it also expedites the meeting check-in process. Finally, when you RSVP “Yes” to a luncheon or dinner, you are ordering a meal and agreeing to pay for that meal, regardless if you attend or not. The Chapter leadership understands situations arise requiring you to change plans, and should you not be able to attend a meeting after your affirmative RSVP, please let us know immediately and get positive confirmation of your cancellation 48 hrs prior to the event. We will do our best to relieve you of your obligation or to give you credit in certain situations, but there are no guarantees. Email Lou and Bob at: [louistonti@gmail.com](mailto:louistonti@gmail.com) and [rsb64@comcast.net](mailto:rsb64@comcast.net).

Please....

[DONATE](#)

- Be a Recruiter – Get one person to join our Chapter
- Participate in Calls to Action and attend as many Chapter events as possible
- Donate to the Chapters' Charitable Efforts Program at: [DONATE](#)

Very Respectfully,

*Tony*



**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**



## President's Report

### Election Slate – Nov 2026

-- Terms Commence 1 Jan 2027 --

| <b><u>Position</u></b>         | <b><u>Current</u></b> | <b><u>Candidate for Election</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President                      | Tony LaVecchia        | Jeff Carr                            |
| 1st Vice President             | Jeff Carr             | Dwight Collins                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Dwight Collins        | ????                                 |
| Secretary                      | Lou Tonti             | Lou Tonti                            |
| Treasurer                      | Bob Bell              | Katy Person                          |

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

## DONATIONS

If you or someone you know would like to donate to our chapter, please go to the following link [DONATE](#) or take a picture of the QR code. Thank you.



We have 121 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 [RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

**WANT TO ADVERTISE IN MOAA  
NEWSLETTER OR KNOW A BUSINESS  
THAT DOES?!**

**Annual Subscription Costs:**

**Half Page Ad: \$1000**

**Quarter Page Ad: \$500 . 1/8 Page Ad: \$250**

**E-Mail: [Rssstang@aol.com](mailto:Rssstang@aol.com)**



The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its annual Holiday Celebration at the FBGC on **11 December 2026**, 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.



## The Nassau MOAA Chapter ADVERTISING ORDER FORM



| <u>Size of Ad</u> | <u>Per Issue</u> | <u>Annual Placement (10 issues)</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/8 Page          | \$25.00          | \$250.00                            |
| Quarter Page      | \$50.00          | \$500.00                            |
| Half Page         | \$100.00         | \$1000.00                           |

Size of Ad: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Issues: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: 10 issues are published electronically. We publish the newsletter around the 22nd of each month. July and August we don't publish newsletters.

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to: Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA, P.O. Box 16313, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035.

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Cel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit PDF or JPEG file or ad(s) or ad update via email with a scanned copy of the completed order form to [rssstang@aol.com](mailto:rssstang@aol.com).

Copy is due by the first day of month unless otherwise arranged by the chapter.

Please notify the Newsletter Editor if you plan to change the ad copy. Address questions to CDR Richard Sharp (ret) @ 912 674-0380 or to [rssstang@aol.com](mailto:rssstang@aol.com).

## MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members  
on these hosted cruises and land tours.**

|                       |                                           |                        |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| July 12-21, 2026      | Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise | 9-nights from \$3,999  |
| October 1-10, 2026    | Western Europe Yacht Cruise               | 9-nights from \$4,999  |
| April 25-May 2, 2027  | Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise      | 7-nights from \$4,199  |
| July 19-27, 2027      | France & Spain Yacht Cruise               | 8-nights from \$5,799  |
| September 14-25, 2027 | Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise               | 11-nights from \$8,999 |
| Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027 | Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour           | 10 days from \$6,495   |

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



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

**Email Address: [mail@MOAAvac.com](mailto:mail@MOAAvac.com)**



**For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online**



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

**1-800-247-2192**

**[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)**

100392



*Barb Kent your location and  
realtor expert @ go to [Barb](#)*

Florida MOAA Members receive a 15% **discount** by using the link below or QR Code when purchasing a flag from Allegiance Flag Supply. Allegiance Flags are made in the USA. Please share the link/code with family, friends, neighbors, and HOA's.



Go to [Flag](#) for more information.

## FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS OCTOBER 2026



### SOUNDS ON CENTRE

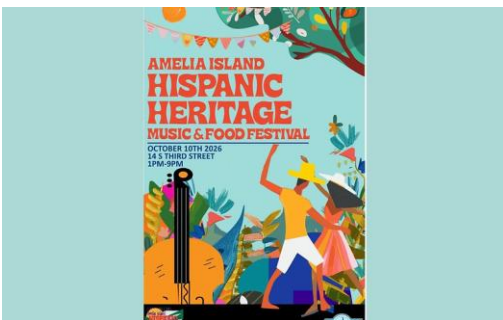
Sing and dance to the beat with free outdoor concerts held downtown on the first Friday of every month from April through October but skipping

July! Classic rock, blues, oldies and more fill the waterfront area in historic Downtown Fernandina Beach. Go to [Centre](#) for more information.

### THE 2026 ISLAND HOP CRAFT BEER FEST

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Island Hop is a craft beer tasting of local and regional brewers. Island Hop is a family-friendly event with children under 12 admitted free. Proceeds from this event will support Fernandina Beach Main Street (FBMS). Go to [Craft](#) for more information and tickets.



### Annual Hispanic Heritage Food Festival

Saturday, October 10, 12-9 pm.

Friends of Fernandina Skate Park presents our 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Food Festival in downtown Fernandina S. 3rd St. Between Centre Go to [Heritage](#) for more information.



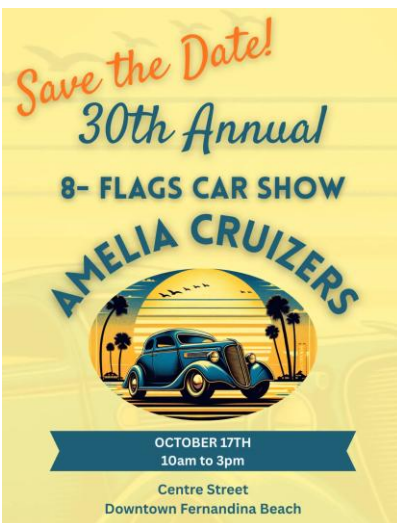
## Graveside Chronicles

The guided tour at Bosque Bello Cemetery offers a unique chance to learn about the lives and stories of notable past residents of Fernandina. During the tour, you will be escorted to 8 different gravesites. Here, Costumed Interpreters will share the intimate tales of these individuals who played a significant role in shaping the community surrounding Amelia Island.

Saturday, October 10, 2026, Tours start at 9:00 AM, the last tour departs at 4 pm. Go to [Graveside](#) for more information.

## Amelia Island Jazz Festival

Join us for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Amelia Island Jazz Festival, a week-long celebration from October 4-11 2026. Go to [Jazz](#) for more information and tickets.



## 8-FLAGS CAR SHOW

**October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

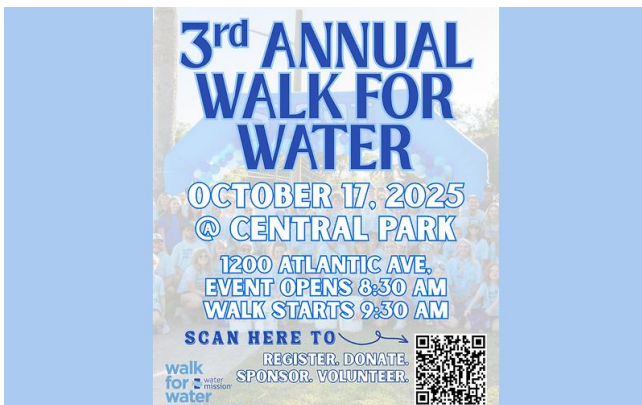
Amelia Cruizers Car Club of Fernandina Beach Florida was founded in 1996 and welcomes all antique, classic, and special interest cars. Cars & Motorsport are our passion. All makes and models, antique, classic, and special interest vehicles are welcome. Together as a Club we can do more! Go to [Cars](#) for more information.

## Barktoberfest

October 10, 2026 12-4pm, Mocama Beer Company

Come celebrate all things cat- and dog-related at Barktoberfest, Nassau Humane Society's "paw-some fall festival"! Whether you're bringing your four-legged friend, or just a fan of furry companions, this event is for you. Enjoy an afternoon of live music, delicious food, cold drinks, exciting silent auction items, kids' activities, local vendors, and adorable dog adoptions—all while supporting the lifesaving work of NHS. Don't miss this chance to give back to animals in need and have a blast doing it. Mark your calendars, grab your leash (or your friends), and get ready to wag your tail at Barktoberfest 2026! Go to [Bark](#) for more information. New name.

Same mission. More fun. All proceeds benefit the dogs and cats of Nassau Humane Society.



## 3rd Annual Walk For Water

Join us for our annual Walk for Water, a community event dedicated to raising awareness and funds to provide clean and safe drinking water for communities in need. Together, we walk to represent the daily journey millions take to access water. Your participation truly makes an impact that reaches far beyond our city. Saturday, October 17, 2026 Event Opens: 8:30 AM Walk Begins: 9:30 AM Central Park, 1200 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

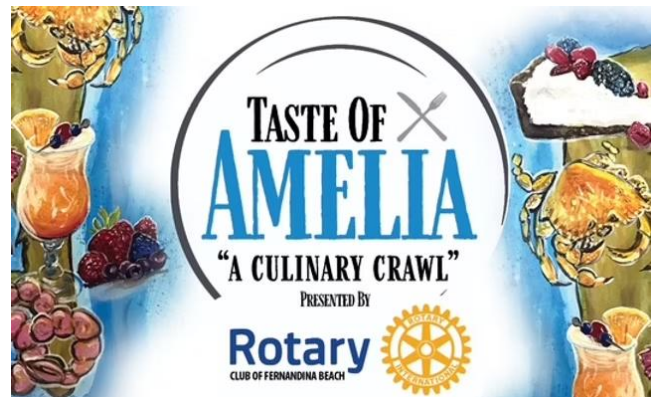
WHAT TO EXPECT • 3 mile walk suitable for all ages •

Sponsor activations and giveaways • Music, photo ops, and a special POV photo upload app so you can share your walk with us • Community, connection, and a chance to create lasting change  
REGISTRATION Please visit [Walk](#) to start a team or join one! FUNDRAISING GOAL This year, our goal is \$25,000 to help expand clean water access for families and communities around the world. Every step and every share brings us closer. WHO CAN ATTEND Everyone is welcome—families, workplaces, schools, faith groups, and individuals walking for a cause.

## TASTE OF AMELIA WEEKEND

October 23-25, 2026

Great Food. Local Flavor. Lasting Impact. From pirates and handcrafted cocktails to acclaimed Napa Valley wines, unforgettable local cuisine and fascinating island history, the **Taste of Amelia Weekend** brings together the very best experiences Fernandina Beach has to offer. For more information go [Taste](#).



[DONATE](#)



## Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2026

| Date                           | Event           | Time | Location                     | Guest Speaker / Comments                                                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 January                     | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret)<br>President, Nassau County Chapter of MOAA                 |
| 10 February                    | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | <del>Gary Powers Jr. — Cancelled</del><br><del>Cold War Historian</del>                    |
| 24 February                    | Officers Call   | 1730 | Disco Witch Mainland         | 464073 FL-200, Yulee, FL 32097<br>Food available for purchase or bring your own            |
| 10 March                       | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | Dr. James Antun<br>Mayor, City of Fernandina Beach                                         |
| 14 April                       | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | CAPT Bill Dull, U.S. Navy<br>Commanding Officer, Submarine Base, Kings Bay                 |
| 28 April                       | Officers Call   | 1730 | First Love Brewing On-Island | 22 S 8th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034                                                    |
| 12 May                         | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | Janet Adkins<br>Supervisor of Elections, Nassau County                                     |
| 9 June<br>**Evening Mtg**      | General Meeting | 1730 | FBGC                         | Theresa Viets, Military Liaison for the Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Club                         |
| 25 June                        | Officers Call   | 1730 | Brew Shed Mainland           | 474305 E State Rd 200, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034                                          |
| 8 September<br>**Evening Mtg** | General Meeting | 1730 | FBGC                         | George Zamka, COL USMC (ret)<br>Former Space Shuttle Astronaut                             |
| 13 October                     | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | Amanda and Will Stanger<br>Veterans Healthcare                                             |
| 28 October                     | Officers Call   | 1730 | Gregor MacGregors Mini Links | 201 Alachua St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034                                                 |
| 10 November                    | General Meeting | 1130 | FBGC                         | Mike and Susan Doran, Lecture on their year adventure completing, <b>"The Great Loop."</b> |
| 11 December                    | Christmas Party | 1730 | FBGC                         | 1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner                                                                |

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

# **NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION**

## **2026 ISSUES**

**MOAA's 2026 Legislative Priorities – Click [HERE](#) for Details on Each Priority**

- **Shutdown Fairness Act**
  - Allows the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any future funding lapse
- **Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act**
  - Modernizes the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), a nonrefundable tax credit employers can take for hiring target group members during the employee's first year on the job, by increasing the amount of the credit and adding military spouses as a target group. The program is intended to reduce the unemployment rate of "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment" by incentivizing employers with a tax credit, according to the Labor Department.
- **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act**
  - Reinstates criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for VA disability compensation benefits.
- **Military CARE Act**
  - Requires the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing beneficiaries with a standardized platform to report barriers to MTF care and creating a data record that does not exist today to give Defense Health Agency leadership and Congress the insights needed to address systemic access challenges.
- **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act**
  - Expands health care coverage and career transition support for caregivers and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement.

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 office or 904-403-7557 cell.

# Legislative Action Center (LAC)

## Sign Up Instructions

1. Go to the Legislative Action Center (LAC) at:  
<https://moaa.quorum.us/>
2. Select the Sign-Up button in the upper right of the page.
3. Answer the questions...name, rank, status, etc.
4. For the address question, type your address and as addresses populate in the drop down, select your address from the drop down. You must select your address from the populated drop-down option, otherwise you will receive an error.
5. For the last question, MOAA Chapter Affiliation, select:  
“FL49 – Nassau County Chapter”
6. Click on “Sign up and Take Action” at the bottom of the page
7. The upper right of the page should say “Hello, (your name)!”

Note (1): In your browser settings, allow/enable third party cookies.

Note (2): Do not log out of the LAC.

**For the most recent MOAA national content go to [MOAA](#) for more information. Here are the most recent topics:**

1. Major Richard Star Act discharge petition clears threshold.
2. Space Force to add 10,000 Guardians in the next five years.
3. NDAA prevision would help remove health care barriers.
4. Navy is not doing enough to study long-term brain damage to aviators, lawmakers say.
5. Report: VA facilities struggle to staff mental health, nursing, safety positions.
6. A career built outside the comfort zone.

## **NEWSLETTER CORNER**

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

Go to [VA](#) to sign up for monthly newsletter

1. 1.17 billion to fight veteran homelessness.
2. Consistent trust in VA.
3. Freedom Haulers.
4. VA resources.
5. VA Home Grant Alert.
6. VA Home Telehealth.
7. Exclusive discounts for Veterans.
8. Jobs for Veterans.

### **TRICARE EAST Newsletter Issue 2/2026**

#### **Go to [Tricare](#)**

1. Graduating in 2026? Learn how to stay covered with TRICARE Young Adult.
2. Understanding the TRICARE claims process.
3. How to manage a third-party liability claim with TRICARE.
4. How divorce affects your family's TRICARE benefits.

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



**NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA CHAPTER  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
MOAA is a Non-Partisan Organization**

**Eligibility:** Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA, US Public Health Service, or Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services, or a Surviving Spouse of any of the aforementioned. A spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT (Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Suffix)

**MILITARY RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GENDER:** ☐ M ☐ F **BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse / Surviving Spouse leave blank) (mm/dd/yyyy)

**SERVICE:** ☐ USA ☐ USN ☐ USAF ☐ USMC ☐ USCG ☐ USPHS ☐ NOAA ☐ USSF

**STATUS:** ☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ NG/Reserves ☐ Former Officer ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ Spouse

**YEARS OF SERVICE (MM/YY):** From \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **APT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_, **FL ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SPOUSE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**National MOAA Member:** ☐ YES ☐ NO **MOAA National #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Speaker Planning - ☐ Membership - ☐ Legislative Affairs - ☐ Phoning Members

☐ Newsletter - ☐ ROTC/JROTC - ☐ Fundraising - ☐ WEB Site - ☐ Data Processing

☐ Social Events Planning - ☐ Finance

**Chapter Dues \$25.00 Annually Payable to "Nassau MOAA"**

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

Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA

PO Box 16313

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035