



## APRIL 2023 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 11 APRIL 2023 AT 1130AM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

### CALENDAR EVENTS

- 01 Apr: April Fools
- 07 Apr: Good Friday
- 09 Apr: Easter
- 18 Apr: Taxes Are Due
- 28 Apr: Arbor Day
- 12 May: Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 14 May: Mother’s Day
- 20 May: Armed Forces Day
- 29 May: Memorial Day



The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 11 April 2023 at 1130. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Mark VanLoh. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Aviation Authority and oversees the operation, maintenance, business development and marketing of all Authority assets, including its four airports Jacksonville International Airport, Cecil Airport/Spaceport, Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport and Herlong Recreational Airport. Prior to joining the Authority, Mr. VanLoh has directed airports in Toledo, Cleveland, Kansas City, Tulsa and he began his career with Pan American Airlines after serving in the U. S. Army. Mr. VanLoh is active in both airport industry trade associations, Airports Council International and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Airport Executives. Locally, Mr. VanLoh is a member of PGA Players Council, The Gator Bowl Association, Jacksonville Tourism Development Council and The Jacksonville Chamber’s Transportation and Logistics Council. He was recently appointed to the Board of the Tony Janus Society. Mark D. VanLoh graduated from Minnesota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management, Business Management, and Industrial Relations, and a Minor in Economics.

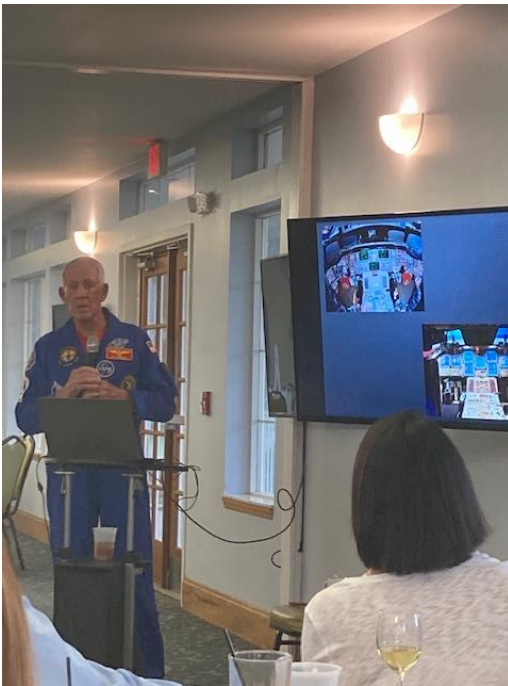
As always, spouses are invited and encouraged to attend, since they are a key component of the group and can contribute with valuable input. As a reminder, in accordance with our arrangement with the golf club, if you reserve a lunch, you have obligated the chapter for your luncheon expense and will 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 in an attempt to keep the individual cost to a minimum. Lunch will be \$15.00 to be paid at the door. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Paul Booton ([pbooton@comcast.net](mailto:pbooton@comcast.net)).

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***“The Navy has both a tradition and a future – and we look with pride and confidence in both directions.”***  
***-Admiral George Anderson-***

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Our March general meeting was a complete success, we had over **45** people present to listen to Bob Springer who is a retired American astronaut and test pilot who flew as a mission specialist on two NASA Space Shuttle missions in 1989 and 1990. His lecture was captivating to the degree that most of us were sitting on the edge of our seats. It was one of the best lectures this MOAA chapter has seen. His insights on space travel, the international space station, and the space shuttle were fascinating. This MOAA chapter is only going to get better.



We have 78 active members that support our JROTC scholarships with their \$25.00 annual dues. They are due every January.

Please pay Bob at the door or go to

[www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org)

*Never Stop Serving!*

## Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2023

Date	Location	Time	Address
10 January	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
8 February**	Mocama Beer Company	1730	629 S 8 <sup>th</sup> St Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
14 February	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
8 March*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
11 April	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
19 April**	TBD	1730	TBD
9 May	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
14 June*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
22 June**	TBD	1730	TBD
12 September	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
11 October*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
19 October**	TBD	1730	TBD
14 November	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Xx December**	Christmas Party - TBD	TBD	TBD

\* Indicates a late afternoon/evening chapter meeting (Held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

\*\*Indicates a social event

*Never Stop Serving!*

As of 1/15/2023

There will be a no host social of the MOAA Nassau County Chapter at Duck Pinz, 2nd floor bar on **19 April** at 5:30pm. All Chapter members and their families are invited to attend. Come on out and socialize with your fellow Chapter members and let's make this event a success. Please RSVP by **12 April** so Duck Pinz can get an idea of the number of attendees and be properly staffed. Mark your calendars NOW and RSVP by replying to [alavecchia64@gmail.com](mailto:alavecchia64@gmail.com) with the number attending. Should you decide to eat at Duck Pinz, food options are:

1. Order out from Cafe Karibo or Timoti's and eat your meal at Duck Pinz.

Duck Pinz is located at 27 N 3rd St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

<https://www.duckpinzfernandina.com/>

## “From the Chapter President”

March has been a very active and exciting month for our chapter and April is shaping up to be just as great!

On March 1th, we joined up with the MOAA Historic Mayport chapter for a tour of the Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility (LTF). We received the red-carpet treatment from the leadership at the facility. The Director, Mr. John Zuzich, personally welcomed us and gave us an excellent presentation on the mission and functions of the LTF. Then we received a guided tour from the Deputy Director, Curt Chaffinch, and the Director of Training Scheduling, Mr. Eric Priest. The tour included demonstrations of the state-of-the-art simulators that are used to train sailors assigned to the Littoral Combat Ships in Mayport.

On the 8th we had our first evening general membership meeting at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club. Since it was our first attempt at an evening event, we wanted to ensure we had a speaker that would fill the seats, so we brought in retired Marine Corps Colonel Bob Springer, a Vietnam vet and NASA astronaut. Bob gave a fantastic presentation that included videos, pictures and funny stories from his time as a space shuttle astronaut. Judging by the packed house and dozens of questions he received after finishing his remarks, I'd say it was a success!

Our next meeting will be on April 11th at the regular time of 11:30. We have another high-powered guest speaker for that luncheon: Mr. Mark VanLoh, the Chief Executive Officer of the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA). Please mark your calendars for that lunch - it is promising to be another great event.

On April 19th, we are planning our next evening no-host social at a local watering hole. We have narrowed down the candidates and will announce the location at our next meeting on the 11th.

Please mark your calendars for two other events coming up:

22 April: The annual Vets for Vets (V4V) event will be held at West Nassau High School starting at 10:30. This is free event put on by the Nassau County V4V organization and includes a BBQ lunch. The guest speaker is Judge Higgenbotham

19-21 May: The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention is being held at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at World Golf Village in St. Augustine. It promises to be a fun and memorable event and includes a golf tournament, bourbon tasting event and a Military Ball! The guest speaker will be the new MOAA CEO LtGen B.K. Kelly.

All the best,  
Mike



## FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR APRIL 2022

**Council on Aging, COA** (bingo, line dancing, ask a lawyer, cooking, pet therapy, etc.) 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. If you need transportation to any event on the island or Council of Aging, just contact nassautransit at <https://bit.ly/3wpU2zf> and they will come and get you. If you need a personal trainer, please contact Maria Hardesty @ mhardesty3@hotmail.com.



### Amelia Island Museum of History

**BILL GLASS: Growing up in an Army Family: 1947-1966**

April 21, 2023, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

6pm in Baker Hall and Streamed Online. Go to <https://bit.ly/3FBL1oJ> for more information.

### Spring Festival

April 1, 2023, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Fernandina Beach Branch Library

Live Kid Friendly Music / Crafts / Game Booths, Balloon Art, Face Painting, Musical Instrument Petting Zoo With Joel Pace Piano, Touch-A-Truck (Fire Trucks, Sparky Fire-Dog, Police Vehicles, Smokey Bear, Superhero Characters, And Many Other Activities For All Ages!



### Sounds on Centre

April 7, May 4, June 2, Aug 4, Sept 1, and October 6.

Centre Street, Downtown Fernandina Beach 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

This annual event has been providing free community concerts for 16 years in Fernandina Beach. They welcome musicians from all over the country and encourage audience participation with singing and dancing in the streets. All ages welcome. Bring your chairs and dancing shoes! Go to <https://bit.ly/3ueJMay> for more information.

**THE BOOK LOFT**

Enjoy a gourmet lunch as award-winning author Katherine Reay discusses her book and participates in a book signing. Books available for purchase at event.

Golf Club of Amelia Island

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM

Got to <https://bit.ly/3LC8ls4> for more info.



**Isle of 8 Flags Shrimp Festival**

May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2023

Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach

Family friendly, annual celebration of the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry. Food, antiques, arts and crafts, live entertainment, parade, Miss Shrimp Fest Pageant, kid zone, and famous pirates will take over downtown for a weekend full of fun for both locals and tourists alike. Go to

<https://bit.ly/3ttlASu> for more information.

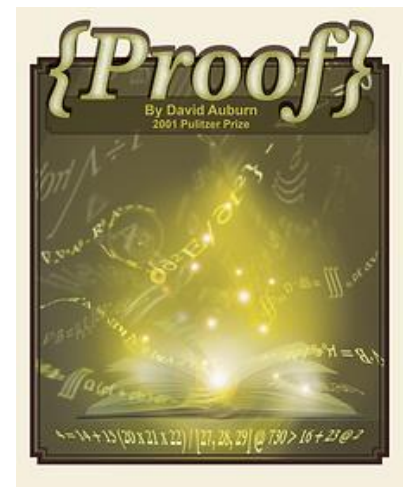
**ACT AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE Proof**

Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant, yet unstable, father, a famous mathematician. After his death, she must deal with her emotions, the arrival of her estranged sister, and the attentions of her father’s protégé who hopes to find valuable work in her father’s notebooks. During their weekend together, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father’s madness—or genius—will she inherit?

7:30 pm: April 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29,

2 pm: April 16, 23

Go to <https://bit.ly/3NeQ6HN> for tickets.



On Apr 22 at 1030-1300, West Nassau High School will be hosting **Vets 4 Vets** seminar. Come out and enjoy a day with fellow veterans and receive a free lunch. MOAA will be there to man our table and give advice.



***Discover the stories behind how the military inspired these local authors!***

Join us for a lively author panel discussion moderated by  
U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Wendi B. Carpenter (Ret.)

Friday, March 31, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, at the Amelia Island Museum of History

Veteran Author panel:

Bill Craun. U.S. Army Airborne Ranger and 15 years of working government agency contracts (Ret.). Author of *Working the Kill Zone*.

Jerry Hester. U.S. Air Force and Miami-Dade FBI Agent (Ret.). Author of *Unraveled, the FBI and Paesan Blues Investigation (working title)*, scheduled for release later this year.

Leah Ward-Lee. U.S. Army, (Ret.). Author of *\$1000 Start-ups: 60 Businesses for Micro-Entrepreneurs*.

Bill Leonardi. U.S. Navy, (Ret.). Author of *Dancing Through the Maze*.

***Admission is free. Books available for purchase after the program.***

***Small cash donations for wine, beer, and the museum is requested.***

RSVP to Lee Ann Shobe @ [jimlee.shobe@gmail.com](mailto:jimlee.shobe@gmail.com) by March 29<sup>th</sup>.



## YOUR BENEFITS

# How to Avoid PACT Act Fraud, Scams

Tips to help access benefits without losing time or money.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is one of the largest-ever pieces of veteran legislation, with the potential to impact 3.5 million veterans. The VA began processing new claims in January.

Unfortunately, the passage of the PACT Act has led to predatory companies filling the airways and email inboxes with offers to help veterans “get their fair share of this windfall.”

### FILING CLAIMS

Veterans should never have to pay someone to receive their earned benefits. MOAA always recommends the use of an accredited veterans service organization (VSO) when dealing with the VA. VSOs provide VA disability compensation claim and appeal services free of charge, with no obligation to join their association (although they can ask if you'd like to join).

Most states participate in the

County VSO (CVSO) program. To find your nearest CVSO, search online for your state and “department of veterans services.”

### CAMP LEJEUNE

The PACT Act allows veterans and their dependents to sue the government for toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune, N.C. However, if veterans participate in a Camp Lejeune lawsuit and receive compensation, the Justice Department will consult with the VA to “offset” any lawsuit compensation a veteran has already received (or is receiving) from the VA for the same disabilities.

### FIGHTING FRAUD

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) combats potential benefit fraud related to the PACT Act by:

- Compiling information on suspicious companies and others with information provided by

veterans who contact the VBA.

- Preparing outreach campaign materials to warn veterans about predatory company schemes.
- Leveraging partnerships within the VA to share communications artifacts for dissemination.
- Preparing to share insights with the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) in their investigation and prosecution of bad actors.

To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact the VA's OIG hotline. ☎

— By Capt. Paul J. Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret), program director for finance and benefits at MOAA

## Do's and Don'ts to Avoid PACT Act Scams

### DO:

- ✓ Submit your claim online or in person at any VA regional office, if you can't access a VSO.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies that advertise that VA benefits can only be obtained with their help.
- ✓ Be cautious of aggressive companies who might try to pressure you to sign a contract. There is no timeline or deadline to submit a toxic exposure claim.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of the VA or to have a special relationship with the VA. Contact the VA at (800) 827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- ✓ If you are interested in working with a VSO, an agent, or an attorney, use the VA Office of General Counsel

accreditation tool to validate credentials.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Do not sign a contract to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your claim.
- ✗ Do not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing, and keep a copy for yourself.
- ✗ Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award.
- ✗ Do not provide your Social Security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claim assistance before confirming their credentials.



### OFFICIAL PACT ACT INFO

See the VA's website for information and to file a claim online: [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT)

### RESOURCES

For an overview of the PACT Act and access to online resources, see [www.moaa.org/PACTResources](http://www.moaa.org/PACTResources).



**NASSAU CHAPTER MOAA challenge:** Go to our website [www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org) to see all the local military store discounts, past/future events and much more. We want to get at least 15 visitors to the website this month. Our website needs more HITS.

## MOAA Newsletter April 2023 (highlights)

(Free with your MOAA membership - sent to your e mail)

1. 2023 Dublin tour featuring Navy-Notre Dame football.
2. From Pay Raise to PACT Act, what you need to know about the Biden budget.
3. Top enlisted leaders agree on need to change perception of military service.
4. Join MOAA for our military executive transition program.
5. COLA watch: get the latest update.
6. Enrollment instructions, form available for survivor benefit plan open season.
7. MOAA talks TRICARE with key congressional staff, fellow advocates.
8. VA to cover new drug for early stage Alzheimer's disease.

## Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. It's TAX filing season! Veterans, service members could file for free.
2. Commemorating the 20-year anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
3. Twenty years after the Iraq war: How the Travis Manion foundation helped me continue serving.
4. It's all fun and games: Live esports tournaments for veterans.
5. Free business training retreat: Apply now for DAV's Patriot Booty Camp.
6. VetServe 2023: Mark your calendar, National Day of service is April 21.
7. Housing assistance
8. Pension and Life Insurance

If you know someone who wants to **join the MOAA** and meets the below eligibility requirements, please have them fill out the attached application and send it to Paul Booton at [pbooton@comcast.net](mailto:pbooton@comcast.net).

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.



## 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.

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

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:

Paul Booton, Database Administrator  
Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA  
474 Starboard Landing  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-2780