



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 10 OCTOBER 2023 AT 1130 FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 01 Oct: Local MOAA dues \$25.00.
- 10 Oct: MOAA Mtg
- 13 Oct: Navy Birthday celebration (1775)
- 10 Nov: USMC Birthday (1775)
- 11 Nov: Veterans Day
- 23 Nov: Thanksgiving
- 08 Dec: MOAA Xmas party

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will have its meeting on 10 October 2023 @ 1130 our guest speaker will be Aaron Bean, United States House Representative. Representative Aaron Bean was elected to the House of Representatives in 2022 and proudly represents the people of the 4th District in Northeast Florida. He began his legislative service as City Commissioner and Mayor of his hometown of Fernandina Beach, Florida in 1996. In 2000, Bean was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives and served eight years. In 2012, Bean was elected to the Florida Senate and served 10



years. In the Florida Senate, Aaron presided as Senate President Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services overseeing over one-third of the Florida budget. Throughout his political career, Bean has received countless awards including “Best of the Best Elected Officials” by the Fernandina Beach News Leader, the Jacksonville University Distinguished Alumni Award of Excellence, which recognizes a graduate with “the highest level of character in their professional accomplishments, community and philanthropic efforts and continued support of JU. Last year, Representative Bean was also awarded with the prestigious Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF) Outstanding Partner Award for his tireless work to promote opportunities for students in Florida.

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).

“When everything seems to be against you, remember that an airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”

-Henry Ford-

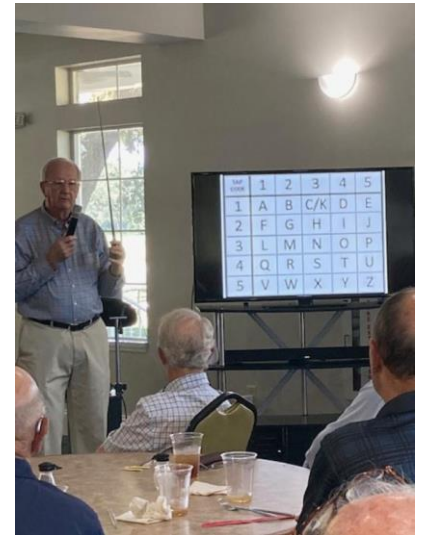


Our September general meeting was well attended with over 50 members. Capt. Dale V. Raebel, USN (ret) former Vietnam POW was a guest speaker. After flying off the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga (CV-60) he was forced to eject over North Vietnam and was taken as a Prisoner of War on August 17, 1972. After spending 225 days in captivity, he was released during



Operation Homecoming on March 29, 1973. He was briefly hospitalized to recover from his injuries at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. He continued his career until his retirement from the Navy on March 1, 1993. His lecture about his time in Vietnam as a POW was very moving and

dynamic. The details he shared about their everyday lives, communicating through codes, the horrible living and eating conditions, and everyday torturous treatment were heart breaking. He is truly an American hero. For more information about his life and time in the Navy please go to <https://bit.ly/3EDFOhe>.



President's report

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a pleasant summer.

As those of you who attended our first meeting after our summer break can attest, we started back up with a bang! For the second year in a row, we honored the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day by having a former POW as our guest speaker. Last year, we had Col Mike Roberts, USAF (ret) who was taken prisoner by the Iraqis in 1991. This year's guest speaker was CAPT Dale Raebel, USN (ret) who was shot down over Vietnam in 1972 and held prisoner in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" and "Zoo" prison camps for 225 days. We had a large turnout for CAPT Raebel's presentation which was riveting and moving. I think everyone came away with a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices that our POWs made during that war.

Our next meeting is on 10 Oct at 11:30 at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club and our guest speaker is our congressman, Rep Aaron Bean. This is a great opportunity to hear about national issues on the Hill from our elected representative. We expect another large turnout for this meeting, so please make sure to RSVP to Paul Booton (pbooton@comcast.net).

Our next no-host social will be on 19 Oct at 1700 (or 5pm) at The Alley (316 Centre St., Fernandina Beach), which is next door to The Tavern. The Alley has a bar that serves craft beers from the Amelia Island Brewing Company as well as a full menu, if you would like to have dinner. We will have a special guest: CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (ret), who is the Senior Director for Councils and Chapters at National MOAA HQ. Please save the date - we want to have a great turnout to show Erin what a fantastic chapter we have.

Finally, please join us on Friday, 10 Nov for the Veterans Day Parade. The parade starts from Central Park (by the Veterans Memorial Park) at 1000. It proceeds down Ash St to 2nd Ave and the over and back up Centre St. You can ride in a car or walk, your choice. We would love to have a large presence in this parade to not only show our pride in being veterans but also to solidify our profile as an organization in the community. Your participation could inspire young people to consider a career in the military - something that we need as much today as we ever have.

Thanks to everyone who came to see CAPT Raebel's presentation. I look forward to seeing everyone at next month's meeting for Rep Bean's talk.

All the best,
Mike

Nassau County Chapter Guest Speaker Schedule for 2023

Date	Location	Time	Speaker & Organization
10 January	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Mike Doran, President MOAA Nassau Chapter
14 February	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	John Crawford Nassau County Clerk of Courts
8 March*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	Bob Springer NASA Astronaut
11 April	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Mark Van Loh Jacksonville Airport Authority
9 May	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Bob Sullivan Nassau County Veterans Service Officer
14 June*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	Mike Hickock Nassau County Property Appraiser
11 July	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Dean Black Florida Representative
12 September	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Dale Raebel Former POW USN A-7 Pilot
10 October	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	Aaron Bean United States Representative
19 October	No Host Social at "The Alley"	1700	Erin Stone, Capt. (USN) Ret. MOAA Representative
14 November	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	John Drew Nassau County Tax Collector
08 December	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730-2100	Christmas Party MOAA Nassau County President

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

FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

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 Nassau transit at <https://bit.ly/3wpU2zf> and they will come and get you.



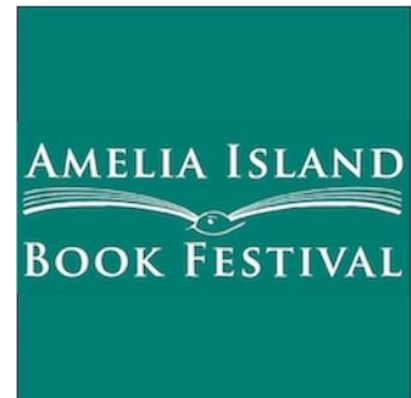
The **Fernandina Beach Market Place**: Join your family, neighbors and friends at this weekly event where farmers, growers, and entrepreneurial individuals sell locally grown and produced goods to those living in, and visiting, our friendly, little community. The farmers' market is open **EVERY Saturday** 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.

We are excited for our second annual AIBF Kick-Off Social, which will be held Sunday, September 24th, from 5-7pm. Go to for more information.

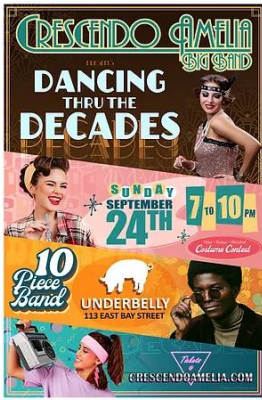
<https://www.ameliainland.com/Calendar/2024-Amelia-Island-Book-Festival-Kick-Off-Social-E>



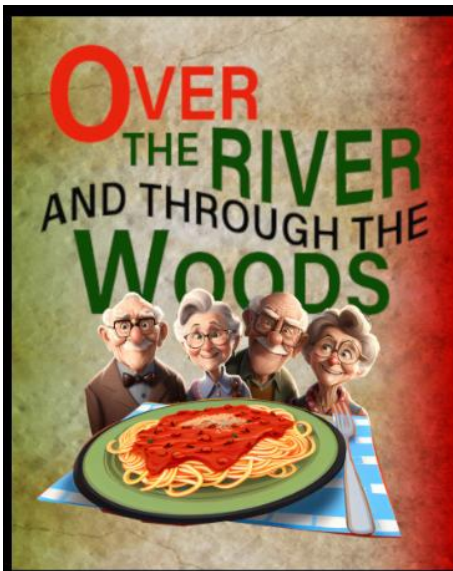
Sounds on Centre

October 6.

Centre Street, Downtown Fernandina Beach 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
This annual event has been providing free community concerts for 15 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/45UIzqn> for more information.



Crescendo Amelia series. Crescendo Amelia is proud to present our annual “Dancing through the Decades” event for one-night only in Downtown Jacksonville. Join us for an evening of music & dance from 1920 through the 2020's as we dance the night away with a live 10-piece band. Go to www.crescendoamelia.com for more information and other dance dates.



ACT AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE **Over the River and Through the Woods**

Comedy. Every Sunday, Nick leaves New York City and crosses the river to New Jersey to have dinner with his tender-hearted, loud, loving, and well-fed Italian-American grandparents. When Nick announces he is being promoted and moving to Seattle, they’re devastated. They quickly spring into action and concoct a series of hilarious schemes, using shameless emotional blackmail and matchmaking shenanigans to keep Nick from leaving. This heartwarming story reminds us of the wonderful zaniness that is family. Performance Dates October 6-21, 2023. Go to <https://bit.ly/3NeQ6HN> for tickets.

AIBC OKTOBERFEST

September 23, 2023, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Get ready for an even more festive Oktoberfest this year! We have partnered with Mocama Beer Company and Marlin & Barrel to host one great Amelia Island Oktoberfest with three locations. Additionally, Hofbrau Amelia is catering food at Mocama and Amelia Island Historic Tours provides shuttle service (at no cost to you). Go to

<https://www.ameliaisland.com/Calendar/Amelia-Island-Oktoberfest>





Recovery Glow Walk

September 23, 2022

Central Park

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

This event is free and open to the public. This will be Starting Point's inaugural Recovery Month event. The event represents the Starting Point's and Nassau County's acknowledgement and celebration that individuals with mental health and substance use disorders do recover. The term "glow-up" is defined as an incredible transformation or to go from the bottom to the top to the point of disbelief. Go to <https://www.fbfl.us/calendar.aspx> for more information.

Graveside Chronicles: Stories of Life, Love, and Legacy

Tickets go on sale September 18th!

Have you always wanted to know who resides at Bosque Bello Cemetery? The guided tour at Bosque Bello Cemetery, presented by the Amelia Island Genealogical Society and the Amelia Island Museum of History, offers a unique chance to learn about the lives and stories of notable past residents of Fernandina. You will be escorted to 8 different gravesites where Costumed Interpreters will share the tales of these individuals (including one or two who are actual relatives). Here are some key details about the event:

- The tour is on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Tickets are \$25 per person
- The tour is expected to take approximately 1 1/2 hours.
- Please be aware that due to the terrain at Bosque Bello, the tour might not be wheelchair accessible or suitable for those using walkers.



What better Christmas gift than Mary Kay Andrews? You're invited to a Christmas celebration with beloved author Mary Kay Andrews Monday, October 2nd at 6PM for her upcoming novel—Bright Lights, Big Christmas! Join us for beverages and treats; sit back and relax—hoot and holler—laugh and cry because Mary Kay

Andrews is coming to town! Meet the author and purchase a signed copy of her new book Bright Lights, Big Christmas expected September 26th. Pre-order your book today! RSVP is required! Please call us at 904-261-8991 or email info@thebookloftamelia.com to reserve a spot for the event. See you there! Go to <https://thebookloftamelia.com/> for more info.





INK & VALOR: Celebrating Military Voices

Join us for Mari K. Elder's book launch followed by a lively author panel discussion.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 3pm – 5:30 pm
Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

Moderator: Mari K. Eder, U.S. Army Major General (Ret); *The Girls Who Fought Crime: The Untold True Story of the Country's First Female Investigator and Her Crime Fighting Squad*

Author panel:

Luis R. Diaz, U.S. Navy; *What's Your Number?*

Ralph L. De Falco III, U.S. Navy Captain (Ret); *Year of the Dragon*

John Pulsinelli, U.S. Navy Captain (Ret); *Saint Michaels Parish: Celebrating 150 Years*

Books available for purchase after the program

Free and open to the public





FIRST FEDERAL BANK

Presents the

27th Annual

8-Flags Car Show

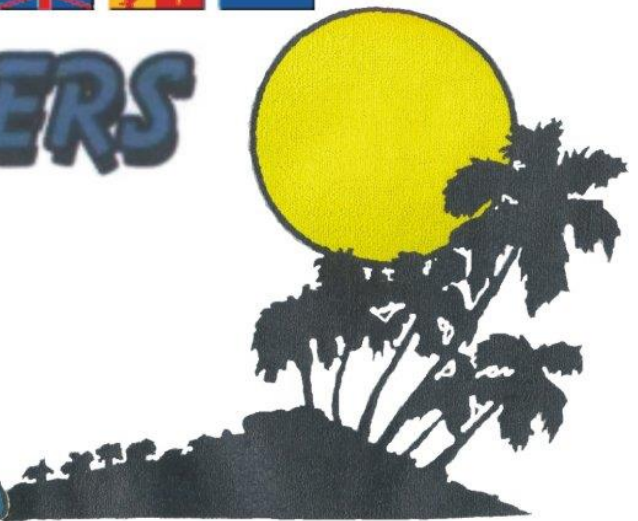
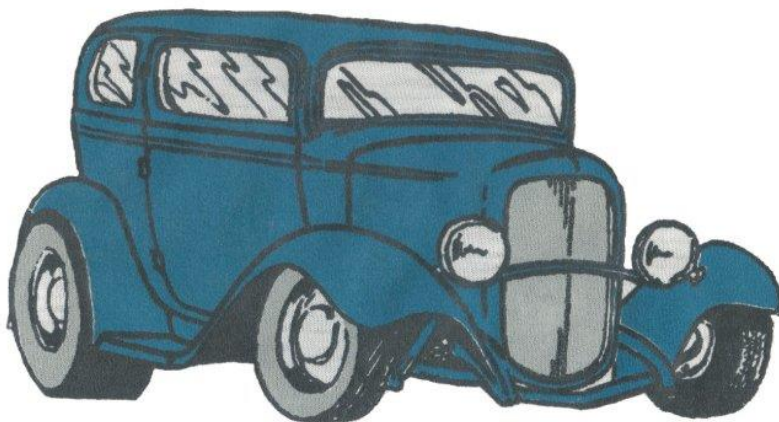
21 October 2023

8 am - 3 pm

Historic Centre Street



AMELIA CRUIZERS



Fernandina Beach, Florida

www.ameliacruizers.org

NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION: Go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action-2023/> and let your legislators know we support: **Restore the TRICARE Pharmacy Network, Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers, and Support the All-Volunteer Force. It only takes minutes, I did it and so can you.**

MOAA Newsletter Aug/Sept 2023 (highlights)

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

1. MOAA member earns Medal of Honor for Vietnam Rescue.
2. Tricare fixes restored benefits and more: read MOAA's NDAA priority list.
3. What you'll pay for TRICARE reserve, retiree, and young adult plans in 2024.
4. White house looks to get veterans, military spouses into health care jobs.
5. Facing your retirement fears.
6. What an IRS change could mean for your retirement catch-up contributions.
7. Being prepared starts with being aware.
8. VA failed to process 56,000 requests to update Veterans' dependents.

Veterans Affairs Newsletter (highlights)

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

1. Win a mobile cookie franchise.
2. Next PACT Act deadline Sept. 30: Direct health care enrollment.
3. North Carolina hiking expedition offers challenge for Veterans.
4. Volunteer to serve in under-resourced communities.
5. Blind veterans can now read decision letters.
6. Veterans Job opening.
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.

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