



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023  
AT 1130AM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will have its meeting on 14 November 2023 @ 1130 our guest speaker will be John Drew, Nassau County Tax Collector. A lifelong resident of Nassau County, John Drew earned his MBA and Bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University. He has served honorably as our Tax Collector since 2006. For seven straight years, Drew's team has earned an audit report free of any findings and has received the statewide Excellence in Financial Operations Award five years in a row. "With a smaller staff, it is important for us to be innovative when it comes to the very important task of segregation of duties," Drew said. "I am proud of our audit reports and the work done at every level of our office. In a Tax Collector's Office, team members at every level deal with public funds. Their diligence and resourcefulness helped build the processes that enabled the office to win so many statewide awards."



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 as an attempt to keep the individual costs 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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*"If our Air Forces are never used, they have achieved their finest goal."*

*"Nathan Farragut Twining"*

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### CALENDAR EVENTS

10 Nov: USMC Birthday  
(1775)

11 Nov: Veterans Day

25 Nov: Thanksgiving

07 Dec: Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day

08 Dec: MOAA Christmas  
Party

25 Dec: Christmas holiday

1 Jan: New Year's and  
MOAA Dues \$25.00 go to  
[www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org)

Our October general meeting was well attended with over 30 members. Our guest speaker was, Aaron Bean. 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. 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©.



We have 87 active members that support our JROTC scholarships and other activities with their \$25.00 annual dues. **They are due starting in October.** Please pay Bob at the door or go to [www.ncflmoaa.org](http://www.ncflmoaa.org)

We have a limited amount of these MOAA collectible mugs available for purchases. **GET YOURS NOW!** They make great **Christmas** presents!!! Once we are sold out, that is it!!!! Until we order some more. ; )



## “From the Chapter President”

October has been a busy month for our chapter, and I want to thank everyone who came out to share in the camaraderie. We had a great turnout for our monthly meeting on the 10th to hear from our congressman, Aaron Bean. Rep. Bean is one of the most dynamic speakers that we’ve had and obviously had a good time, as well. He was only scheduled to be at our meeting for about 25 minutes because he needed to catch a flight back to DC. However, despite his aide’s best efforts to pull him away, he spent nearly an hour with us, answering questions and awarding door prizes.

On the 19th, we had our fourth no-host evening social of the year. This one was at The Alley on Centre Street, and we were fortunate to have retired CAPT Frank Michael, the Program Director for Councils and Chapters at national MOAA, as our guest. Tony and I sat down with him over dinner after the social and he mentioned several times how impressed he is with our chapter. This is good news for us and will no doubt be helpful when we submit our chapter Levels of Excellence award early next year.

On the 20th, Tony and I represented the chapter at the Folds of Honor Golf Tournament. The tournament raised over \$50K for educational support to Gold Star families.

November is quickly approaching so please mark your calendars for our next meeting on 14 November at 1130. Our guest speaker will be the Nassau County Tax Assessor, John Drew.

And please join us for the Veterans Day Parade on 11 November. The parade starts at 1100 from Central Park (near Veterans Memorial Park). It is not a long parade - we go down Ash St, make a right on 2nd Ave, and then come back up Centre St. It is about 25 minutes once we start. You are welcome to drive in the parade if you don’t feel like walking. See you there! All the best Mike.





The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its annual Holiday Celebration at the FBGC on **08 December 2023** 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 similar to last year's and will be posted in next month's newsletter and future emails. Come on out and support the local community. All proceeds are used for our **JROTC scholarships**. Please contact Paul Booton ([pbooton@comcast.net](mailto:pbooton@comcast.net)) to make your reservations.

We had our quarterly no host social on 19 October at the Alley. Our guest was Frank Michael from MOAA and it was a great success with over 20 people showing up for some local atmosphere and spirits. Look for more socials to come next year as we continue to grow and mold into one of the most successful chapters on the east coast. See you on the island.



# Nassau County Chapter Guest Speaker Schedule for 2023

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

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

## FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2023



### 2023 Right Whale Festival

Free Admission - Come early and spend the day! Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10am-6pm, Sunday, November 5, 2023, 10am-3pm. Main Beach Park, 32 N. Fletcher Ave., Fernandina Beach, Florida

The *Right Whale Festival* celebrates the annual return of endangered North Atlantic right whales to the warm coastal water off northeast Florida and Georgia, where they give birth to and nurse their young. With less than 350 remaining, this family-fun event raises awareness of the threats to right whales and how we can help in their recovery. Go to <https://rightwhalefestival.com/> for more information.

**Annual Veterans Day Fun Run in Partners with Cross the Line**, Friday, November 11, 2023, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM 5-mile fun run. Beginning at the Marina Parking Lot Downtown and will continue to Main Beach. Food, drinks and entertainment will be featured as well. Go to <https://bit.ly/45InpLp> for more information.



### Veteran's Day Parade

November 11, 2023,  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Annual Veteran's Day Parade, held downtown in the historic district. For more information, contact William Bradshaw at 904-261-7900 or [alflpost54@gmail.com](mailto:alflpost54@gmail.com)



**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MARCH IN THE PARADE!!** Please contact Paul Booton ([pbooton@comcast.net](mailto:pbooton@comcast.net)) if you plan to attend.

**Amelia Island Open**

November 10-12, 2023

Marina Parking Lots C and D

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

The Amelia Island Open - International Petanque Tournament is an annual tournament which brings players from around the world. There will be tournament play, local food vendors, amplified music and announcer, as well as a beer and wine tent. For more information, go to <https://www.unitedpetanque.com/>.

**NARA Eastern Championships**

November 10-12, 2023

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Main Beach Park, Eastern championships for the NARA dog training competition which includes obedience, agility, and protection exercises.

**Black Friday Pajama Party**

Friday, November 24, 2023

8:00 AM 4:00 PM

Centre Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. Join the merchants of Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach for the Annual Downtown Fernandina Beach Pajama Party! Shop locally with special offers and treats provided by our downtown merchants while you shop. Enter the 11 am Pajama Contest- Prizes will be awarded for the best individual, best group, and most creative PJ's- There will be a block party on 2nd Street all day with family friendly activities and live music. For more information go to <http://www.fernandinamainstreet.com/>.



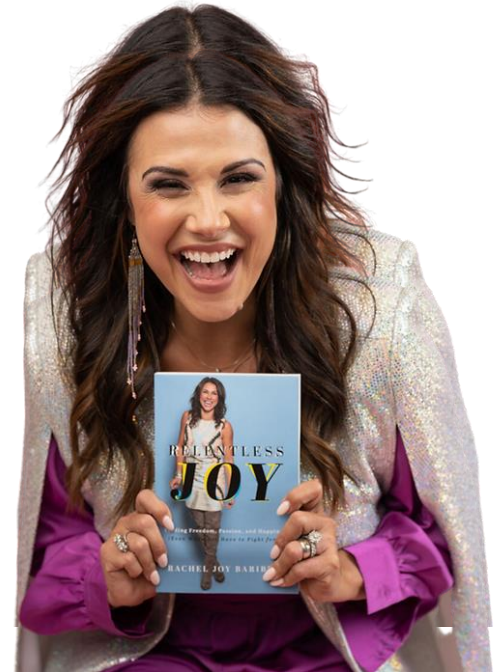
## BOOK SIGNING WITH RACHEL BARIBEAU

17 Nov 2023 1-4pm



In *Relentless Joy*, Rachel Baribeau reveals how anyone can transform pessimism into power and turn cynicism into solutions. With the odds stacked against her, Rachel became the first

female sportscaster to host on SiriusXM College Channels and hosted the very first College Football Playoff National Championship game. She has shared the secrets to her trailblazing journey with over 100,000 fans and students through her live events and movement, “I’m Changing the Narrative.” <https://www.rachelbaribeau.com/book>



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](mailto: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.



Presented by The Friends of Fort Clinch

# History of the American Soldier

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Seating starts at 6:00 pm

Show is 7:00pm – 8:30pm



November 11, 2023

Go to <https://fortclinch.org/Activities>

Join us inside historic Fort Clinch for an evening under the stars as we salute our armed forces. Watch a timeline review with Soldiers and weapons from 1776 to today. Program features period music and weapons demonstrations. Bring blankets and chairs.

Admission is a canned  
food item for Barnabas  
Food Pantry.



For more information contact the Ranger Station at 904-277-7224

**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 Nov 2023 (highlights)**

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

1. Will a Korean War hero finally receive the Medal of Honor.
2. Here are your new Medicare Part B rates.
3. NDAA Update: Return to joint committee setup is good news for MOAA priorities.
4. Latest MOAA testimony tackles overlooked part of the recruiting crisis.
5. Continue your mission at Delta Dental.
6. Understand your long-term care insurance options.
7. Overseas Cost-of-Living cuts are about to take a bite out of military paychecks.
8. Army leaders, DOD health officials address concerns over TRICARE cuts.

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

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

1. Free event concert tickets for veterans.
2. How to get your free Flu Shot.
3. Securing your private data, million veteran program and woodcraft.
4. Download the 2023 veterans' day teachers resource guide.
5. Plan your Orlando Christmas early.
6. You're a target for Phishing attacks – Don't take the bait.
7. Veteran peer Q&A corner.
8. NEW: Veteran Job postings.

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