



FEBRUARY 2024 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 13 FEBRUARY 2024
AT 1130 AM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

CALENDAR EVENTS

08 Feb: Boy Scouts of America established.

13 Feb: MOAA mtg

13 Feb: Mardi Gras

14 Feb: Valentine's Day

14 Feb: Ash Wednesday

19 Feb: President's Day

12 Mar: MOAA Mtg

17 Mar: Saint Patrick's Day

29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day



The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 13 February 2024 @ 1130. Our speaker will be Captain Ed Turner USN (ret), presently serving as the Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum. Upon his Naval retirement, he was hired at Logistic Services International, Inc. (LSI) in Jacksonville, FL, as the Vice President for International and Training Services Programs responsible for developing training solutions for the U.S. military and international defense partners. After working 10 years at LSI, Turner now devotes his time to the POW/MIA Memorial initiative. Turner is also on the Board of Directors for the Viking Association, and a supporting member in the Association of Naval Aviators, the Military Order of World Wars, and the Navy League of Jacksonville.

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, 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 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).

“A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.”
- Theodore Roosevelt-

Our January general meeting was well attended with over 35 attending our first meeting of the year. Captain Mike Doran, USN (ret), our chapter president was our speaker. He presented his “The Year in Review” for 2023 and proposed changes to the bylaws. I have also posted his “From the Chapter President,” letter in this newsletter and our 2024 general and social calendar as well. This year is going to be full of changes that will make our chapter stronger and even more flexible. Mark your calendars.



We have 89 active members that support our JROTC scholarships and other activities with their \$25.00 annual dues. They were due starting in October. Please pay Bob at the door or go to www.ncflmoaa.org

“From the Chapter President”

Thanks to everyone who came to the January meeting - it was a very strong turn out and it was great to see everyone after the holidays. If you were not able to attend, there were two key presentations: the first was “The Year in Review” for 2023. This is a synopsis of our chapter’s activities and can be found on the chapter website under the “Events” tab or just click on this link:

<https://ncflmoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/MOAA-Chapter-Year-in-Review-2023.pdf>

The second presentation was a description of proposed changes to the bylaws. These changes are needed to align us more closely with national MOAA bylaws as well as codify some of our standard practices and procedures that have developed over time. The presentation can be found on the website under the “Chapter Documents” tab (so you can compare the proposed changes with the current bylaws) or by clicking on this link:

<https://ncflmoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/MOAA-Chapter-Proposed-Bylaws-Revision.pdf>

The proposed bylaws will be voted on at the February meeting, so please take a minute to look at them and familiarize yourself.

There are several key events coming up in the next month. Tony LaVecchia (VP), Mary Gustafson (Surviving Spouses Liaison) and I will be traveling to Orlando for the annual Leadership Training Seminar on 25-26 January. This seminar is hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters and is attended by representatives from all the chapters in Florida as well as leaders from MOAA HQ in Washington, DC.

On 3 FEBRUARY is the THIRD ANNUAL VETS FOR VETS (V4V) held at West Nassau High School. The event begins at 10:30am and includes free coffee and FREE LUNCH provided by Callahan BBQ. We will have a recruiting/information table set up and hope to see all of you come out to support!

Our NEXT MONTHLY MEETING will be on 13 FEBRUARY at 11:30 at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club. Our guest speaker is going to be CAPT Ed Turner, USN(Ret) who is the Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum. He is going to provide a very interesting talk on the memorial and museum which is located at Cecil Field.

And on 15 FEBRUARY, we will be having our first EVENING SOCIAL of the year at DISCO WITCH BREWING starting at 5:30pm. SAVE THE DATE!!! The chapter is going to host the social - THAT'S RIGHT - We will have an OPEN BAR and will be providing PIZZA from BLACK CAT PIZZERIA!!

RSVPs are A MUST. An Evite (email invitation) has been sent out, please use it to respond with the number of guests (including yourself) that will be attending. This is important because we need to know how many pizzas to buy. Spouses are welcome and if you know anyone who may want to become a member, please bring them. If you haven't received the Evite or you deleted it, please let me know and I'll resend it.

This is shaping up to be an exciting month and year for our chapter - I look forward to seeing you soon!!

Mike

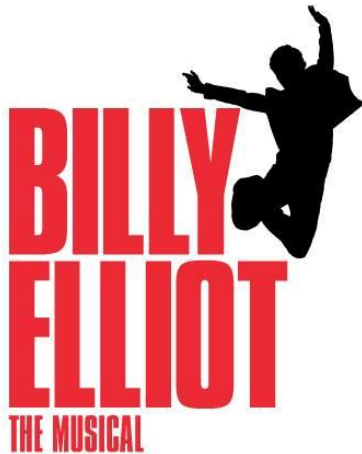
FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2024



The Amelia Island Book Festival returns for its 22nd season on February 24. This island tradition features celebrated authors at events and venues throughout the community. Go to <https://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/>.

CELEBRATE THE AMELIA Concours d'Elegance

Ready to experience the very best of all things automotive? Join us for The Amelia - packed with seminars, films, parties, auctions, free Ride & Drives and the renowned Concours d'Elegance, where you can get an up-close look at hundreds of vehicles you won't see anywhere else. 29 February – 03 March 2024. Go to <https://www.ameliaconcours.com/> for more information.



Billy Elliot: The Musical

Set in a northern English mining town against the background of the 1984 miners' strike, Billy Elliot is the inspirational story of a young boy's struggle against the odds to make his dream come true. Follow Billy's nontraditional journey as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, where he discovers a passion for dance that inspires his family and community. Go to <https://bit.ly/3j3zZzC> for more information. Performance Dates February 9-25, 2024



Amelia Island Montessori School Chili Cook-off

February 10, 2024, Centre Street

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

This long-running community event focuses on Chili tasting from local competitors. The event will have live music, a kid's zone, vendors and chili booths. For more information, go to

<https://bit.ly/3JozduP>.

Amelia Island Museum of History Madjiguene, MaVynee, and Magic with Peri Frances

Join historian, storyteller, and seventh-generation descendant of Anna Kingsley, Peri Frances, for her presentation, "Madjiguene, MaVynee, and Magic: A Descendant's Journey and Matrilineal View of Northeast Florida History"! Mrs.

Frances will take us on a journey through her family's history and tell the story of northeast Florida through the eyes of the women that

are often left out of its telling. Join us on the evening of February 15th to learn more about this unique history! Attendance is free and open to the public. Seating is limited on a first come, first served basis. This program is wheelchair accessible. February 15, 2024, 0600pm-0700pm. Go to <https://bit.ly/3FBL1oJ> for more information.



LOCAL PARKS



Fort Clinch. It has numerous outdoor activities to fit just about everyone's abilities. Go to <https://bit.ly/2Le3ZKx> for more details about hiking, biking, bird watching, Fort Clinch tours,,,,,,,,.



Egan's Creek Greenway. A protected area of over 300 acres that runs north to south along Egan's Creek, the Greenway was opened for public use in the summer of 2000 as an undeveloped park for passive recreational use. Go to <https://bit.ly/3oKCeZd> for more details. **For individuals with disabilities,** a 2-person **GEM electric car** is available for reservation at the Atlantic Recreation Center to travel through the Greenway. Call 904-310-3350 for availability and to reserve.



Little Talbot Island. It is one of a handful of undeveloped barrier islands remaining in Northeast Florida. Boasting more than five miles of pristine beaches and three miles of bike trails, Little Talbot offers untouched natural beauty and diverse ecosystems for visitors to explore. Go to <https://bit.ly/2OsPyUx> for more info.



Big Talbot Island. Located on one of Northeast Florida's unique sea islands, Big Talbot Island State Park is primarily a natural preserve, providing a premier location for nature study, bird-watching and photography. Go to <https://bit.ly/3abcBf8> for more info.



Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2024

Date	Event	Time	Location	Guest Speaker / Comments
9 January	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Mike Doran, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter MOAA
13 February	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Ed Turner, USN (Ret) Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum
15 February	Social	1730	DISCO WITCH BREWING	PIZZA from BLACK CAT PIZZERIA
12 March **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Wildlight YMCA Director
9 April	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
Xx April	Social	1730	TBD – On Island	
14 May	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
11 June **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
Xx June	Social	1730	TBD – Off Island	
10 September	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
8 October **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
Xx October	Social	1730	TBD – On Island	
12 November	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
13 December	Christmas Party	1830	FBGC	1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner

FBGC – 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.

NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION

2024 ISSUES

Pay Full Housing Costs

MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% for Servicemembers.

Restoring the TRICARE Pharmacy Network

Thousands of independent pharmacies have left the network, threatening a critical benefit for many in rural areas, as well as elderly beneficiaries and those with serious medical conditions. MOAA wants increased Congressional oversight over a strong, accessible network.

Support the All-Volunteer Force

MOAA seeks meaningful quality-of-life improvements for those in uniform and their families, as well as long-term programs designed to widen the recruiting pool.

Go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action-2023/> 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 Feb 2024 (highlights)

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

1. The budget mess still threatens service member pay. Congress must act.
2. Help MOAA make a difference for surviving spouses.
3. Respite care, other support services are lifelines for caregivers and veterans.
4. Virtual classroom: Understanding guard and reserve retirement and benefits.
5. Timeless transition tips: 5 ways to master your career path.
6. Service members and veterans can get free tax prep help.
7. New rule will protect service members, and others from car sale scams.
8. DoD expands online ID card renewal.
9. TRICARE Glossary: Terms to know for your health care.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. Free career guidance: get a job through American corporate partners.
2. VA supports veterans at national conference.
3. Calling Vetpreneurs: DAV Patriot boot camp applications are open..
4. Apply now for scholarships for military children.
5. Best of 2023: \$10.00 off %50.00 or more on ShopVCS.com.
6. Start the conversation: support a veteran in your life.
7. Reflection back – Military memories competition. Your chance to win \$250.00.
8. Resort: Hotel deals through the Armed Forces Vacation club.
9. NEW: Veteran Job postings over 100 positions are available.

Applications for the MOAA Scholarship fund. The deadline to submit application for the MOAA scholarship fund's education assistance program is March 1, 2024. Go to [MOAA - About MOAA Scholarship Fund](#) for more information.

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