



Halifax Area Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America. Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families. Our membership is committed to camaraderie with a purpose among retired, active, and former officers, and their surviving spouses, by supporting veterans, active duty military, Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets/midshipmen, and our community with the promise to "Never Stop Serving".



Officers Call

Volume 32 No. 5

May 2020

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"Officer Call" Publisher

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

COL Victoria Leignadier, USA (Ret.) 236-9300

Important Web Addresses

MOAA Website

<http://www.moaa.org>

Florida Council of Chapters Website

<http://www.moaaf1.org>

Halifax MOAA Website

<http://www.moaaf1.org/Chapters/Halifax>

Halifax MOAA Email Address

Halifax.MOAA.Chapter@gmail.com

President's Message

Col. Kim Ramos, USAF (Ret.)



Hello Halifax Area MOAA Chapter Members,
May you and yours continue to be well physically, mentally, and spiritually.

As you are probably aware, MOAA National and the local chapters have cancelled all face-to-face engagements through May. June through August is when our summer break occurs. We will begin again in September starting with the Board of Directors meeting on 1 September and the luncheon meeting on 24 September at the Halifax River Yacht Club.

If you have not received your Economic Impact Payment (a.k.a. Stimulus Check), the status is available at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

[Continued on Page 2]

[President's Message continued from Page 1]

MOAA developed an excellent summary of the Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security Act. We have provided it on Pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

We've actually gained two members! Be sure to welcome Tina Dixon-Bartlett and Joe Peabody to the chapter once our meetings resume in September.

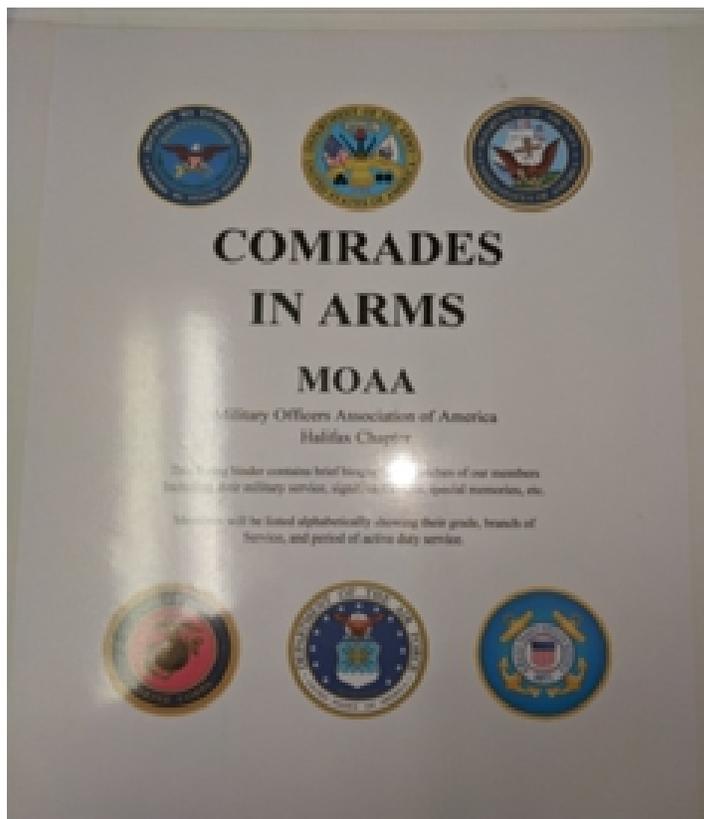
In one of the email blasts, we asked for our members to consider supporting the scholarship program while we are on hiatus. A couple of you requested more information about the scholarship program. So here it is. Each academic year, our chapter awards six \$600 scholarships to cadets and midshipmen of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Detachments at Embry-Riddle. Three are awarded in the fall and three in the spring. The ROTC detachments recruit students from Embry-Riddle, Bethune-Cookman, Daytona State, and Stetson universities. In addition, one \$250 scholarship is provided to a JROTC cadet at Mainland High School in the Spring. A total of \$3850 in scholarships to seven recipients are presented each academic year. The detachment commanders select the recipients based on leadership, academic performance, and professionalism.

Also, the Redner family provides an Army cadet a \$300 scholarship each semester in memory of Army Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Redner. LTC Redner was our chapter president, and the Northeast Area Vice President of the Florida Chapter of Councils. His wife, Louise, established the scholarship in his name in 2009.

Other members contribute to our two veterans' programs: Coffee and Donuts at the VA Clinic, and Bagels and Bingo at the Emory Bennett Veterans Nursing Home. Donations help defray the cost of supplies and provide prizes for the bingo winners.

We also have a fund, donated anonymously, to recognize our volunteers who support our two veterans' programs through a raffle for a free luncheon at the chapter meeting.

All of our chapter's activities are provided through the generous support of you, our membership. Which is why the BOD is seeking alternative funding methods such as a gala or business support. Currently Dunkin Donuts supports the chapter by providing donuts for Coffee and Donuts at the VA Clinic. If you know of a business you'd like to approach about supporting our chapter's programs please contact Drew Hoffman at drewhoffman49@gmail.com for more information and a business support letter.



Bagels & Bingo

Skip Keating, Veteran's Chairman

Service suspended until further notice!

Get to Know Your Board: Patti Higgins, Secretary

CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret'd)

Personal Affairs / Benefits



Patti Higgins is our Chapter Secretary and she does a wonderful job for us! Patti went to high school in Jackson, NJ and soon thereafter migrated south to Daytona Beach where she attended Daytona State College. Patti spent her professional career in the medical field. She was a Medical Assistant for several prominent orthopedic surgeons for over 30 years. Then Patti worked for the Radiology Group in Imaging Centers.

On the personal side, Patti has 2 beautiful daughters and 6 gorgeous grandchildren. She reunited with John Higgins, a childhood sweetheart, after a 40-year interruption in their relationship and the rest is history! John served in the US Navy and then flew commercially. Patti & John were married in 2012 and have an even larger family now. They enjoy traveling cross-county in their RV, along with their Newfoundland dog, Elvis. But mostly they enjoy each other and their family, friends, and MOAA activities. Thank you, Patti, for volunteering for such a crucial office in our Chapter!

****Don't Forget These Important Dates and Recurring Items****

Help Wanted

We are trying to fill the following positions: Transition Officer and Officer Call Publisher, Editor, or Producer. If you would like to volunteer to help with the transition of officers from active duty to retirement, employment or otherwise or with the publishing of the monthly Officers Call, please send me an email at kamos@att.com or call me at 228-447-7802. If you have questions about the Officers Call, contact Don Amiotte at 386-562-1882 or, by e-mail at majora@cfl.rr.com Thank you in advance for your support.

Speakers, Speakers, Speakers

Please feel free to let me know of any other items you think would help improve the functioning of the chapter by clicking on the following link [Halifax Area Survey](#) to access the survey form.

Membership in National MOAA

The basic national MOAA membership is free, and we encourage anyone that is not a member, to take the time and register. To sign up for National Basic Membership, all you need is a valid email address and, of course, the desire to want to join national. Follow this link: [National MOAA Basic Membership](#)

Of Service to you

If you know of a particular upcoming Veteran outings, please email so we can continue to provide you relevant events. Please continue to submit information for this section. Thank you!

Legislative Report

John Stovall, LTC, US Army (Ret)

New Eligibility Requirements for Burial at Arlington National Cemeteries on Hold

The publication of a draft rule on revised eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery has been postponed indefinitely as the public navigates the COVID-19 pandemic. The public comment period was expected to begin in April. There is no “firm date” for when the rule will be cleared, said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of the Office of Army Cemeteries, the agency that manages Arlington National Cemetery.

“Right now, the focus of the administration and the nation is on the response to the corona virus,” Durham-Aguilera said.

The draft rule is the first step of the federal rule-making process, which takes at least nine months. It must be published in the Federal Register, Durham-Aguilera said, with public comments accepted for 60 days. The Army is required to respond to “significant” comments and consider changes based on those comments.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 420,000 service members, with about 7,000 more added each year. At that rate, officials estimate it will run out of space by 2055 if steps are not taken to expand the land or change the eligibility requirements.

Officials obtained about 37 acres as part of a southern expansion, which will give them about 60,000 more spaces. To accommodate more requests, rules have also changed to bury spouses and dependents in a stack, instead of side by side.

“It is a hard reality that we are running out of capacity,” Durham-Aguilera said. “But what we want to do is be able to stay open and active, not just for our past and the current generation, but for that 5-year-old who is going to raise his or her hand one day to serve this nation. So we’ll do that as best we can, but change the eligibility.”

Among the proposed changes, the Army has said preference for below-ground interment will go to service members killed in action, Medal of Honor recipients, and World War II veterans.

Others eligible for below-ground interment are:

- Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat;
- Recipients of the Purple Heart;
- Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities;
- Former prisoners of war;
- Presidents and vice presidents; and
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

Above-ground interment would be authorized for:

World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees;

Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment;

Veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat; and

Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

MOAA leadership continues to evaluate the impact these proposals may have on the living veteran and retiree population, and will keep our members informed on next steps and how members may engage on this very important issue. We are looking forward to continued representation of MOAA members throughout this process.

CARES Act Creates USPHS Ready Reserve

The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), whose Corps of commissioned officers are deployed across the country and abroad fighting COVID-19, has received the green light to build a reserve corps.

The CARES Act, which became law on March 27, includes the U.S. Public Health Service Modernization Act, S. 2629, that provides for a ready reserve corps to fill the need for an additional commissioned corps for emergency response missions. [MOAA advocated](#) for the measure along with 30 other veteran service organizations in The Military Coalition. Consisting of 6,100 physicians, nurses, pharmacists, engineers, and more, the commissioned corps of the USPHS are America's health responders to natural and man-made disasters. The ongoing COVID-19 health emergency has increased the demand on uniformed medical missions, and the USPHS is in a unique position to offer support to health systems and advise state governments, a vital role in slowing the spread of the virus.

The USPHS hopes to add 2,500 reserve officers, said Adm. Brett Giroir, the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. He said further [in an interview with MOAA late last year](#). "First, as our deployment needs go up, having a reserve corps that is able to deploy to supplement us is really very important. Second, there are going to be specialties we cannot support day to day, but we would need them for certain types of deployments. ... These are good opportunities for military and other uniformed services to come to us."

As the need for disease surveillance increases within each state, so does the need for increased numbers of USPHS officers. Their specific qualifications allow them to work directly at the local level to make individualized risk assessments and response plans.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**

★

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CARES Act (Summary)

Stimulus \$\$

Do not expect any payment(s) prior to mid-April. Processes must be developed.

Individuals/Couples must have adjusted gross income (AGI) less than \$75,000/\$150,000 to receive full payment(s) of \$1,200/\$2,400.

Parents will receive another \$500 for each child under 17.

Payments will be reduced for AGI above \$75,000/\$150,000, decreasing to \$0 for AGI above \$99,000/\$198,000.

The IRS will use your 2019 tax return if submitted. Otherwise it will use 2018 as a reference. Veterans with only VA tax-free disability compensation and/or those on Social Security also are eligible. The Treasury Department/IRS will work with the VA and Social Security to identify people on those payment programs.

Military retired pay & Social Security* (high income earners) count against AGI. (*When SSA benefits are taxable).

AGI is defined as an individual's total gross income minus specific deductions. Taxable income is adjusted gross income minus allowances for personal exemptions and itemized deductions. For most individual tax purposes, AGI is more relevant than gross income.

Tax Filing Extension

The federal filing deadline has been extended to **July 15**.

According to the IRS, people who have filed, or plan to file early, can expect to receive a refund if they are owed one. States determine their own tax laws and policies. Check with your state for its income tax deadline.

Retirement Accounts

Required Minimum Distribution rules are waived for certain retirement plans in calendar year 2020.

Also waived: The 10% early withdrawal penalty on retirement account distributions for taxpayers facing virus-related challenges.

Withdrawn amounts are taxable over three years, but taxpayers can recontribute the withdrawn funds into their retirement accounts for three years without affecting retirement account caps.

Eligible retirement accounts include individual retirement accounts (IRAs), 401(k)s and other qualified trusts, certain deferred compensation plans, and qualified annuities.

Unemployment Assistance

States will continue to pay unemployment to people who qualify.

The act adds \$600 per week from the federal government on top of whatever base amount a worker receives from the state. The boosted payment will last four months. Example: An out-of-work person who had been receiving the national average of about \$340 per week in unemployment now will receive \$940 a week. The legislation also adds 13 weeks of additional unemployment insurance.

Student Loans

Employers can provide up to \$5,250 in tax-free student loan repayment benefits and also contribute to loan payments, and workers won't have to include that money as income.

All loan and interest payments are deferred through Sept. 30 without penalty to the borrower for all federally owned student loans.

[Continued on Page 7]

CARE Act (Summary) (Continued from Page 6)

Students who drop out of school as a result of the coronavirus won't have time away from school deducted from their lifetime limits on subsidized loan and Pell grant eligibility. Those students will not be asked to pay back any grants or other aid they've already received.

Note that MOAA Educational Assistance is offering a six-month hardship deferment for issues related to COVID-19 (layoff, reduced work hours, unemployment, etc.).

Health Insurance Coverage

The act requires all private insurance plans to cover COVID-19 treatments, including any vaccines and co-pays, and makes all coronavirus tests free.

Currently Serving Members

Separate from the CARES Act, DoD started a new pay called Hardship Duty Pay-Restriction of Movement (HDP-ROM).

The policy allows services to pay up to an additional \$1,500/month to members who are impacted during a PCS move, or those who must acquire temporary lodging that goes beyond the normal 14-day Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) limit because of COVID-19.

Each service will implement its own process and pay.

Avoid COVID-19 Scams

CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret'd)
Personal Affairs / Benefits

Sheltering in place has naturally resulted in increased online activity and scammers are taking advantage of it. We're all under enough stress these days. The last thing we need is to fall victim to coronavirus fraud. So, while you're washing your hands and working to stay safe, here are a few ways you can help protect yourself – and those you love – from scammers.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time.

Don't be rushed. Whatever the call, e-mail, text, or social media post is about, remember that scammers try to rush you; legit people don't.

Never pay up front for financial relief – no legitimate organization will ask for an advance fee.

Hang up on robocalls immediately. Scammers are getting more and more sophisticated, so even pressing a key when prompted or answering "yes" to a simple question can put you at risk. One reported robocall scheme impersonates the local health department & alerts the call recipient that they have been in contact with someone infected by the coronavirus.

Verify the authenticity of any charity before giving money. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

Never divulge personal or financial information via e-mail, text, or over the phone. TRICARE beneficiaries were recently warned about callers asking for personal information so a COVID-19 test can be sent to them. Remember that only your physician can order such a test.

Pass it on. If you get offered something great, or you're worried about something alarming, talk to someone you trust before you act.

And do your part to help keep everyone else safe: Report scams to the FTC. Go to <https://www.ftc.gov>. Your report can help shut the scammers down.

Coronavirus Self-Checker

CAPT Mary McLendon, USN (Ret'd)

Personal Affairs / Benefits

What do you do if you wake up one day and feel sick? First thing, call a friend and let them know! Then follow the CDC guidance. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms – fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or loss of taste or smell. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your primary doctor. If you don't have a health care provider, contact the FL Department of Health in Volusia County.

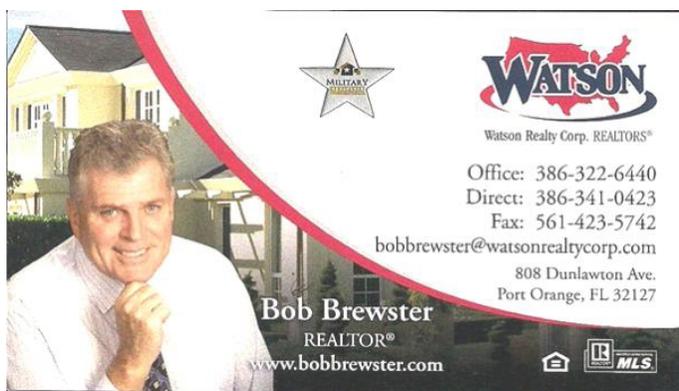
Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and can recover at home. Models estimate 99% of people recover. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas or take public transportation. Separate yourself from other people in your home; as much as possible, stay in a specific room and use a separate bathroom. Get plenty of rest and stay hydrated. Wear a cloth face covering. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor. They will instruct you on precautions. Call 911 if you have a medical emergency & notify the operator that you think you might have COVID-19. If possible, put on a cloth face covering before medical help arrives.

The CDC has an online Self-Checker at this website – a guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care: . Check it out.

Remember

**The Luncheon Meetings have
been cancelled until
September**



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Halifax Area Chapter Action Plan

CAP 2020

Items in white are pending initial update; Items yellow contain changes since our last "Officers Call." Items in green are completed tasks.

	Chapter Goal	Latest Update/Follow up
	LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
1	Two Public officials to attend luncheon during the year	1. Jim Chisholm - City Manager
2	An article in Newspaper of our legislative efforts	
	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION	
3	60 members to attend a luncheon/dinner	Jan=36, Feb=56, Mar=0, Apr=0, May=0, Sep=xx, Oct=xx, Nov=xx, Dec=xx
4	Net gain of 10 members for 2020	New Members as of May 2020 = 3
5	Develop local slide show of Halifax Area Chapter for website	
	PERSONAL AFFAIRS	
6	Volunteer Recognition - raffle luncheon certificate to monthly volunteers	
7	Surviving Spouse	
	BASE COMMUNITY	
8	Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipment. One Mainland H.S. scholarship in the Spring	
9	Upgrade ROTC Dinner Event to include greater Fundraising - 2021	
10	Develop local slide show of Halifax Area Chapter for website	
11	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home	
12	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	
	OTHER	
13	Create and work on Halifax Area Chapter's Leadership book for ROTC candidates	
14	Joint meeting with Other Chapters	

Halifax Area 2020 Chapter Planning Board

BOD Date	Luncheon Date	Speaker and/or Event	Supporting Elements/P.O.C.'s
7-Jan-20	Thu Jan 23, 2020	City Manager Jim Chishlom	*FCOC Leadership Forum*
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	*Begin to write up of Level of Excellence submission* Due May 1 st
4-Feb-20	Thu Feb 27, 2020	Col Bancroft McKittrick	*Submit Marvin Harris Communication Award Due Mar 1, 2020 - submitted
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	*Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA – submitted
			*Submit Mercer Ad – submitted
3-Mar-20	Thu Mar 26, 2020 CANCELLED	<i>Seniors vs Crime</i> *Speaker Change*	*Should receive Potential List*
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	
7 Apr 2020 VIA EMAIL	Thu Apr 23, 2020 CANCELLED	ROTC Dinner	
		(Topic: Cadets and Commanders)	
		Price: \$30/Location: ERAU Student Union Conference Rm A	
5/5/2020 VIA EMAIL	Thu May 28, 2020 CANCELLED	John Grones	*Level of Excellence submission* Due May 1 st - submitted
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	
	****	***Chapter on Summer Break***	****
1-Sep-20	Thu Sep 24, 2020	Team Rubicon	*Decide on Nominating Committee (45 days out)*
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	
6-Oct-20	Thu Oct 22, 2020	Outing?	*Begin Toys for Tots Campaign mention in Officers Call and at BOD meeting
		Raydon? Speedway?	
3-Nov-20	Thu Nov 19, 2020	Annual Membership Business Meeting/Review/State of the Chapter	Kim/Don/Drew
	**Date moved due to Thanksgiving holiday on 26th*	Woman Speaker	
		Price: \$21/Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	
1-Dec-20	Thu Dec 17, 2020**Date moved due to Christmas holiday*	End of Year Gala Dinner	*Music/Christmas*
		Music and Entertainment in Progress	*Get 2021 Menu*
		Price: \$TBD /Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	



Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA Membership Application



NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(First, Middle Initial, Last, Suffix if applicable) (MM/DD/YYYY)

RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ STATUS: _____
(Active, Reserve, Retired, Former Officer, Auxiliary*)
*Surviving spouse of eligible officer Show deceased's rank/service.

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

PHONE (indicate [H]ome or [C]ell): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I **am** **am not** a member of National MOAA. My Membership No. is _____
(Shown on Line 2 of "Military Officer" magazine mailing label or visit MOAA website at <http://www.moaa.org/>)

Not a member of National MOAA? Become part of our nationwide "One Powerful Voice" organization.
Join now at <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-moaa/Why-join-moaa.aspx>

I am applying for **Electronic Membership** **Paper Membership** for **1 2 3** years [Circle one]
(Select electronic or paper membership and indicate number of years of dues you wish to pay [1-3]).

Chapter Dues for membership with an **electronic distribution** of "Officers Call" (no paper newsletter mailed) is \$15 for one year, \$28 for 2 years, or \$39 for 3 years. [Electronic membership requires that you provide a functional e-mail address].

Chapter Dues for membership with a **mailed paper copy** of "Officers Call" is \$28 for one year, \$54 for 2 years or \$78 for 3 years [Paper membership does not require that you provide a functional e-mail address (thoughm,[recommended].

SIGNATURE: _____

Mail completed application with a CHECK payable to "**Halifax Chapter of Moaa**" to:
Treasurer, Halifax Chapter of MOAA
P.O. Box 2093
Daytona Beach, FL. 32115-2093

Application can also be completed on our website at: <http://www.moaaf1.org/Chapters/Halifax/JoinUs.aspx>
Chapter dues can also be paid by credit card online at: <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment>



Halifax Area Chapter
 Military Officers Association of America
 P.O. Box 2093
 Daytona Beach, Florida, 32115-2093

May Meeting Cancelled

Please check your membership expiration date on the mailing label above or in the subject of the e-mail that delivered this OC to you. To renew your membership mail a check for \$15 for one year, \$28 for 2 years or \$39 for 3 years for the **Electronic Chapter Membership** (no mailed paper copy of "Officers Call") to **Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, P.O. Box 2093, Daytona Beach, FL. 32115-2093**. [Electronic membership requires that you provide a functional e-mail address]. For **Chapter Membership** (with a mailed paper copy of the "Officers Call") mail a check for \$28 for one year, \$54 for 2 years or \$78 for 3 years to **Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, P.O. Box 2093, Daytona Beach, FL. 32115-2093**. [Paper membership does not require that you provide a functional e-mail address]. You can also pay for the **Electronic Chapter Membership** online by credit card at <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment>. **Please send any address or e-mail address corrections/updates to the Membership Chair, Jim Ivey, at jimivinva@gmail.com.**

Officers Call is published by the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

Looking Ahead to
September
Luncheon Meeting (Planned)
Thursday, September 24, 2020
Social @ 1130 Lunch @ 1200
Halifax River Yacht Club

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
 First Tuesday of each month
 Halifax River Yacht Club @ 1000

Bayals & Bingo
 First Monday of each month
 Bennett VA Nursing Home @ 1000
 For Info call: Skip Keating 672-4536

Coffee & Donuts
 Fourth Wednesday of each month
 VA Clinic on Dunn Ave @ 0800
 For Info call: Ron Giampetro 235-6317

Held via e-mail until further notice

Suspended until further notice

Suspended until further notice