



Greetings Members and Friends,



As I write this message, we are celebrating the 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Army. Happy Birthday to the ARMY!

Today, I attended the Change of Command for CPT Daniel Porris, USA, outgoing commander of the Birmingham Recruiting Company and a member of our Chapter. We celebrated the Army's Birthday as part of the ceremony. Another Chapter member, COL Ed Rowe, USA (Ret) had the honor to cut the birthday cake as the oldest soldier in the room. Also, Dan gave the oath of enlistment to four young recruits beginning their Army service. What a great feeling being in a room full of new recruits, today's serving soldier's, and a bunch of us retired soldiers. Makes me wish I could do it all over again!

We need to continue communicating with Congressman Palmer to gain his support for the elimination of the DIC offset from SBP, commonly referred to as the Widow's tax. From emails with his staff it is evident that he does not understand the impact that this offset has on surviving spouses whose spouse died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected medical issue.

Cynthia and I will be out of town for this month's meeting. We will be in Boise, ID visiting with our son and his family....the annual spoiling of the grand boys! We'll see you all at the August meeting.

Our next Meeting is July 11th; social time begins at 11:30am. Hope you can all make it and remember that our challenge for the remainder of 2019 is...."bring a member (new or old) to the meetings!"

Respectfully,

*Wes*

Volume 119 Issue 7 July 2019

## *Officers' Call*

### **Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America**

*President* Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

*1<sup>st</sup> VP* Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)

*2<sup>nd</sup> VP* Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

*Treasurer* Doug Markham, CAPT, USN(Ret)

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*Director* Robert Williams, Maj, USA (Ret)

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*Chaplain* Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)

*TOPS Liaison* Al Wood, LTC, USA (Ret)

*Legislative Affairs* Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

*Personal Affairs* Anne Hartline

*Surviving Spouse Liaison* Donna Martin

*Newsletter* Linda DeMarco, LTC. USA (Ret)

### **Statement of Publication**

Officer's Call is the newsletter of the Greater Birmingham Chapter—Military Officers Association of America. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

GBC MOAA is a non-profit 501(c)19 entity in the state of Alabama organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Alabama Council and MOAA National.

MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan.

Advertising contained in the newsletter is not endorsed by MOAA or its affiliate the Greater Birmingham Chapter, and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to [newsletter@moaabirmingham.org](mailto:newsletter@moaabirmingham.org).

# JUNE MEETING

## Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA

### Surviving Spouse/Spouse Excellence Award and Ladies Recognition

At the June meeting Pat Marvin was introduced as the second Surviving Spouse/Spouse of a Current Member Excellence Award recipient for service to our chapter and to the community. Criteria for the award is based on the MOAA national Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. Our GBC Ladies Committee recommended that spouses of living service people should be eligible for our local award. The GBC Board voted last year to make this an annual award.

Pat Marvin has served with her husband Charlie during his tenure as GBC President and the MOAA Alabama Council of Chapters. She has traveled around the state and attended national meetings where she shared information she had learned with other spouses. In her acceptance speech Pat said, "MOAA has meant a lot to Charlie and me, and I am proud to be a part of this organization that serves all service men and women. MOAA national works hard watching and lobbying Congress to keep our earned benefits and to promote legislation to adequately provide for our troops and their families."

She currently serves as a member of the GBC Ladies Committee providing support for surviving spouses and planning the biannual Ladies Luncheons. In addition, she has volunteered at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park events, served as president of the Meadowbrook Neighborhood Home Owners Association and president of the Newcomers Club.

Surviving spouses, women officers who have served our country and spouses of current chapter members present were also honored. These ladies actively participate and are assets to our chapter. Some other MOAA chapters report that they do not have ladies who attend meetings and actively support their chapters. The following ladies were recognized and presented a refrigerator magnet designed and made by Margie Argo and Linda DeMarco:

Margie Argo – LTC (Ret) USA and Spouse of Jerry Argo MAJ (Ret) USA

Nancy Barefield – Spouse of Bob Barefield COL (Ret) USA

Jerri Barnhill – Surviving Spouse of Anthony Barnhill LTC (Ret) USA

Ginger Branson – LTC (Ret) USA

Cynthia Cox – Spouse of Wes Cox COL (Ret) USA

Linda DeMarco – LTC (Ret) USA and Surviving Spouse of Fred DeMarco CPO (Ret) USN

Anne Hartline – Surviving Spouse of James G. (Red) Hartline COL (Ret) USA

Pat Marvin – Spouse of Charlie Marvin LTC (Ret) USA

B J Neidermeier – Surviving Spouse of William Neidermeier CDR (Ret) USN

Gloria Womack – Spouse of Wally Womack CAPT (Ret) USN

Wes Cox and Pat Marvin



Linda DeMarco and Margie Argo



Thursday, July 11, 2019

Social 11:30 am, Lunch at Noon

- **Cost:** \$18.00 per person. (NOTE: Summer Hours)  
Payment for meal is due at the door (checks are preferred).
- **Location:** Danberry at Inverness, 235 Inverness Center Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242.
- **Reservations:** Contact CAPT Doug Markham, 205-420-2631 or dgmarkham3143@gmail.com by Noon on Monday July 8 to make your reservation. Note: Your reservation is not complete until you have received a confirmation call or email.
- **Menu:** BUFFET: Greek Salad, Assorted Bread, Baked Ziti, Veggie Lasagna, Vegetable Medley, Tiramisu
- **No Cash Bar**

**Driving Instructions - Danberry at Inverness, 235 Inverness Center Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242**

- **Traveling from I-65** (South or North): Take the I-459 interchange toward Atlanta. Proceed north on I-459 and take Exit 19 onto Highway 280 toward Childersburg. Travel approx. 2.2 miles on Highway 280 and turn right onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on right). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.
- **Traveling South on I-459:** Take Exit 19 onto Highway 280 toward Childersburg. Travel approx. 2.2 miles on Highway 280 and turn right onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on right). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.
- **Traveling West on Highway 280:** Turn left onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on the left). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.

**Application for Membership/Renewal – Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA (Please print or type)**

First Name      MI      Last Name      Grade      Rank      Preferred Name      Name of Spouse  
Branch of Service: ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Navy ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Status: ☐ Active Duty ☐ Retired ☐ National Guard ☐ Reserve ☐ Former Member ☐ Surviving Spouse

Mailing Address      City      State      Zip Code  
Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
National MOAA Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_ National Membership Type: ☐ Basic ☐ Premium ☐ Life  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Renewal or ☐ New Membership (membership runs by calendar year)  
☐ Regular Membership or ☐ Surviving Spouse: ☐ \$20/year ☐ \$35/2 years ☐ \$50/3 years  
☐ Supporting Membership (\$50) or ☐ Sustaining Membership (\$100)  
☐ ROTC Affiliation (electronic communications only – no cost)



Mail this form to Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253



### Recruiter's Corner

#### Please come help welcome our new members!

We had two new members present at our June luncheon, **Maj Chip Parker USAF (retired)** and **CWO4 Harold Coghlan USAF (retired)**. Other members that have recently joined the chapter are:

**LtCol Bret (John) Hamilton USMC (retired)**

**Maj Nancy Waller ARNG**

**Capt Kelvin Sumlin USAF**

**Maj Charlie Smith USA (retired)**

Please come to a meeting, introduce yourself and make our new members feel welcome to the chapter! Our recruiting campaign is working. Member referral is still an effective recruiting tool too, so if you have a friend or meet someone who you think may enjoy our chapter and activities, please provide them our information; website, my contact info below, or better yet, bring them to a meeting! Remember to pick up some of our new MOAA business cards at your next meeting; they have our meeting times and a map of Danberry's location.

#### Website

Remember to bookmark our website [www.MOABirmingham.org](http://www.MOABirmingham.org) and visit us on Facebook. We will be making website improvements soon, so check it frequently for updates

Semper Fi,  
Don Lehman, LTC, USMCR (retired)  
Membership Chair  
[don.lehman1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com)

### Chaplain's Corner

So many events that shaped our wonderful country happened in the month of July. The most important event happens on July 4<sup>th</sup>, when we celebrate our Nation's independence. This year it is on the first Thursday of the month (which is why we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday), so I imagine many of you will take the entire week to celebrate.

As I did last year, I would like to share this Congressional prayer, which was originally offered by Chaplain, Reverend Edward G. Latch on Wednesday, July 3, 1974. I think it is every bit as relevant today as it was back in 1974.

"Eternal God stir Thou our minds and stimulate our hearts with a high sense of patriotism as we approach the Fourth of July. May all that this day symbolizes renew our faith in freedom, our devotion to democracy, and redouble our efforts to keep a government of the people, by the people, and for the people truly alive in our world.

Grant that we may highly resolve on this great day to dedicate ourselves anew to the task of ushering in an era when good will shall live in the hearts of a free people, justice shall be the light to guide their feet, and peace shall be the goal of humankind: to the glory of Thy holy name and the good of our Nation and of all mankind."

... and all God's people said: Amen.

Marvin A. Chandler, LTC, IN, U.S. Army, Ret

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MOAA MEMBERS – If you participate in a military event, submit pictures and information about event to [lhdemarco@bellsouth.net](mailto:lhdemarco@bellsouth.net)

Mac Chandler	1
Mike Connor	8
Don Lehman	10
Mary Jensen	12
Joe Sarver	14
James Oliver	15
Ann Munson	16
Jerri Barnhill	23
Ed Rowe	25
Cliff Fleming	26
AL Goodwin	27
Steve Cragon	28
Donna Martin	29



## **Legislative Update**

(visit Legislative Action at <http://www.moaa.org>)

### **Defense Bills: House and Senate Versions Compared (by MOAA STAFF)**

NDAA deliberations in both chambers are far from over, and that doesn't even factor in the process of aligning the House and Senate version into a compromise bill that can pass both chambers and reach the president's desk. But the initial wording gives a look at lawmaker priorities and shows where MOAA's influence, and that of similar advocacy organizations, on behalf of servicemembers and veterans, and their families, has been heard ... and where more work may be needed.

Here are 6 things to monitor as the process continues.

**1. A pay raise win.** Summaries from leaders of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees pledge that their final legislation will include a 3.1% military pay raise, which would align with the administration's FY 2020 budget request and with MOAA efforts to sustain pay comparability with the private sector. While nothing's settled until passage, this appears to be one of few issues that won't be affected by ongoing debate.

**2. Halfway on health care?** While House Armed Services Committee (HASC) members included language that would put a stop to a proposal to cut up to 18,000 medical billets, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has not. House committee members shared MOAA's concerns about the potential consequences of cutting roughly 20 percent of the military's medical force. They included language requiring DoD to study the issue further and report back to Congress.

**3. TRICARE: No news might be good news.** Neither piece of legislation includes discussions on raising TRICARE fees or creating new ones. Last year, the authorization act did include such language until late in the process.

**4. Help for military families in privatized housing.** Both bills contain provisions to establish a "Tenant Bill of Rights" to ensure military families living in privatized military housing have a safe, maintained home. The wording differs, but both chambers include a provision backed by MOAA and other military advocates that would allow for the withholding of rent payments in a dispute between tenant and property manager. Learn more about MOAA's work on this issue [here](#).

**5. More help for families.** MOAA has monitored discussions about water-safety efforts on military installations, and both chambers address one of the key contributors to the problem – firefighting foam that can have lasting effects on an area's water supply. Again, the focus differs: Senate leaders said that their bill will prevent DoD from buying foam that includes some of the more dangerous substances after Oct. 1, 2022, while the House bill will limit the release of fluorinated firefighting foam "except in cases of emergency response" or limited training efforts.

**6. The bottom line.** The Senate version includes \$750 billion for defense, in line with the administration's request. The House version includes \$733 billion, a number that Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., HASC committee chairman, has pledged will stay. That \$17 billion gap may become the focus of compromise negotiations; MOAA will work to ensure programs that benefit servicemembers and retirees, and their families, won't be put at risk as part of negotiations surrounding those figures.

## VETTES for VETS

Vettes for Vets, a Birmingham based 501c (3) nonprofit organization, is the primary sponsor for a yearlong study of the need, availability, and efficacy of support programs for veterans.

The assessment will be conducted and supervised by an experienced social scientist, Dr. David Albright, of the University of Alabama and his staff in the University's School of Social Work, Office for Military Families and Veterans. Dr. Albright is also a US Army veteran and was named by the Governor to be on the Alabama Executive Veteran's Network in addition to his other national level work.

This study will begin with a series of face-to-face veterans' focus meetings that will set the tone for a robust follow-on electronic survey that will be distributed to as many local veterans as possible for their response and subsequent analysis by Dr. Albright and his staff.

The hope is that this Assessment will enable providers and those that support the providers to be much more selective and effective in meeting our veteran's needs.

Other partnering participants in funding this study includes The United Way's Priority Veterans Program and the local Still Serving Veterans organization.

Results and reporting should be available in the next twelve to fourteen months.

MG Dave Burford, USA (Ret), Chairman of the Board, Vettes for Vets and a GBC MOAA member is leading this effort.

This is a \$22,000 study. Vettes for Vets has committed \$7500 and they are asking MOAA and other Veteran Service Organizations to commit also. Our Chapters Executive Board has reviewed the Project and agree that our Chapter should participate. We have set a donation goal of \$2000 - \$3000 and are asking all members to contribute to this project by the May 2nd meeting.  
Hide original message

Members may contribute by sending a check (payable to MOAA and put "Veterans Assessment Program" in the memo line) to our Treasurer, Doug Markham at GBC MOAA, PO Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253 or bring your donation to the next dinner/meeting on May 2nd.

Helping our Veterans is why we all stay actively involved.

Sincerely,

Wes Cox  
COL, USA (Ret)  
President  
GBC MOAA





## Armed Forces Officers Wives Club

*Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from September through May at various locations.*

To make reservations, please contact  
Jane Galik before May 3, 2019  
ladyg8r74@gmail.com  
205-664-8163

The purpose of this organization is to foster friendship among the wives of active, retired alive and deceased officers of the Armed Forces, and female officers to promote cultural and educational needs and provide group fellowship.



## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### Greater Birmingham MOAA Coins

The new Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Challenge Coins are now available to order for only \$10 per coin! This coin will make a wonderful gift and must-have for any challenge coin collection. You can also order coins by contacting:  
LTC (ret) Don Lehman at [don.lehman1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com).  
Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.

### Personalized MOAA Nametags

MOAA nametags are available for \$8.50 each through J.D. Crawford.

The nametags are black lettering on white, and they are approximately business card size with magnetic backs.

Mail your name, rank and branch of service (or other information as applicable, i.e. surviving spouse, etc.) along with \$8.50 for each nametag ordered to James D. Crawford, 3076 Brookhill Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Make checks payable to James D. Crawford.



<https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Birmingham-MOAA-Chapter-161367134657315/>





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## Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

### Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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[AlabamaMarine.org](http://AlabamaMarine.org)

[VVA.org](http://VVA.org) - [DAV.org](http://DAV.org)

Cell: (404) 441-3882  
[don.lehman1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com)

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Our upcoming lunch meeting will be 11 July 2019 and 01 August 2019