



Greetings Members and Friends,



Hope that your summer is going well and that everyone has had time to make that beach trip or spent a lot of time enjoying your family and friends. The weather has certainly given us the time to enjoy the outdoors this year.

I would like to thank everyone who contacted our legislative delegates concerning voting in favor of the SBP/DIC offset legislation (Widow's Tax) which will stop penalizing spouses of servicemembers who died of a service connected injury/illness. I truly believe that our efforts, and the efforts of all MOAA Chapters, have had a favorable impact on votes in both houses of Congress.

MOAA National schedules meetings with each Chapter every 3 or 4 years. I am pleased to announce that CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), MOAA National's Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs will attend our October 3rd meeting. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and discuss your views on MOAA programs and legislative work. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this meeting. We need a full house!

Even though Birmingham's National Veteran's Day activities are a few months away it is time for everyone to think about whom to recommend for the Chapter's Veteran of the Year. I would like to finalize our selection at the beginning of October. The process is simple. Send an email to any Chapter Officer or me; include the member's name and the reason(s) why the person should be recognized as the Chapters Veteran of the Year.

The next meeting is on August 1st, the last lunch meeting for 2019. Hope to see you all there!

Respectfully,

Wes

Volume 119 Issue 8 August 2019

Officers' Call

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

1st VP Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)

2nd VP Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

Treasurer Doug Markham, CAPT, USN(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.

Thursday, August 1, 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 Donna Martin at 205-408-4761 or donnaemaemartin@aol.com by Noon on Monday July 29th to make your reservation. Note: Your reservation is not complete until you have received a confirmation call or email.

Menu: BUFFET: CAESAR SALAD, BEEF TIPS OVER CREAMED POTATOES AND GRAVY, VEGETABLE MEDLEY, STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

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

Recruit a new member

Be sure to have some of our business cards with you at all times to pass onto a prospective member that you may meet. You will find them on the front table. If you need me to mail you a few, please email me below.

Website

We are in the process of making some changes to our website. Be sure to check it out soon and let us know what you think at www.MOABirmingham.org

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

Chaplain's Corner

So what exactly is the purpose of the month of August? We have no national holidays to celebrate in August. It is usually so blasted hot and humid in August that we don't really like to do anything outdoors in August. College football hasn't started yet. There was a time years ago that we were still on vacation in August; not any more. Kids go back to school in August. If I had a vote, I'd vote August out! I just don't like August.

This August, during the so-called Dog Days of summer, as the kids are going back to school, and new drivers fill our already crowded roads, let's take our time getting to places. Not only that, let's take time to read some of our favorite verses in the Bible. Let's take time to call a friend who we have not spoken to in a while. Let's take time to remember our best friend from High School or college. Let's take time to help a stranger. Let's make August a month worthy of celebrating!

During these hot, muggy days of August, please take time to read Galatian's 5, 22-23, which states that "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (especially on 280)." Be safe and enjoy August. And remember, college football is just around the corner!

Mac Chandler, LTC, IN, U.S. Army (Ret)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NEW MEMBER

Steve Coleman	7
Sam Sparks	12
Jack Natter	14
Lawrence Brassell	16
Lynn Hendricks	17
David Burford	18
Terri Stricklin	19
Rose Marie Ritz	20
Ginger Branson	26
Sam Killian	28



My name is Harold A. Coghlan, and I served 40 years in the Active Army, plus Army Reserve, all of it in Aviation, from 1977 to 2017, retiring as a CW4. During my military service I was lucky enough to fly a wide variety of Army airplanes and helicopters, from UH-1, OH-58, AH-1, AH-6, and others, as well as U-8, U-21, RU-21, C-12, RC-12, C-23, C-21, UC-35 airplanes, plus serving an exchange tour with the Air Force and qualifying on fighter jets, such as the A-37B, F-5E and others. I was privileged to serve in Cavalry, Attack, Medevac, Test Flight, Special Operations, Aerial Reconnaissance, VIP, and Flight Inspection Units throughout my career, in addition to having taught at the School house in Fort Rucker, and in the only Spanish Speaking Military Pilot School (at Ft Rucker).

After serving around 10 years in Active Duty, I transitioned to the active Guard and Reserves, while flying as a Commercial Airline Pilot in a variety of jets, such as the Boeing 737 and 707. During the various (and typical of the industry) airline layoffs or downsizing, I would either do short 6-18 month tours on Active Duty, or do other aviation jobs, such as being a corporate pilot, or an Army Civil Service DAC Pilot or Instructor.

During my time on Active Duty, or during periods of Activation with the Guard/Reserves, I served on multiple deployments during four wars, in El Salvador in the 80s, Gulf War 1 in the 90's, as well as Irak and Afghanistan in "Gulf War 2", completing 7 deployments (9 years) and flying over 2500 hrs in combat. I received some of the usual awards, to include LOM, MSM, and others. My proudest achievement was always having brought my crew back alive and safe, as well as having safely flown over 22,500 hours.

My family has always been very supportive of my military and flying habits. I married my wife of 35 years, Patricia K Clopton Coghlan in 1984, when she was a Medical Service Corps 1 Lt serving in a MASH hospital, and have taken her around the world on assignments, or just vacations. We have two children, Andrew (33) and Gabby (25).

I continue to fly as an Airline Captain (at least for a couple more years when I hit mandatory age for retirement from the airlines), enjoying flying jets around, as well as volunteering as a UH-1 Huey pilot with an Army Historical demonstration organization. I have been very blessed to have had a long and exciting flying career, to have had the opportunity to serve my country, and to have a great family.

Legislative Update

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

The National Defense Appropriations Act (NDAA) is being debated and will be voted on this month in the House. With fewer than 25 days left this fiscal year on the congressional calendar, the clock is ticking to get a discretionary funding approved for national defense, including other uniformed service components such as the Coast Guard, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Remember, a little more than four months ago a partial government shutdown meant Coast Guard, NOAA, and some USPHS members were furloughed or forced to work without pay. What would become the longest government shutdown in history after 35 days.

History tends to repeat itself, and the uniformed services, yet again, are caught in the middle of a funding war — one that's holding up legislation to authorize funding, including the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

House Defense Bill includes Pay Raise, Widows Tax Repeal

(by: James F. Naughton Jr, MOAA Assoc Director, Government Relations)

The House is expected to vote on the annual defense authorization bill in July. The annual legislation includes some of MOAA's biggest priorities.

But House lawmakers may have a tough time getting it passed. And if they fail, it would be the first time in almost 60 years Congress couldn't approve the National Defense Authorization Act.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are at odds over spending levels. The administration issued a veto threat to the bill to debate; there are a number of potential poison pills that could derail the bill's chances of passage.

The House version of the defense bill authorizes \$733 billion in spending, or \$17 billion less than President Trump's request for \$750 billion. The Senate's version of the defense bill, passed on July 1, approved the administrations request.

Here are some important amendments the House will consider:

Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) introduced an amendment to expand concurrent receipt to military retirees with disability ratings under 50%.

Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) introduced an amendment to exempt servicemembers who voluntarily separate from active duty, are involuntarily recalled, and incur a 100 percent service-connected disability during that time from the requirement to repay voluntary separation pay.

Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) introduced an amendment to repeal the widow's tax, the dollar-for-dollar deduction of survivor benefits annuities from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) introduced an amendment authorizing the Secretary of Defense to refer military members for mental health services within the TRICARE network if services cannot be provided at a military medical facility within 15 days.

In addition, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) introduced a separate amendment to end the widow's tax and authorize a 3.1% military pay raise for servicemembers, necessary for recruitment and retention.

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.

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,

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.

Contact
Jane Galik
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.

• Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter--

The next meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: **Tuesday, July 30, 2019 Time: 12 pm CDT**

Program/Speakers:

Welcome and Introductions - Gail Joyce, MOAA Board Member representing Surviving Spouses

Update on Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter 02 - Micki Costello, SSAC (Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee)

SBP/DIC Update - Nancy Mullen, SSAC

Regional Trainings for Surviving Spouse Liaisons - Anne Hartline, Chair, SSAC

2020 Virtual Chapters Cruise - Gail/Micki

Legal Issues Effecting Surviving Spouses - Erin Stone, Capt., Judge Advocate Generals Corps, U.S. Navy (Ret) MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

The phone number will be sent out about a week before the meeting. Hope to "see" you there. If you are not a member of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter please contact Donna Martin – donnamaemartin@aol.com or 205-408-4761.

The purposes of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter are to:

-provide information and exchange ideas

-find solutions to problems or issues affecting surviving spouses

-to be a resource for surviving spouses

-to be an enhancement to regular chapters—the virtual chapter does not take the place of a regular MOAA chapter.

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.
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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Lt. Col. (Ret) Mac Chandler, Family Service Counselor

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560



Lifetime memberships:

MOAABirmingham.org

AlabamaMarine.org

VVA.org - DAV.org

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



Still serving veterans – Once a Marine always a Marine





Our upcoming meetings will be 01 August 2019 at noon and 09 September 2019 at 6:30 p.m.