



Greetings Members and Friends,



Fall is off to its usual start, or maybe not so usual start. It's hot and humid, and the hurricane season appears to be in full swing with Hurricane Dorian leaving destruction and homelessness in its path from the Bahamas' to the eastern coast of the USA. Please keep everyone affected by this event in your prayers.

I want to think everyone who participated in MOAA's 2019 Summer Storming of the Hill. Your letters and questions at the townhall meetings will continue to remind our elected officials the importance of protecting the benefits of serving and retired members of the armed forces, USCG, Public Health Services, and NOAA.

It is our pleasure this month to welcome MOAA National representative CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret). It has been 5+ years since MOAA National has visited our Chapter. CAPT Stone will meet with our Chapter Board to discuss management and recruiting and address both our Ladies Luncheon on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and our monthly meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. I encourage you all to attend and bring plenty of questions for CAPT Stone.

LTC Dave Jensen, LTC, USA (Ret), President of the Alabama Council of Chapters will also attend our monthly meeting and present our Chapter the MOAA 5-star Level of Excellence Award.

Veterans Day is fast approaching and it is my pleasure to announce that LTC Don Lehman, USMCR (Ret) has been selected as the Chapters' Veteran of the Year for 2019. A narrative of the accomplishments of Don's military and civilian careers and his contribution to veterans will be included in the November newsletter. Don will be recognized at the 2019 National Veterans Awards Dinner on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets for the National Veterans Awards Dinner are available now.

(Continued on page 6)

*Wes*

Volume 119 Issue 10 October 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)

*Secretary* Ginger Branson, LTC, USA (Ret)

*Past Pres.* Thomas Ruffing, LTC, USA (Ret)

*Director* J.D. Crawford, Col, USA (Ret)

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

*Director* Vacant

*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).

**Thursday, October 3, 2019 Social 6:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm**

- **Cost:** \$26.00 per person
- 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 September 30, 2019 to make your reservation. Note: Your reservation is not complete until you have received a confirmation call or email.

**Menu:** Greek Salad, Entree: Chicken & Shrimp Surf and Turf, with sautéed spinach and garlic roasted potatoes with scampi wine sauce; Dessert: Cheesecake Brûlée

**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)

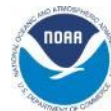
☐ Regular Membership or ☐ Surviving Spouse: ☐ \$20/year ☐ \$35/2 years ☐ **\$50/3 years**

☐ 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





## OCTOBER SPEAKER

CAPT. ERIN E. STONE, JAGC, USN (RET)

Erin Stone retired as a Navy captain in 2017. She held multiple leadership positions with broad organizational responsibility in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, to include command of Naval Legal Service Office North Central/Defense Service Office North. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and member of the Virginia Bar, she earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and holds a Masters in Law in Litigation and Dispute Resolution from George Washington University.

Passionate about helping people and organizations succeed, after military retirement Captain Stone found her new career home with the Military Officers Association of America. As Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, she develops relationships and organizational processes to support a healthy and vibrant affiliate system, enhance member value, and facilitate legislative action on the local, state and national level.

**MOAA  
Program  
Director for  
Council and  
Chapter Affairs**



**LTC Chandler, Keynote speaker at the tri-cities (Mt. Brook, Homewood, Vestavia) Patriot Day Ceremony**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Preston	
Huddleston	1
Sue Ruffing	1
Vicki Edwards	2
Carolyn Robinson	3
Bill Satterfield	9
Emma Vaiton	13
Robert Williams	13
Jerry Little	14
Margie Argo	16
Bret Hamilton	17
Barbara Stone	21
Danny Sample	26
Reuben Melton	27
Angel Vazquez	27
Dorsey Ingram	31

## **Ladies Luncheon**

for

**Surviving Spouses**

**Female Officers**

**Spouses of Living Members**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Hoover Country Club**

**3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226**

**"Legal Issues"**

**Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret)**

**Program Director, MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs**

**"MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits"**

**COL Wes Cox USA (ret), GBC President**

**Your check will be your reservation.**

**Make check payable to: MOAA GBC**

**Mail to: Anne Hartline**

**2612 Swiss Lane**

**Vestavia Hills, AL 35226**

**205-823-1924**

**hartline.anne@gmail.com**

**Cost: \$20 Reservation deadline: September 26, 2019**

## **Recruiter's Corner**

### **Email survey concerning our meetings**

In an effort to improve the attendance for our monthly meetings, we sent out 131 email invites to complete an on-line survey and have had a respectable 33 responses. It's not too late to complete this important survey, so please check your email for an email from "Survey Monkey"; it is not a spam email. Results will be tallied and shared with the chapter in November.

### **Website**

Changes have been made to our website. Be sure to check it out soon and let us know what you think at [www.MOABirmingham.org](http://www.MOABirmingham.org)

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



**Will the Government Shutdown On October 1<sup>st</sup>?**

(By James F. Naughton Jr., MOAA Associate Director, Government Relations)

When lawmakers returned from their summer recess this week, one of the first things they began work on was legislation to prevent another government shutdown. With the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year, Congress has only a few weeks to pass a series of spending bills to keep the lights on.

How can that be when the president signed a sweeping 2-year budget agreement at the beginning of August?

The agreement set broad guidelines increasing the amount of money the government can spend on defense and non-defense issues. Congress still needs to appropriate the money to various agencies.

To date, the House has passed nine spending bills this year, including money for the Defense Department. However, the Senate has delayed work on its spending bills, waiting instead for the August agreement to raise spending levels above previous budget caps. Absent a new budget deal, federal agencies would be subject to automatic budget cuts, known as sequestration.

But with new top-line numbers in the budget agreements, lawmakers in each chamber must go back to the drawing board to rewrite the legislation to adhere to the new limits. Earlier this year, House authorized \$733 billion in defense spending. The Senate's defense bill authorized \$750 billion. In July, Congress voted on a bipartisan budget deal authorizing \$738 billion.

The new budget numbers mean the House can authorize an additional \$5 billion in spending, while the Senate must trim \$12 billion from its bill.

Lawmakers are trying to decide how long the stopgap funding measure, known as a continuing resolution, will last. Optimists expect the extension to last until Nov. 22, although some members of Congress are floating the notion of a funding bill going until Dec. 6.

A continuing resolution delays aviators from flying hours, defers vital equipment maintenance, causes cancelations to training events and exercises, and places new acquisition and military construction programs on hold.

Even a short-term continuing resolution creates personnel turbulence.

**New Commander of Defense Health Agency**

(By CAPT Kathryn Beasley, USN (Ret), MOAA Director of Government Relations, Health Affairs)

There is new leadership at the helm of the Defense Health Agency, and the three-star will play a pivotal role as military health looks to shutter facilities and cut billets.

On Sept. 3 Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono relinquished command of the DHA to Army Maj. Gen. Ronald Place. MG Place was promoted to lieutenant general at the Pentagon later that day.

Lt. Gen. Place's plate will be full as he faces a host of challenges. The biggest are the incorporation of all military treatment facilities from the services into the DHA, sorting out the right-sizing efforts of the services, which includes the potential of large military medical personnel reductions, and the administration of the TRICARE health plan managed care support contracts.

(Continued on next page)

Legislative Update continued:

Place, who is a surgeon by training, has the background and experience to face these challenges. His bio indicates he has had significant leadership responsibilities as chief of surgery at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, in Germany, and at Madigan Army Medical Center, in Washington state, as the deputy commander for clinical services and principal deputy commander. He also commanded the medical activities at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Stewart, Ga.

As MOAA start their fall meetings with the DHA and forge their relationship with Lt. Gen. Place, they will continue fighting to pause nearly 18,000 medical billet cuts until the Defense Department can show their plan and analyses for such drastic reductions. You can help by sending a letter to Congress, seeing the inclusion of important language in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act that would put these cuts on hold.



★★★★★ **SAVE the DATE** ★★★★★

MAYOR ASHLEY CURRY AND  
THE CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS  
ARE HONORED TO PRESENT A

*Veterans Day Celebration*

FEATURING PATRIOTIC-THEMED  
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES & SPEAKERS

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church  
2061 Kentucky Avenue  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

(Continued from President's message)

**Notes for your calendar:**

November 10 – Alabama Veterans Memorial  
Park Veterans Day Ceremony  
November 10 – National Veterans Day  
Dinner  
November 11 – National Veterans Day  
Parade  
December 14 – Wreaths Around America

The next meeting is on October 3<sup>rd</sup>; social  
hour begins at 6:00pm. Hope to see you  
all there!





## Armed Forces Spouse Club

October 10, 2019  
Carrabba's Restaurant  
4503 Riverview Pkwy  
Birmingham, Al 35242

11:00 am

Contact  
Jane Galik  
ladyg8r74@gmail.com  
205-664-8163

The purpose of this organization is to foster friendship among the spouses of active, retired alive and deceased military personnel of the Armed Forces.





## 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.







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

205-879-3401 [RidoutsValleyChapel.com](http://RidoutsValleyChapel.com)



## 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)



Still serving veterans – Once a Marine always a Marine



Our upcoming dinner meetings will be 03 October 2019 and 07 November 2019 at 6:00 pm