



Greetings Greater Birmingham Chapter (MOAA)
Members and Friends,

November will be an exciting month! Not only will we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends and celebrate our Veterans, we will elect the next President of the USA and many Senators and Congresspersons. I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. It is the only way we can influence the future path of our Nation. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic is still with us. Please continue doing what is right to protect yourselves and those around you.

We will have another Zoom meeting on November

5th. COL Bob Barefield, USA (Ret) and his wife Nancy will speak on the many activities and initiatives performed by the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery. Bob and Nancy have been actively involved with the Support Committee for many years; Bob served as the President for 10 years. The Support Committee does a wonderful job of giving our Veterans the recognition they have earned. We had a small turnout for the September Zoom meeting. If you missed that meeting, I hope you have taken the opportunity to watch the recorded version on our Chapter website and will attend the November Zoom meeting.

As a reminder, the 2020 Birmingham National Veterans Day parade and the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park has been cancelled. A virtual Parade video to honor Veterans is being produced. Ticketing information for the Veterans Day Dinner was sent to you earlier.

Wreaths Across America campaign has begun. Since our Veterans Day ceremonies will be curtailed this year, I would suggest that you buy a wreath(s) that will be placed on each grave at the Alabama National Cemetery in December to honor our Veterans. You can donate through the Support Committee website (www.scalnc.org) or use the form that is included in this newsletter.

Continued on page 3

Volume 120 Issue 9* November 2020

Officers' Call

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

1st VP Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

2nd VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Doug Markam, CPT, USN (Ret)

Past Pres. Mark Rubino, LT, USN

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

Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)

Director Vacant

Chaplain Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)

TOPS Liaison Vacant

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.

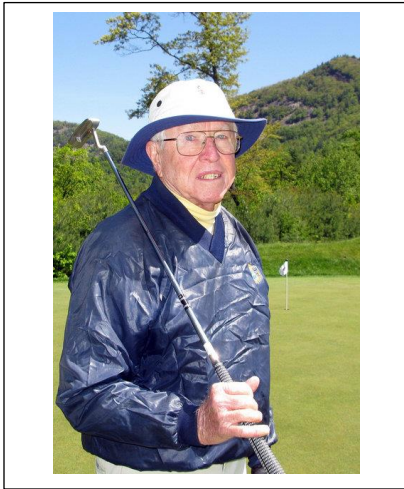
MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan.

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.

Thompson: Country Club of Birmingham's Gene Cushman - at 89 - knows golf is a game you can play for life

Updated Mar 28, 2019; Posted Aug 19, 2010

By [Ian Thompson, The Birmingham News](#)



On September 25th, President Wes Cox presented to MOAA member Gene Cushman the National Lifetime membership, coin and certificate. Gene turned 100 years old the day before this presentation.



Gene Cushman first shot his age on the golf course when he was 67. (Special)

Any golfer would be delighted to shoot 72 on the West Course at the Country Club of Birmingham. Gene Cushman shot such a round late last month. Why is this notable? He turns 90 next month.

Cushman, described as "ageless" by CC of Birmingham director of golf Eric Eshleman, has shot lower before, but the spread of score versus age is the largest for him. Seventeen strokes under his age is amazing. His previous best was 15 strokes, shooting 71 when he was 86.

He first matched his age when he shot 67 and has repeated or bettered the feat hundreds of times.

In robust health, he is justifiably proud of his golfing exploits, but he is not one to toot his own horn. A golfing partner and friend, Ivey Jackson, let me know about Cushman.

Cushman said he really did not start taking much notice of the times he would better his age until he turned 80.

"Someone said it would be a good idea to keep up with it."

Here is the math. In the decade about to conclude when he turns 90 in September, he has averaged playing two rounds a week (one each on the East and West courses) for 40 weeks a year. That equals 800 rounds played, give, or take a few. He will also mix in a round here and there at Willow Point, where he has a second home. How many times in all those rounds of golf has he failed to beat or match his age? One time is all.

Alabama Sports Hall of Fame inductee Elbert Jemison, a noted amateur golfer in his day and also a longtime member at Birmingham, will turn the same age as Cushing this year. "Gene is one of the good guys. He's been a fine player for many, many years," Jemison said.

Cushman grew up on various Army posts and served in the Air Force for 27 years before moving to Birmingham in 1968 to marry his wife, Eleanor. He worked the next 30 years in the insurance business until he retired at age 80.

"My father told my brother and I that we had to learn two sports, golf and tennis, growing up because you can play them your whole life. I'm so glad he insisted on such."

No doubt Cushman took that to heart as he loves playing golf and he comes from good genes. Both his mother and his mother's mother lived to be 97.

Ian Thompson's golf column appears every Thursday in The Birmingham News. E-mail him at golfsth@aol.com and check out his bimonthly digital golf magazine at www.golfsouthmagazine.com.

FIRST VP REPORT

Ground Hog Day hopefully has come and gone...so off to other things. I will have some big shoes to fill when Wes passes the reins to me in early 2021, but he is setting a great example and providing me with great groundwork to assume the presidency. The COVID is making everything difficult for all of us to meet, stay engaged with MOAA and enjoy our camaraderie. We all hope and pray that that will change in early 2021 and that we can then get back to the "new" normal. In the meantime, everyone be well and stay safe.

We have a great Zoom meeting planned for November 5th per the President's message, so please tune in. You will receive details on how to log-on to the Zoom meeting a week or so beforehand. We are also recording the meeting, which will be available as an "unlisted" video on YouTube a day or two after the meeting. So, if you forgot or missed it, you can still tune in! A link for the video recording will be sent to all members when available.

Lastly, there have been a few minor changes to our website (www.moaabirmingham.org). The on-line photo directory has been updated (if you have not "joined" the Members Only tab, you will need to do that to access the directory), some recent photos have also been added to the Photo Gallery tab and unfortunately, an update to our Memoriam page. We hope to be able to post videos soon, so stay tuned.

Don Lehman
First Vice President and Speaker Chair
don.lehman1@gmail.com

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



President's Message (continued)

We do not plan to meet virtually in December, but the Board will conduct another "Buddy Check" during the month. Hopefully, the New Year will bring a COVID-19 vaccine and we can return to some form of normal.

Please continue to -- wash your hands often, maintain social distance, and wear a mask!

Respectfully,

Wes

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is November, one of my favorite months. Yes, we have all been impacted by THE Pandemic. Yes, this country appears to be divided in many ways. SEC football is not what it was in previous years, with no tailgating, limited fans in the stands, and no marching bands on the fields. Yet we still have a great holiday this month:

THANKSGIVING. We all still have so much for which to be thankful!

I am thankful that we live in a country in which we have freedom of speech. I am thankful that we live in a country that protects my right to defend my life and that of my family if I need to. I am thankful that our President understands that the Constitution and Bill of Rights must be protected from willy-nilly changes. I am thankful that even during this pandemic the American stock market has almost returned to its pre-pandemic levels. I am thankful that our service men and women are finally returning from the conflict in Afghanistan. Children should not be fighting in the same conflict in which their parents fought! I am thankful that our republic has an Electoral College that selects the president. I am thankful that we in Alabama respect law and order, that our governor has used common sense in guiding this state in opening back up small businesses. I am thankful that Made in America once again means something, and that more of our corporations are coming home from overseas. I am thankful that our border security is improving. I am thankful that I can proudly fly the Stars and Stripes at my house without fear. I could go on and on, but you get the point: we live in the greatest country on the face of the earth, and all of us have so much to be thankful for, don't we?

Psalm 100 is a Psalm for Thanksgiving. The King James Version reads, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His gates with praise be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

As you go to the polls on November 3rd, remember all that you are thankful for, and pray for this country.

Have FAITH, not FEAR. Keep WASHING YOUR HANDS and keep Social Distancing. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. As Christ said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I WILL give you rest."

God Bless. See you all when this is over.

Mac Chandler

LTC, IN, US Army (Ret)

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

What Does the Continuing Resolution Mean, and What Happens Next (Brenden McMahon, MOAA Staff)

As of Oct. 1, Congress has again missed its deadline to pass necessary appropriation bills to fund the federal government for the new fiscal year. Instead, a continuing resolution (CR) will provide stopgap funding for government activities through Dec. 11. The House had no problem passing the measure with a 359-57 vote on Sept. 22; the Senate followed suit the evening of Sept. 30 with an 84-10 vote. The president then signed the CR into law.

So what does this CR, H.R. 8337, do?

It will fund programs and activities at FY 2020 levels, and it will extend several authorities and programs, including:

- Medicare Part B premium adjustments, and other Medicare and Medicaid-related authorities and programs.
- Authorities related to veterans' benefits.
- Nutrition programs for children, to include some eligibility waivers and modifications related to school and childcare closures.
- Authorities related to immigration.

MOAA appreciates elected officials securing short-term funding to avoid a costly government shutdown, but we urge Congress to get back to regular order and ensure predictable and timely funding of our government activities – and stop the habitual use of CRs in lieu of a full federal budget.

Those in uniform and their families count on their government to support them as they serve. They need Congress to push forward on passing a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), backed up by full appropriations, so they can do their job without delays.

Senators Push to Extend Care to 34,000 More Veterans for Agent Orange Diseases

Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

Senators have ramped up efforts to add three new diseases to the Department of Veterans Affairs' list of Agent Orange-related diseases, pressing the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to include them in the final version of the national defense policy bill.

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and 45 other senators sent letters Tuesday to leaders of the committees, imploring them to amend the fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act to add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the VA's list of conditions linked to herbicide exposure in Vietnam and elsewhere.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine in 2016 deemed the three illnesses to be associated with exposure to defoliants used during the war.

But VA officials have not added them to the list, saying they are waiting for the results of two studies -- the Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study, or VE-HEROeS, and the Vietnam Era Mortality Study -- to be reviewed for publication before announcing a decision on whether to broaden the presumptive list.

RECRUITER'S CORNER

Recruiter's Corner

Please renew your member dues right away. There are 2 methods. The goal is 100%-chapter renewal.

1. Snail Mail Method: You can mail payment directly to the following GBC MOAA physical address:

Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 530153
Birmingham, Alabama 35253

2. Electronic Method: Conveniently renew online at
<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

Chapter Dues Options

Until it changes, GBC has 3 membership dues options:

1 Year dues \$20


2 Year dues \$35

3 Year chapter dues \$50

Save \$5

Save \$10

Here is what online renewal looks like. You do not have to login but verify personal information and select how many years. The red circle shows where the dropdown menu to select 1, 2- or 3-years dues.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	
Chapter:	Greater Birmingham Chapter of MOAA
Membership Cycle:	January through December
Membership Type:	Regular Membership
Renewal Term: *	1 year (\$20.00) 

The link to the Join/Renew tab on our website is: <http://moaabirmingham.org/membership/> It is always a good time to consider upgrading your National MOAA membership level to Premium or Life. For new member referrals, mail the form that appears on page 2.

Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret). USA
2VP/GBCMOAA Membership Chair
zxywalk@gmail.com
contact@MOAABirmingham.org





Armed Forces Spouse Club

Previously the Armed Forces Spouse Club has been deactivated

Preparing for the Unpredictable By: Gail Joyce

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Many women — and men — are blindsided by the death of a spouse, because couples rarely talk about the inevitable.

When you are at your most vulnerable, you must make choices that will have an enduring impact. Should the body be cremated or preserved? What type of service and where will it be held? Will he or she be buried in a hometown family plot or in a national cemetery many miles away?

To be better prepared for these difficult decisions, take time to have that important conversation with your spouse and your children about death and what happens after death. **This conversation is a gift of love that each member of a marriage or family makes to the other.**

Resources are available on [MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org) and other websites that will help you have those conversations and make planning for the unknown perhaps a little easier. Find out who your local veteran service officer is, get to know them before you really need them, and then make sure they are the first on your list to contact.

Steps to take:

- Encourage members and spouses to talk to each other about end-of-life issues and ways to prepare.
- Prepare and organize important documents (such as DD Form 214, wills, living will, durable power of attorney, insurance policies, birth/marriage certificates, passwords, bank account and investment information).
- Make sure utilities are in both names.
- Open a credit card account in *your name*.
- Establish eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery.
- Make a list of helpful resources, including [MOAA](https://www.moaa.org), [the VA](https://www.aarp.org), [AARP.org](https://www.aarp.org), [Military OneSource](https://www.militaryonesource.com), [MOAA Minnesota Chapter](https://www.moaa.org/minnesota) [“The Day After Calls,”](https://www.moaa.org/minnesota) MOAA’s [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](https://www.moaa.org/minnesota), and [MOAA’s Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group](https://www.moaa.org/minnesota).

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mike Robinson	2
Ike Martin	8
Bill Bradley	10
Martha Killian	10
Mark Melanson	10
Monica Deason	12
Russ Frazer	14
Anne Hartline	14
Bill Aderholt	16
Patricia Lehman	20
Rudolph Morgan	22
Bob Shinpaugh	26
Charlie Marvin	28
Ginny Lusk	29
Pat Fiol	30
Charles Knight	30

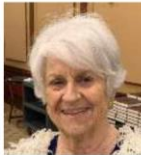
MOAA on-line photo directory

Below is a sample of our chapter on-line photo directory, available via a private link to our members only on our website. It can be found at: <http://moaabirmingham.org/#>. You will need to request a log-in/join if you gave not already in order to access the "Members Only" page. If you and or your spouse do not have and would like to have your photo(s) in the directory, please send a selfie or photo to Donna Martin at: donnamaemartin@aol.com.



Killian, III, Sam P.
4545 Magnolia Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Email: spkiii@bellsouth.net
Spouse: Martha T. Killian
marthak36@gmail.com

USN Ret CDR Life
205-408-7721 (h)
205-903-6638 (c)
BD: 8/28
BD: 11/10



Lehman, Donald D. (Don)
1204 Greystone Parc Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Email: don.lehman1@gmail.com
Spouse: Patricia A. Lehman
islandmomma1@gmail.com

USMC Ret LTCOL Life
404-441-3882 (c)
BD: 7/10
BD: 11/20
404-725-7152 (c)



And to thank our veterans for their service, we want to treat you to something sweet. Drive by our community, and a get a pie* to take home through a contactless pickup. It's that simple. RSVP today!

*While supplies last

Brookdale University Park, a CCRC
Independent Living | Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing
Assisted Living | Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
400 University Park Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Wednesday, November 11
2:00 p.m. To 3:30 p.m.
For reservations or more information, call
Leanne Messer at (205) 613-0688

Bringing New Life to Senior Living®

BROOKDALE
Senior Living

brookdale.com

Click on these to
access website
and/or Facebook



Website



Find us on:
facebook®

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 with white lettering on white, approximately the size of a business card with magnetic backs are available for \$8.50 each through J.D. Crawford.

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.



WILLIAM C. McDONALD III

Shadow Tiger Press

billy@shadowtiger.org

1401 Blenheim Place
Birmingham AL 35213

(205) 790-7575

the Shadow Tiger

Billy McDonald

Wingman to
Chennault

WILLIAM C. McDONALD III
BARBARA L. EVENSON

RIC
RESORT LIFESTYLE
COMMUNITIES

Cahaba Ridge

Affordable Resort-Style Living Made Simple.

Cahaba Ridge is Vestavia Hills' magnificent, all-inclusive independent living community. We take care of everything with one monthly price and no buy-in fee so you can enjoy the good things in life.



One monthly price includes:

- Month-to-month lease with no buy-in fees
- Live-in managers
- Signature *Freedom Dining* program
- Social activities & wellness programs
- 24/7 Fitness center
- 24/7 Medical Alert System
- Room service and chef's pantry
- Weekly housekeeping
- Concierge & Valet Parking Services

Call to schedule a private tour and discover the benefits of resort-style living today!

205-259-7758



3090 Healthy Way ♦ Vestavia Hills, AL 35243 ♦ CahabaRidgeRetirement.com





YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE.

Now let us honor you.

WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE VETERANS more than any other provider. In fact, we're part of the Dignity Memorial® network, the largest network of funeral homes and cemeteries in North America.

As a member of the Dignity Memorial network, we know more about obtaining everything that is owed to you, including monetary burial benefits, a

government-issued marker, presidential certificate and much more. We are also able to offer a FREE Veterans Planning Guide that includes worksheets and valuable information.

Regardless of whether you choose to be buried in a national or private cemetery, we can help you receive everything you have earned.

We invite you to call us for more information.



RIDOUT'S VALLEY CHAPEL

HOMEWOOD

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



Twelfth Annual Wreaths Across America – 19 December 2020 *Alabama National Cemetery* *Montevallo, Alabama*



Remember - Honor - Teach
Updated 11 Aug 2020

The Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. (BSSF) needs sponsors for our 12th Annual Wreaths Across America project -- a nationwide fundraising endeavor to provide a live Maine Balsam Wreath for each Veteran's grave each Christmas season. Wreaths sponsored by this BSSF endeavor are for Veteran's graves in the **Alabama National Cemetery (ALNC)**, located on HWY 119 in Montevallo. The 2020 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at 11AM on December 19, 2020. The cost to sponsor a wreath is **\$15.00**. In 2020, we will need approximately 7,500-8,000 wreaths for our Cemetery. All wreath sponsors as well as family members of those buried within ALNC are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

To sponsor wreaths for the ALNC, please complete this form and return it, along with your payment, to **BSSF, PO Box 661, Chelsea AL 35043**. **Your checks or money orders must be made payable to BSSF**, for: Wreaths Across America. For names to be included on the BSSF "In Honor/In Memory" display for 2020, forms must be received no later than November 30, 2020. Wreath sponsorships are accepted throughout the year. Each sponsorship is tax deductible. For sponsorships of \$250 or more, a donation acknowledgment will be sent to the email address indicated below. For more information, please visit our website www.bluestarsalute.org.

Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Form

Please print clearly

Name of Individual/Organizational Sponsor: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Sponsorship Amount: _____

In Honor of (living): _____

In Memory of (deceased): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Zoom meeting November 5