

Greetings Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA  
Members and Friends!

## WE'RE BACK!!

Our August luncheon meeting will be held at Danberry! Meet at 11:30, lunch at noon. This is our annual **SPOUSE RECOGNITION** meeting, so be sure to attend. RSVP info contained herein. This is the first time that we have been back to Danberry since March 2020. It's been a long, painful 18 months, but hopefully the worst of the pandemic is behind us. We were forced to do many things differently over this time; we've learned Zoom, had some great guest speakers, a successful outdoor picnic and enjoyed some of the finest fried food at Lloyd's. I believe we successfully survived these tumultuous times pretty well and not only is the chapter in great shape, I think it is better too. I'd like to give credit and a big thanks to Mike Walker, Donna Martin, Linda DeMarco, Wes Cox and anyone that I may have left out, who helped maintain the membership, chapter communications and morale of the organization during the COVID. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and these people get it done. We're anticipating that the remainder of 2021 will be more normal and that we will have all of this behind us in 2022.

I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling face at the August luncheon! Stay safe, be well and look forward to seeing you then.

Respectfully,  
*Don*

Volume 121 Issue 8 August 2021

# Officers' Call

*President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)*  
*1<sup>st</sup> VP Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)*  
*Secretary Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)*  
*Treasurer Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)*  
*Past Pres. Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)*  
*Director J.D. Crawford, Col, USA (Ret)*  
*Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)*  
*Director Bob Barefield, Col USA (Ret)*  
*Director Richard McKinley, CPT USAF (Ret)*  
*Chaplain Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)*  
*Legislative Affairs Eless Brown, Col USA*  
*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).

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here we are in the month of August. The Dog Days of summer. Do any of you remember going to summer camp as a kid? I do. We slept in big military surplus tents. I think that they were GP Medium tents. No air conditioning. One light that hung from the top of the tent. We could roll up the sides of the tent to get fresh air, and the camp was located on the shores of Lake Martin. It sure did get hot at times, but we survived. I still have very fond memories of the melodious sound of a single outboard motor on a fishing boat passing by the camp early in the morning, the camp bugler playing various tunes, and swimming and canoeing in and on the lake. While I was in camp, many of you were in a far-off place, not quite as pleasant. I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all of our chapter's Viet Nam Veterans. Your dedicated service to our country will not be forgotten.

August. No federal holidays, but still, lots to do, and pray about. The great Covid-19 pandemic is being followed by the Delta Variant scare. I imagine that Echo will soon follow. Be careful as you travel our great state, as we now have the lowest percentage of vaccinated citizens of all the states in the US. I for one am glad that I have received my two Moderna jabs, as has my wife.

Pray for our country. I am following the debates that my hometown is having about Critical Race Theory (CRT). Read up on this. It is, in my humble opinion, a very dangerous path upon which to tread. There are many other crazy ideas being discussed all across America today, and we must all get involved locally. Washington has lost all semblance of common sense, so we need to try to make things right here at home first.

My men's group from church is studying a very interesting book written by Adam Hamilton. The book is entitled Words of Life (Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today). We are at #5: Honor you father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that Yahweh your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12. Please take a few moments this month to think about your parents (if they have already passed on), and for those who are fortunate to have parents that are alive, call them; thank them, and tell them that you love them.

Finally, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18.

May God bless each of you, the State of Alabama, and these United States of America.

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



## JULY MEETING



New sponsors PGA Tour Superstore –  
Joe Stephens(left) and Tony Marino (right)



At Lloyd's Restaurant – good time!

## JIM LANGLEY WINNER OF HOOVER 2021 FREEDOM AWARD

The chamber gives the award out each year to someone who is a role model in the community, has good character and a good reputation, has supported the patriotic ideals of the United States over a long period of time and has supported the U.S. military.

Langley served in the U.S. Army 23 years from 1971 to 1994, serving active duty tours in Alaska, Fort Sill Oklahoma and Korea. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Army Reserve.

He is editor of "The Officer," the newsletter for the greater Birmingham chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and has lobbied for military retiree rights and benefits. He also supports and participates in Veterans Day parades and luncheon activities, serves on the planning committee for the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, and has helped planned and execute patriotic programs for Hoover senior citizens.

Langley also contributes to the Wreaths Across America effort to place wreaths on soldiers' graves at the National Cemetery in Montevallo.

He has been active in the community in other ways, including as a community leader and elder at First Christian Church of Birmingham, past president of the YMCA Hargis Retreat board, past president of the Hoover New Horizons senior citizen board, current president of the Hoover Historical Society, director of Camp High Hopes for mentally challenged adults for the past 20 years and chairman of the Hoover Folklore Center that teaches children and adults pioneer skills.

Langley also is an artist, author and public speaker who promotes Hoover and its history in his artwork, books, history tours and presentations to community groups. (Copied from Hoover Sun)

Thursday, August 5, 2021,

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 Doug Markham at [dgmarkham3143@gmail.com](mailto:dgmarkham3143@gmail.com) or 205-420-2631 by Noon on Monday August 2 to make your reservation. Note: Your reservation is not complete until you have received a confirmation call or email.

**Menu:** House Salad, Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and gravy, Baked Beans, Collard Greens, Rolls and Biscuits Assorted Dessert

**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





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

### **MOAA-Backed Bill Expanding VA Rural Mental Health Resources Becomes Law by Kevin Lilley**

A bill designed to improve veterans' access to VA mental health care in rural areas became law June 2021, expanding the program designed to reach an underserved portion of the veteran population. President Joe Biden signed the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021. The bill honors Sgt. Brandon Ketchum, who served in the Marine Corps and later in the Iowa National Guard, deploying twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. Ketchum battled post-traumatic stress and received VA mental health treatment, to include multiple inpatient care sessions between 2014 and 2015. On July 7, 2016, he requested inpatient care at a VA facility but was told it was full and was denied; he committed suicide the following day. The law requires the VA to add three Rural Access Networks for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) Centers in FY 2022. It also requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the provision of mental health care to rural veterans, including how best to expand and target resources, the average wait time for rural veterans seeking mental health care, and statistics related to death by suicide and drug overdose.

### **Transitioning to Medicare-TRICARE For Life With Younger Family Members by MOAA Staff**

Once you or your spouse move to Medicare, younger family members stay on their current TRICARE plan. Only the person turning 65 moves to Medicare-TRICARE For Life (TFL). A younger spouse will convert to the single fee rate. If the younger spouse is combined with children, the family rate still applies. You have to check with DEERS to ensure you are paying the proper rate. The transition to Medicare-TFL by one spouse opens the Qualifying Life Event (QLE) window for the other spouse or family members. A QLE allows a spouse or family member to make a change to their TRICARE program outside the normal Open Season window. There is a 90-day window to make any changes.

### **It's Time to End the 180-Day Rule for Retirees Seeking DOD Civilian Jobs by Mark Belinsky**

Recently, lawmakers reintroduced bipartisan legislation in both the House and Senate to repeal the so-called "180-day rule" – the length of the required waiting period between a servicemember's retirement/separation and any appointment as a DOD civilian employee. The Retain Skilled Veterans Act (H.R. 4031 and S. 2161) continues last year's efforts to permanently repeal the 180-day period for transitioning personnel applying for General Schedule positions (GS-13 and below). MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of military and veterans' groups, have worked extensively to secure support for this legislation. The bipartisan legislation would permanently remove the waiting period.

## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### The GBC MOAA 2021 Recruiting Season Continues

#### Continuing

COL(Ret) Sam Sparks is now a Lifer because he upgraded his National MOAA membership to Life. I want everyone to remember that Sam initiated this upgrade during – and in spite of – the 2020-2021 COVID-19 global pandemic. Thank you, COL Sparks for your fine support to your fellow veterans in the greater Birmingham area through challenging times. As a respected member of our chapter, your vote of confidence means a lot.

There are still a few members left in the chapter who can upgrade. National MOAA offers 3 membership levels of Basic, Premium, and Life to qualified veterans. For the few “Non-lifers” out there looking into the question, please consider upgrading on the [National MOAA Life membership](#) website. For more information, refer to the [National MOAA Membership Brochure](#).

#### Upcoming

A Return to Regular Danberry Meetings (this is an upcoming opportunity to invite and RSVP a guest)  
Recruit-A-Member Challenge

This year's challenge starting August 15<sup>th</sup> is to submit at least one new prospect to join the Greater Birmingham Chapter before the end of the year. It is at least a chance to reach out and say hello to a potential member and an opportunity to provide them a welcome to our next scheduled evening get-together. Our chapter worked to make sure it is as easy as possible for anyone eligible to join.

Your contributions and good report matter immensely. If everyone were to acquire one new member before the end of the year, we would double the size of the chapter.

Also, be sure to keep the GBC newsletter handy to quickly map to our chapter's award-winning [GBC MOAA Website](#). You can also send the hyperlink to someone you meet who may be eligible join. Bookmarking GBC's webpage makes it easier to insert a hyperlink into an email when asking prospective GBC members to join because they can sign-up in seconds with GBC electronically.

Michael A. Walker  
LTC(Ret), USA  
Membership Chair  
[zxywalk@gmail.com](mailto:zxywalk@gmail.com)





## Calling All Military Spouses

Join us for

GBC MOAA Spouse  
Appreciation Meeting

August 5, 2021

11:30 am – Social time

12:00 - Luncheon

While your spouse served our nation, you made it possible for the spouse do what they did. Join us for lunch August 5 at Danberry at Inverness while we acknowledge your contribution to our nation.

Save the date:

Ladies Luncheon - Wednesday, September 29, 2021

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bobby Horsley	4
Steve Coleman	7
Sam Sparks	12
Jack Natter	14
Lawrence Brassell	16
Lynn Hendricks	17
David Burford	18
Rose Marie Ritz	20
Laurie Berenotto	25
Ginger Branson	26
Sam Killian	28
Tony Berenotto	29

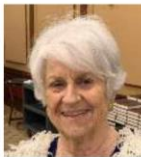
### MOAA on-line photo directory

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](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com).



**Killian, III, Sam P.**  
4545 Magnolia Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Email: [spkiii@bellsouth.net](mailto:spkiii@bellsouth.net)  
Spouse: Martha T. Killian  
[marthak36@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com)  
Spouse: Patricia A. Lehman  
[islandmomma1@gmail.com](mailto:islandmomma1@gmail.com)

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



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](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com).  
Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.





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](http://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](http://RidoutsValleyChapel.com)



## Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

### Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:  
[MOAABirmingham.org](http://MOAABirmingham.org)  
[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



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE



**Jerry Ingram**  
General Manager

165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, AL 35242

O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-218-9772  
[jingram@pgatss.com](mailto:jingram@pgatss.com) | [pgatss.com](mailto:pgatss.com)



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

**Joe Stephens**  
Assistant General Manager

165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, Alabama 35242  
O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-209-1138  
[jstephens1@pgatss.com](mailto:jstephens1@pgatss.com)



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

**Tony Marino**  
Tournament & Events Marketing Manager

C: 205-296-2271  
[amarino@pgatss.com](mailto:amarino@pgatss.com)

**145 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Alabaster, Alabama**



### Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

***Veteran Owned and Operated***



Meetings August 5<sup>th</sup> (lunch) and September 2, 2021 (evening)