



Wow, how quickly things change!

With the new COVID Delta variance, Danberry is locked down again from outside visitors and our live meetings have been suspended for now. Our August luncheon meeting at Danberry had to be cancelled at the last minute and with no good alternatives, was cancelled all together. We will now plan on **Zooming our September meeting.** Hopefully things will improve by October/November, but we will have to take it a month at a time. The Delta is incredibly contagious, and I know quite a few vaccinated people who have contracted it; fortunately, all with minor symptoms. The health and safety of our members is paramount, so it was an easy decision to forgo live meetings for a while. The good news is, we have some great speakers lined up to visit with us via Zoom, so stay tuned. We will still plan on Thursday, September 2nd, for our next meeting, but the time may be in the late afternoon/evening. More information and details will be shared via email blast to the membership soon.

Along with all the above, we have had to postpone our annual Spouse Appreciation meeting as well as the Ladies Luncheon that was scheduled as a separate event in late September (see Donna Martin post below). Both are important events, and we all look forward to having them soon.

Our new recruiting flyer is enclosed in this newsletter also. Feel free to print and post it at an appropriate place. Our chapter is only as good as its members and the more the better!

I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces now on Zoom! Stay safe, be well and see you soon.

Respectfully,
Don

Officers' Call

President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
1st VP Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)
2nd VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)
Secretary Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)
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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.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hi there friends. If you are reading this, congratulations! Not only did you make it through the Dog Days of summer, you have also survived Covid-19 and the Delta variant just in time for the 2021 start of SEC FOOTBALL! Friday, Sep 3 is College Colors Day, so I will be wearing the very beautiful colors of burnt orange and navy blue. What a great way to begin the Labor Day weekend, following with many of our favorite teams finally playing to a full house. Labor Day is Monday Sep 5, and Rosh Hashanah also begins on the fifth. One of my favorite days in September is the 7th: National Beer Lovers Day. Cheers!!

Patriot's Day is on Saturday, Sep 11. Do you remember where you were and what you were doing on that day twenty years ago? Think about that for just a few minutes. We observe a national moment of silence every year to correspond with the terrorist attacks at 8:46 a.m. EST, which is the time American Airlines Flight 11 hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. This is a day that we honor the victims of the attacks, our country's resilience, and the strength of the American spirit. The entire world knows that America will never quit, will never surrender, and **WE WILL NEVER FORGET!**

Many of you have a special day on Sunday, Sep 12: National Grandparents Day. According to President Jimmy Carter, "the elders of each family have the responsibility for setting the moral tone for the family and for passing on the traditional values of our Nation to their children and grandchildren."

Yom Kippur is the 15th. I will never forget that I was in Washington, DC on that date in 1973 as a college junior attending the National AUSA Convention. It was my first visit to DC, so I skipped the boring meetings and went on my own tour of embassy row. The Jewish Embassy was very busy that day, and the entire week! I gained a lot of respect for the nation of Israel that week.

We are now withdrawing our armed forces from Afghanistan after almost twenty years of fighting in that region of the world; I often wonder what we as a nation have learned about war fighting in these last 50 years? What have our politicians learned? What have our enemies learned?

My prayer this month is a Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. I hope that all of you will feel comfortable praying this prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Devine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

May God bless you, your family, the men and women serving in our military today, and our veteran's; may He bless the leadership of our great State; and may He continue to bless these United States of America.

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



Military Officers Association of America Greater Birmingham Chapter

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- **Veteran advocacy at local, state and national levels**
- **Veteran assistance & education**
- **Camaraderie**

Come Join Us

Date: The 1st Thursday of each month

Time: 1800 for Social hour

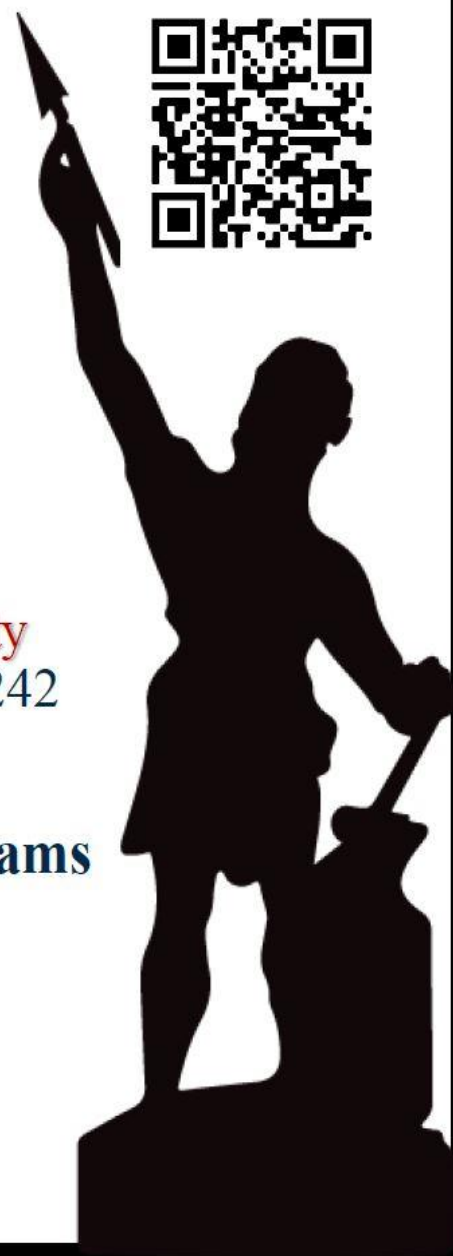
1830 Dinner & Program*

**Location: [Danberry Retirement Community](#)
135 Inverness Drive, Birmingham, AL 34242**

Guest Speakers - Interesting Programs

**Please RSVP if attending meeting by email
to contact@MOAABirmingham.org**

*** Summer Luncheons are held June thru August
Time & Location TBD**





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>)

Bipartisan Bill Would Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copays by Karen Ruedisueli

A bipartisan bill would reduce military family cost sharing for outpatient mental health visits, one of MOAA's top priorities since TRICARE copay increases went into effect Jan. 1, 2018. The bill would cap TRICARE mental health copays at the level paid for primary care visits. TRICARE currently categorizes mental health care as specialty care, which has higher out-of-pocket costs. The bill would reduce these mental health appointment copays for Group A beneficiaries (those whose sponsor entered service before Jan. 1, 2018) significantly:

- **TRICARE Select, active duty family members:** \$22 under the bill, down from \$34 (Note: active duty family members on TRICARE Prime do not pay copays and would not do so under the proposal).
- **TRICARE Select, retirees and family members; medical retirees, family members, and survivors:** \$30, down from \$46.
- **TRICARE Prime, retirees and family members; medical retirees, family members, and survivors:** \$21 under the bill, down from \$31.

Budget Update: Where Key Bills Stand as August Recess Nears by Allison Reilly

Lawmakers continue work on the FY 2022 budget as the August recess nears, with House members moving toward a floor vote on a key piece of legislation and senators reaching an agreement on an emergency supplemental to address National Guard budget shortfalls related to the Jan. 6 attack and its aftermath, among other issues. MOAA follows several parts of the budget process closely. The House and Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittees and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA) Appropriations Subcommittees are of interest, with the former having jurisdiction over DoD's budget and the latter overseeing funding for military construction and the VA. As always, Congress is working to pass the budget ahead of the Oct. 1 deadline. If Congress cannot pass a budget before that date, it will need to pass a continuing resolution (CR), which carries over the appropriated funding set in the last fiscal year through a given date, avoiding a government shutdown. CRs have been used in one form or another in every fiscal year since 1997. Failure to pass the budget on time directly impacts the uniformed services, veterans, retirees, survivors, caregivers, and their families. Under a CR, new programs cannot begin, and existing programs stay stagnant at the previous year's funding levels.

There's a New Wave of Scammers Targeting VA Home Loans by Jim Absher (Military.com)

The Department of Veterans Affairs and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are warning consumers about a new scam targeting veterans with VA guaranteed home loans. The fraudsters try to get veterans to refinance their homes, agree to loan modifications or even start sending their mortgage payments to a new address, according to the release. Some veterans have reported phone calls that appear to come from the local VA office, with the caller telling the veteran their mortgage has been transferred to a new servicer. As a result of this supposed mortgage transfer, the veteran now owes months' worth of mortgage payments, the fraudster claims. To avoid foreclosure, the veteran is told they must make several hundreds or thousands of dollars worth of back payments to the new mortgage holder at a new address, usually through a money order or gift cards. These methods of payment cannot be traced. As usual, the scammers play upon fear and confusion and rapidly disappear once they get what they seek -- your money.

Recruiter's Corner

Member Spotlight: Colonel (Ret) Eldon Woodie

This month it is an honor to introduce a new member to the Greater Birmingham Chapter of MOAA someone who is of great accomplishment in life. Eldon Woodie retired as a Colonel from the USAF in 2007. It was on his 18th birthday in 1974 that Eldon began a distinguished military career by joining the US Army. He went on to serve as a Military Policeman at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and Camp Walker, Korea. Following an honorable discharge from the Army, Eldon then attended Enterprise State Junior College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC. The Air Force offered Eldon a commission, and pilot training.



Eldon then had a successful and rewarding 27-year Air Force officer's career. He flew 1800 hours as an instructor pilot in Air Training Command. Operationally, he flew 3000 hours in heavy bombers for Strategic Air Command and Air Combat Command. Eldon commanded the 9th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron for combat operations over Afghanistan, the 36th Expeditionary Operations Group, Andersen Air Base, Guam and the 5th Bomb Wing Minot AFB, ND.

After retiring from the Air Force, Eldon served as the Senior AFJROTC Instructor at Thompson High School in Alabaster, AL for four years. He also served in the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration as the Assistant Director at South Florida and Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemeteries. He was the Director for Fort Bliss, Fort Mitchell and Alabama National Cemeteries.

Now, Eldon is active in the local community. His is a key member of the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery and assists with all ceremonies. He helps setting up the Avenue of Flags, setting up chairs, transporting gravesite flags to all sections, parking, and cleaning up. He also performs routine maintenance on support committee equipment. He pulled the SCALNC float for the Birmingham Veterans Day Parade and Montevallo Parade. He is an active member in the Matthew Blount American Legion Post 555, Pelham, AL. Eldon regularly accomplishes monthly buddy checks, helps with various outreach activities, and in fund raising for activities like Wreaths Across America.

Since October of 2020, Eldon serves as the state coordinator for the Missing In America Project. The goal is to locate, identify and inter unclaimed cremains of eligible Veterans. To date, the ALNC burial mission accomplished the interment of five Veterans. He is a key member of the volunteer team that in July, 2021 successfully supported a local Veteran who went on to win election to the State Congress. Eldon conducts many outreaches and education efforts to make Veterans aware of their burial benefits.

Eldon Woodie holds several college degrees. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and a Master of Business Administration degree. He also earned a second master's degree in history from the University of Alabama.

(Continued on next page)



Spouse Appreciation Meeting

With the rise in COVID cases, it has been decided to postpone the Spouse Appreciation Meeting to a "to be determined date."

Fall Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies Luncheon scheduled for the end of September 2021 has also been decided to postpone to a "to be determined date."

Recruiter's Corner continued

He has been married to Bonnie for the past 45 years. They met through the military where she held an administrative position in the same MP Company. The couple has two children and six grandchildren. Their son is currently an Army Staff Sergeant stationed in Hawaii, and their daughter's husband is an Army Major stationed in Colorado.

Please join me in welcoming Colonel (Ret) Eldon Woodie to the Greater Birmingham Chapter of MOAA and pause to say hello in person at the next chance you get. Fellow GBC members have the benefit of reading his biography beforehand. It is great to have him as a new chapter member.

Welcome, Colonel (Ret) Woodie!

Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret), USA
GBC MOAA 2VP/Membership

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerry Ingram	1
Beth Smith	2
Eless Brown	3
George Singleton	4
Len Mueninghoff	8
Leo Deason	9
Ron Bradstreet	11
Jim Langley	16
James Wilson	17
Mike Walker	21
Susan Bradshaw	23
Gene Cushman	24
Bob Barefield	24
Cynthia Cox	24
Judy Ballintine	28

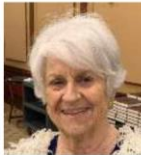
MOAA on-line photo directory

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)



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and/or Facebook



Website



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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.



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Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

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Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

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Zoom meeting in September