

## We're meeting Live!

Come join us at the Lakeshore Foundation for the January meeting! We will meet in one of their new multi-media conference rooms where we will enjoy good company, a brief business meeting, a tour of the Lakeshore's new \$17M addition and some good BBQ! It's been way too long since we've met like this, so please put it on your calendar. Details will be emailed out soon, but plan on social time at 5:00 PM and dinner at 5:30 on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

December is a busy time for everyone and hopefully the joy of gathering, being with family and sharing the spirit of the holidays is back. COVID is still here so we must be careful and vigilant, so please be careful.

If you haven't renewed your Chapter membership for 2022 and beyond, please do so as soon as possible. Your membership is important as MOAA continues to fight for all service veterans' benefits.

Patricia and I wish you all the very best of everything in 2022. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and a very Merry Christmas to all!

Respectfully,  
*Don*

Volume 122 Issue 1 January 2022

# 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)  
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*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

In May I led off my Chaplain's Corner with the words of Barry Manilow, "Looks like we made it!" Now I am using the words of Lee Corso, "Not so fast my friend!" Looks like Covid is here to stay for a while. One of the things that this pandemic has taught me is not to take in person Fellowship with others for granted! Now, we are starting yet another year under pandemic conditions, this time with the Omicron variant. Is anybody else tired of this? January 2022. What will THIS New Year bring? Let's hope and pray that 2022 will be the year COMMON SENSE returns to America! There was an old 60's song that had the words "...teach your children well..." If you have children and grands, now is the time to teach them well, or we may well be losing this great country of ours. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 provide us some good ways to express ourselves as we enter the new year. Verse 16 says to Rejoice always. I agree, and say, why not? REJOICE! We live in the greatest country on earth, in one of the most beautiful and misunderstood states in the US, and we just might have another NCAA National Championship to celebrate. ROLL TIDE (very hard for this Auburn grad to write those words). REJOICE! Verse 17 says to Pray without ceasing. I know that many of us have been doing this for months. And we know that there is Power in Prayer. Finally, verse 18 says in everything (that's right) in EVERYTHING give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Have a very safe and Happy New Year. Please remember those who are deployed and go in harm's way. Pray for their safe return and pray for their families. My prayer for you this month is from Paul's letter to the Romans: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

See you soon.

Mac Chandler LTC, IN, US Army, Ret.





## JANUARY MEETING

### January MOAA meeting, Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeshore Foundation

**Time:** 5:00 PM - Social time  
5:30 PM - Dinner and program  
7:00 PM - Adjourn

**COVID Protocols:**

**Full vaccination** is required for our GBC MOAA meetings!

Masks are required when entering Lakeshore, however not once in our meeting room.

If this is your first time to Lakeshore, you will be required to register and answer some COVID questions to get a visitor name badge.

**Program:** Annual business meeting & tour of new Lakeshore facilities

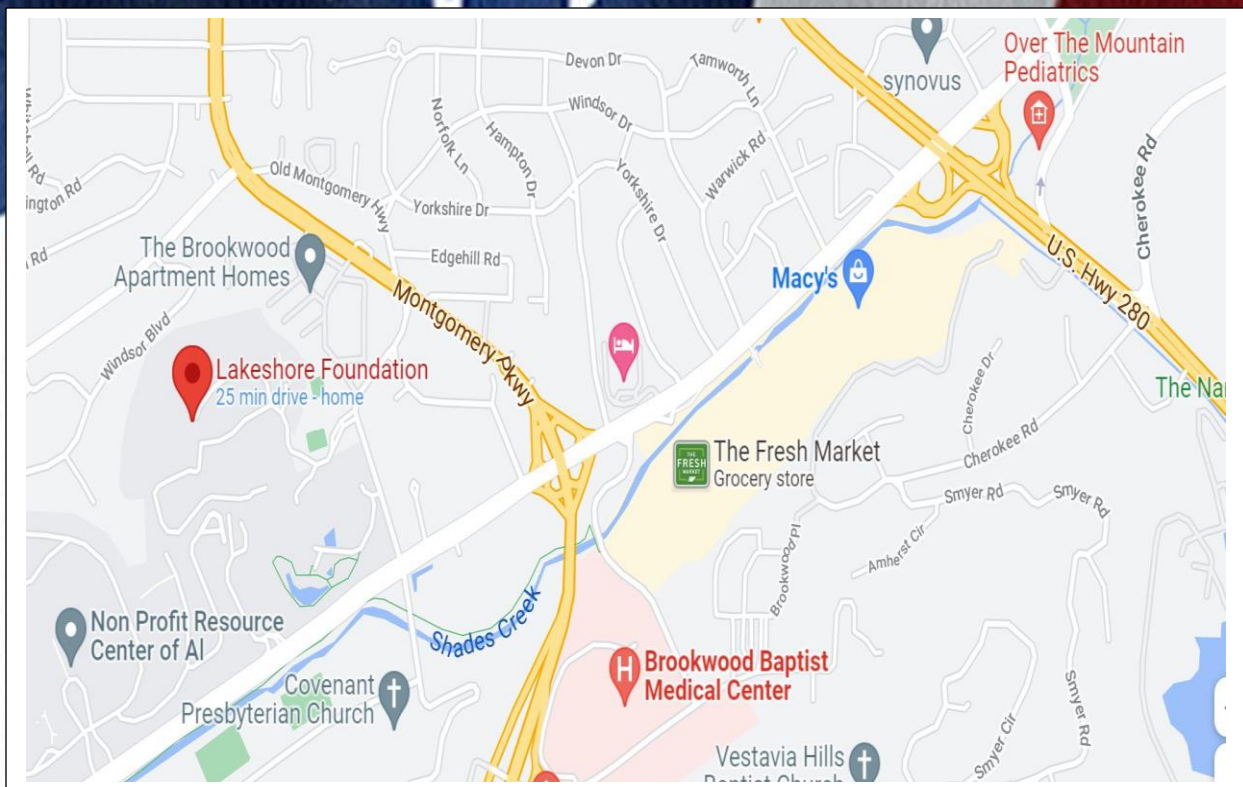
**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Menu:** Full Moon BBQ and sides

**Location:** 4000 Ridgeway Drive, Birmingham, AL 3520

Enter the Lakeshore property, bear to the right all of the way up the hill and the main building is on the right. Go in, get name tag and they will show you to meeting location.

**RSVP to:** Doug Markham; email [dgmarkham3143@gmail.com](mailto:dgmarkham3143@gmail.com) or 205-420-2631.



# The Optimist Creed

## Promise Yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
 To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.  
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
 To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

### 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**

### **Pay Raise, TRICARE Changes, and More: What Made the Cut in This Year's NDAA** **by MOAA Government Relations Staff**

The Senate passed the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on December 15 by a vote of 88-11. This NDAA did not follow the regular congressional process. Negotiations occurred behind closed doors, unlike in previous years, leaving less opportunity for organizations like MOAA to influence lawmakers during the decision-making process. However, much of what is in the NDAA is supported by MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community. What are some of the things included in the Bill: 2.7% raise for servicemembers; a version of Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) – more advocacy is needed to address support for vulnerable families; enhanced parental leave – up to 12 weeks authorized; bereavement leave added as a new category; in-home child care pilot program expanded; impact aid provided to assist local school districts that lost property tax revenue due to tax-exempt federal property; military spouse employment – provides direct hire authority for spouses of uniformed servicemembers at OCONUS locations; National Guard and Reserve pay parity – eliminates disparities of incentive pay for hazardous duties and aviators; temporary one-year halt to military medical billet cuts; support for mental health appointment scheduling; requirement to conduct an analysis on the effectiveness of the TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration program; improved suicide prevention – creation of self-initiation process enabling servicemembers to request a mental health evaluation by asking for one from a commanding officer or supervisor; improvement to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to address sexual harassment and assault; requires a study on the war in Afghanistan; directed the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report to congressional defense committees on potential locations of the next national cemetery.

### **Pilot Program Will Change How VA Links Illnesses to Toxic Exposure By Cory Titus**

A new VA program will change how the agency determines presumptive conditions related to toxic exposure in service, with the goal of fast-tracking disability claims involving such illnesses. The presumptive illness pilot program will run from November 15, 2021, to April 1, 2022. During that time, officials plan to review conditions related to burn pit exposure, such as rare cancers and other respiratory illnesses. This process allows the VA to fulfill a veteran's claim without the evidentiary evidence normally required. For example, by virtue of serving in Afghanistan, the VA presumes a veteran was exposed to certain matters. The new process already has yielded some promising results for veterans. While not formally announced at the time, it was used by the VA in August to add sinusitis, rhinitis, and asthma to the list of presumptives for veterans exposed to burn pits. However, using the process for more complex illnesses like rare cancers will be the true test of whether it will be faster for veterans. Evidence is not able to support direct causation for many of these illnesses, a challenging concern for MOAA and many other veterans service organizations.

### **VA Extends Presumptive Period for Persian Gulf War Veterans By VA Office of Media Relations**

VA has extended the presumptive period to December 31, 2026, from December 31, 2021 to file a claim for qualifying chronic disabilities rated 10% or more resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to ensure benefits established by Congress are fairly administered. VA assumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Persian Gulf War service without regard to cause.

### Last Chance to Renew Chapter Dues

The chapter renewal season is almost over. Thank you to those who already renewed. The following current members have not renewed and are now on notice. You have until midnight December 31, 2021

Ed Clark  
Mary Daniel  
Sam Faires  
Jo Ann Huddleston  
Kent Jackson  
Herbert Osborne  
Butch Pair  
George Singleton  
Jason Spruiell  
John Trahan  
Harold Wehby

Member dues align to the Calendar Year (CY). **The goal remains 100% renewals by close of business December 31, 2021.** If you have not renewed yet, this is your last warning.

You may conveniently renew your local Birmingham chapter dues online at –

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org>

The online payment option is via credit card. MOAA's website navigation is straightforward and clutter-free. First time users will likely find the online chapter dues renewal option to be the least hassle. It takes about 3-4 minutes to complete the entire process.

1 Year = \$20  
2 Years = \$35  
3 Years = \$50

The other option available is to mail a check or money order to –

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

Michael A. Walker  
LTC(Ret), USA  
2VP/GBCM OAA Membership Chair  
[zxywalk@gmail.com](mailto:zxywalk@gmail.com)  
[contact@MOAABirmingham.org](mailto:contact@MOAABirmingham.org)





*Surviving Spouses And Friends Facebook post by Kathy Soliozy Prout*

Financial Educational Call for Military Survivors

These programs originated out of the Ft. Leonard Wood Survivor Outreach Office as an outreach way to inform military survivors of potential resources. The next call (January 19, 2022) will focus on Financial and Estate planning considerations especially for Military Spouses and their families and will include a review of the resources available for assistance for assistance for tax preparation support, information on home real estate property tax abatement and where applicable, financial and estate planning considerations in light of legislative changes, review of military preference points for Federal employment , the upcoming SBP changes, camps available for Military Survivor families, and have an expanded dialog on specific potential education scholarship resources, including programs and initiatives various 501(c)3 groups are planning for 2022 and 2023.

Who: Military Survivors and friends are invited to dial into the next Financial "Dine and Dial" call and also have access to some of the popular past calls that were recorded.

What: These calls, held at least quarterly, provide a forum for Military Survivors and friends to ask questions on education tools and to better understand identity theft minimization, saving and investing, estate planning considerations, tax issues, insurance, potential financial resources and budgeting concerns in creating financial success and hear from various guest presenters and other peers. One of the topics to be discussed is Social Security for Survivors

Where: The Call number is (1-605-475-5910; Access Code 7681905#); the call originates from Ft. Leonard Wood Survivor Outreach Services. (\*6 mutes or unmutes the call) and is a joint venture between the financial counselors from the Ft. Leonard Wood SOS program, and other locations.

When: The next live call is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 7:00 pm Central**

Why: Many Survivors have asked for assistance in navigation of potential resources including how to better grasp potential projected positive cash flow opportunities and estate planning techniques.

Many of the past recordings of the Dine and Dial series recordings and related handouts are available upon request.

Mark Dunlop, CFP, ChFC, AFC, AEP, CEBS, MSFS, MSM  
Survivor Outreach Financial Counselor, Fort Leonard Wood  
573-596-0153; mark.j.dunlop2.civ@army.mil



## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Steve Driggers	4
Anne Hayes	8
Wes Cox	11
Sumter	
Coleman	12
Lynette Broxson	17
Pat Marvin	18
Butch Pair	20
David McCrorie	21
Doug Markham	22
Heidi	
Mueninghoff	24
Wayne Hay	25
Don Broxson	27
Bob Roper	28
Carolyn Bellamy	29
Jason Spruiell	31

### 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)



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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](mailto: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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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:  
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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)

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[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)



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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***



In-person meeting January 6, 2022 at Lakeshore Foundation