



## Still in limbo

We are still hoping to meet live for our March 3<sup>rd</sup> dinner meeting; possibly back at Danberry. Retirement homes have understandably, been slow to open back up. So, we will send out an email message to the membership next week with meeting information. Sorry for the late notice and we may have to resort to a zoom speaker one more time.

Our Chapter's Ladies luncheon is coming on **March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hoover Country Club**. Please see Donna Martin's information about in this newsletter.

We had a great guest zoom speaker last month, Danny Cooper, who spoke on the American Village in Montevallo. We hope that all of you can visit there someday if you have not been.

I'm writing this message while in south Florida and I think the weather is better in Alabama than down here! Oh well, hopefully winter is in our review mirror, and we can look forward to Spring and nicer weather soon. Dust off the golf clubs, break out the gardening tools and head outside.

We're hoping that the worst has passed with the Omicron/COVID, but obviously will be living with it, similar to the flu for many years to come. We look forward HOPEFULLY to seeing you soon!

Respectfully,  
*Don*



Website

Volume 122 Issue 3 March 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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*Director* Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)  
*Director* Bob Barefield, Col USA (Ret)  
*Director* Richard McKinley, CPT USAF (Ret)  
*Chaplain* Dan Phifer, 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

According to "Wikipedia" the free Encyclopedia, In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange. Valentine's Day is a major source of economic activity. In 2019, a survey by the National Retail Federation found that over the previous decade, the percentage of people who celebrate Valentine's Day had declined steadily. From their survey results, they found three primary reasons: over-commercialization of the holiday, not having a significant other, and not being interested in celebrating it.

Well, we have just "celebrated" Valentine's Day again this year. Certainly, we have all found that 'love' is a word we all cherish. For most of the weddings which I have officiated, the beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of First Corinthians has been requested as one of the scriptures. I quote only a few verses from that 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Good News Bible. *Verse 4f "Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal."* Get your Bible out and refresh your memory of God's Love for little ol' you and me.

Blessings to all!

Dan Phifer, Chaplain





## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### Final chapter renewal notices

This chapter still has a chance to attain 100% member renewals for CY2022 and win top recognition.

Final notices recently sent out asked those few remaining individuals who still owe chapter dues to please renew before February 28<sup>th</sup> to preserve continuous GBC membership and win the top recruiting retention award in the country.

If anyone recently approached already paid their renewal dues before receiving this newsletter, please disregard.

Greater Birmingham Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
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Michael A. Walker  
LTC(Ret), USA  
2VP/GBCMOAA Membership Chair  
[zxywalk@gmail.com](mailto:zxywalk@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: <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marines <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____						
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Former Member <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse						
Mailing Address			City		State	Zip Code
Telephone #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____						
National MOAA Membership Number: _____ National Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Premium <input type="checkbox"/> 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>)

### Delay Means Disaster: Servicemembers, Military Families Need Budget Fix Now By Dan Merry

As another continuing resolution (CR) makes its way through Congress, allowing government to limp forward without a full budget well into the fiscal year, damages military readiness and the quality of life of those in uniform and their families. A full-year CR can cost DoD billions of dollars, cripple budget planning, delay or destroy any gains made to benefits through recent authorization legislation and cause immediate headaches for servicemembers and the wider uniformed services community. MOAA remains concerned Congress will remain focused on party priorities and the upcoming midterm elections, resisting their responsibility to come together to fully fund our government. It is imperative we let our legislators know we cannot sit by while their work remains unaccomplished. Please contact your elected officials using MOAA's toll-free congressional hotline, 1-866-272-6622, to share this important message.

### 'One Step Closer': Burn Pit Bill Would Expand VA Access for Post-9/11 Veterans by Kevin Lilley

Bipartisan legislation put forward by the leaders of the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs (SVAC) would expand VA eligibility to about 1 million post-9/11 combat veterans, with the goal of improving access to treatment for conditions stemming from toxic exposure. The Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act-supported by MOAA and other major veterans' groups-would open VA health care eligibility for these veterans from five years after discharge to 10 and would also allow for a one-year open enrollment period for any Post-9/11 combat veterans outside the 10-year window. The bill is the first in a three-phase plan to expand benefits. The second phase would involve the creation of a "new, transparent process" for the VA in determining what illnesses can be presumptively connected to toxic exposure, while the third phase would provide "overdue benefits to thousands of toxic exposure veterans who have been long ignored or forgotten." The bill also requires several studies related to toxic exposure, including one on mortality rates of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War. It would increase VA reporting requirements and outreach efforts on toxic exposure and require the VA provide a toxic exposure screening for all veterans during medical visits.

### MOAA-Supported Bill Targets VA's Growing Claims Backlog by Kevin Lilley

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2021, introduced late last year, would address staff recruitment, streamline claims processing and notification practices, and expand outreach efforts to veterans' groups. While the bill does not specifically address the claims, it would:

- Create an internship program for "high-achieving students at law schools" to encourage them to contribute to the Board of Veterans' Appeals and add incentives such as student loan repayment to entice entry-level lawyers.
- Require VA contractors to contact the veteran's representative as well as the veteran when scheduling an exam and improve educational efforts with veterans' groups on the disability exam process; and
- Allow the VA to notify claimants of decisions via e-mail (if the claimant agrees) immediately, rather than using regular mail.

## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Greater Birmingham Chapter of

Military Officers Association of America

**Ladies Luncheon**

for

Surviving Spouses

Female Officers

Spouses of Living Members

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

**10:30 am**

**Hoover Country Club**

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

**"Avoiding Fraud: It Takes More Than Luck"**

**Hoover Police Department**

**"MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits"**

**Your check will be your reservation. Make check payable to: MOAA GBC**

**Mail to: Donna Martin**

**140 Courtside Drive**

**Birmingham, AL 35242**

**205-876-6274**

**[donnamaemartin@aol.com](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com)**



## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Bess	8
Harold Wehby	8
Deb Parker	9
Jerry McEwen	14
Glenn Nivens	15
Nancy Todd	21
Linda DeMarco	23
Tommy Carpenter	23
Wally Womack	25
Ruth Walker	25
Richard McKinley	26
Ed Segner	28
Mary Lou Matthews	28
Josephine Lassiter	29
Walt Sasser	29
Dale Pangman	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 have 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).



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



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[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)



### ID CARDS

#### **DoD: No Further Extensions Planned for Expired ID Cards!**

Many of us have had our ID cards automatically extended due to the COVID. However, that indefinite extension is now ending on January 31, 2022. If your ID card has an expiration date that is past or expires this month, you will need to renew it ASAP. There are several locations that you can do that here in the Birmingham area, just google "military ID card renewal near me" and a bunch of them will come up. Some may require an appointment and be sure that you have the needed documentation when you go; they can tell you what you need when you call.  
Don Lehman

### 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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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)

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### Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

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Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

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