



Great meeting coming up!

We will be privileged to have several guests at our October 6th meeting. The Colonel James Eubanks award for outstanding contributions to the military community will be presented to Alabama state representative Neil Rafferty. The award will be presented by an Alabama Council of MOAA officer, either Jerry Steele, our president or Jim Kilpatrick. We will also have Col (ret) Robert "Scott" Grant, former CO of the 117th Air Refueling Squadron here in Birmingham who will speak to us about the 117th and his experiences flying the KC-135 tanker aircraft. A more detailed bio for Col Grant is attached herein. Both should be very interesting so please plan to attend.

By the time that you receive this newsletter, hopefully several our MOAA ladies have enjoyed the Ladies luncheon on September 21st. Donna always does a superb job with the luncheons, so if you missed this one, be sure to plan on attending the next one. This was the last 2022 luncheon, but more will be planned for 2023.

We will again be having our meal catered. Danberry will be unable to accommodate us for meal service until at least the new year. This is a new caterer highly recommended by Danberry.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 6th. Take care and we will see you then.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Website

Volume 122 Issue 10

October 2022

Officers' Call

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

OCTOBER MEETING/SPEAKER

COLONEL (Ret) ROBERT "SCOTT" GRANT

Col. Scott Grant is the former Commander of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama Air National Guard, Birmingham, Alabama retiring in 2020 after 33 years of service. The 117th trains and equips combat ready aircrews and support personnel to provide worldwide aerial refueling and airlift missions. The 117th was awarded the Strategic Command's "Omaha Trophy" under his command – A first-ever accomplishment for an Air National Guard Wing

Colonel Grant received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the USAF through the Reserve Officer Training Corp in 1987 and graduated from Undergraduate Pilot training in March 1989 at Columbus AFB, MS. He is a career KC-135 Pilot with more than 8,700 flying hours. Colonel Grant began his career a Combat Crew Pilot in the KC-135A. He then became served as an Aircraft Commander in the KC-135R and Instructor pilot in the KC-135A/Q. Before joining the Alabama Air National Guard, Colonel Grant was assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency DPRO Pemco Aeroplex as a flight test pilot flying the KC-135 A/Q/E/R/T aircraft. Since joining the 117th Air Refueling Wing in 1996, Col Grant has served the 106th Air Refueling Squadron as an instructor pilot, evaluator pilot, flight, and squadron commander.

We will also be awarding **State Representative Neil Rafferty** the James Eubanks award for his outstanding contributions to supporting military initiatives in the state of Alabama.

The Menu for the October dinner/meeting will be:

Poppy Seed Chicken
Fresh Creamed Corn
Collard Greens
Corn Bread Muffins
White Chocolate Blueberry Bread Pudding

Dinner cost will be \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, October 3, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - dgmarkham3143@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

One of my favorite U.S. Presidents was Ronald Reagan. He always had a funny twist up his sleeve with comments on serious matters. Here are a few. Enjoy the wisdom!

"Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it"

"Here is my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."

"The most terrifying words in the English language are: *'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'*"

"Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress..."

"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: 'If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.'"

"No arsenal, or weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Hope you enjoyed this President's words of wisdom.

In His Service,

Chaplain Dan Phifer

U.S. Army Retired

RECRUITER'S CORNER

Renew Chapter Dues at This Time

For October, those members who are coming due, please go ahead and renew your chapter dues payment for next year online at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

The goal is 100%-chapter dues renewal

RSVP for dinners: Members who do not have a credit card for the online renewal can also pay dues at this October's monthly meeting check-in table.

Chapter Dues Options

1-Year chapter dues = \$20

2-Year chapter dues = \$35

3-Year chapter dues = \$50

Thank you to those who have shown continuous support.

Michael A. Walker

LTC(Ret), USA

GBC MOAA/2VP Membership

contact@MOAABirmingham.org

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for October 2022 Newsletter ([visit Legislative Action at http://www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org))

VA Family Caregiver Benefits for 'Legacy' Veterans Extended Through 2025 by Patricia Kime (originally appeared in Military.com)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will extend benefits through 2025 for veterans who joined its family caregiver program under the original eligibility criteria. The extension for the veterans and their caregivers, known as "legacy" participants, will run through Sept. 30, 2025, while the VA continues to review the program, including eligibility criteria that were changed in 2020 as the department prepared to expand the program to veterans from all eras -- a requirement of the 2018 Mission Act. The family caregiver program provides benefits to eligible veterans and caregivers that include support; respite care; health care; and stipends, ranging from roughly \$1,000 to \$3,000, that were meant to reimburse a family member or friend for the care they provide to a veteran in lieu of a home health aide. The program, which originally was established for post-9/11 combat veterans and expanded last year to include those who served before May 1975, is expected to broaden again in October 2022 to include veterans who served between the end of the Vietnam War and Sept. 10, 2001.

VA Accelerates Toxic Exposure Claims, Urges Veterans to Apply Now by Patricia Kime (originally appeared on Military.com)

Veterans who qualify for disability compensation under the recently signed landmark toxic exposures act should begin filing claims. The VA has retroactively designated all health conditions listed in the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT, Act as presumed to be related to military service effective Aug. 10 -- the date the bill was signed. The law added 23 conditions to a list of presumptive illnesses considered related to burn pits, including certain types of cancer and respiratory illnesses, but they were to be phased in over the next three years, with those who are terminally ill, elderly or survivors having priority and eligible to file immediately. The law also added high blood pressure to the list of illnesses presumed related to Agent Orange, a provision that could affect up to 500,000 Vietnam veterans. Most Vietnam veterans, except for those who are terminally ill; facing financial hardship or [homelessness](#); or were 85 and older, were not eligible to file a claim until October 2026, according to the law. The PACT Act gave the VA the authority to move more expeditiously. The PACT Act provides \$278 billion over the next 10 years to expand VA health care and disability benefits for veterans exposed to a variety of toxins during military service, including burn pits, radiation, herbicides and chemicals.

VA Mishandling of Lejeune Water Claims Denied Veterans \$14 Million in Payments by Patricia Kime (originally appeared on Military.com)

A provision in the Honoring Our PACT Act allows victims to sue the government for injuries related to exposure at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The VA mishandled nearly 40% of all disability claims filed for exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, denying or delaying benefits for more than 21,000 affected veterans. Of 57,500 claims filed since 2017 for illnesses related to water contamination at the base that spanned more than 30 years, the VA denied 17,200 "prematurely" instead of asking for additional information. A total of 1,500 claims were denied for other technical and procedural errors. The mistakes occurred mainly at regional offices, which had a 40% error rate. More than 1 million people were exposed to the chemicals, which can cause various cancers, infertility, miscarriages and death. VA officials in 2017 listed eight specific illnesses as presumed to be related to the water, allowing affected veterans to receive health care and expedited disability compensation. Veterans with diagnoses not included in the list but who served at Lejeune during the time frame also can file claims, although they must prove that their illness was tied to service at the base.

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



The Fall Ladies Luncheon was held September 21, 2022. It was a success. In addition to a legislative and Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter update, therapists from Encompass Health made a presentation "Enhance Life with Home Safety". For me the most interesting part of the presentation was related to how and what music therapy can accomplish.



GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Lyles	1
Vicki Edwards	2
Charles Jager	8
Bill Satterfield	9
Emma Vaiton	13
Margie Argo	16
Barbara Stone	21
Janice Houck	22
Reuben Melton	27
Dorsey Ingram	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.



Killian, III, Sam P.
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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)



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.

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Eligibility: Honorably serving, former, or retired Warrants, Chief Warrants, or commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard) as well as current, former, or retired USCG, NOAA, and USPHS commissioned officers are eligible to join MOAA. If you know of anyone who may qualify to belong to the chapter, have them contact us or better yet, invite them to an upcoming dinner meeting.

Dues: Until it changes, 1-Year dues are still only \$20 (2 Years = \$35). The 3-Year chapter renewal option is the best bargain at \$50.

Complete application in newsletter or complete at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>



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Lt. Col. (Ret) Mac Chandler, Family Service Counselor

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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AlabamaMarine.org
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Tony Marino
Tournament & Events Marketing Manager

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145 1st 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



October 6 meeting will have a social time at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm
and speaker **COLONEL (Ret) ROBERT "SCOTT" GRANT**