

Let fall begin!

Some welcome cooler days and nights, so let's enjoy it while we can! We had a great speaker last month with Col Scott Grant and have another one coming up this month. We will hear about the Alabama National Guard structure and mission from the BGen Johnny Bass, who currently serves as the Director of the Joint Staff for the Alabama Guard. A detailed bio of BGen Bass is included herein.

Early November of course, will be a busy time for observance of Veteran's Day activities; the parade, the Veterans Day banquet, functions the National Cemetery, etc. Several of our members will also be volunteering at the Alabama Veterans Park brick laying ceremony, which we have supported through the years.

The dinner menu for our meeting will be sent out with the RSVP soon, so please join us for our meeting on November 3rd. I look forward to seeing you then!

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia

The Menu for the November dinner/meeting will be:

Lasagna
Glazed Carrots
Salad
Dessert

Dinner cost will be \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, October 31, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - dgmarkham3143@gmail.com



Website

Volume 122 Issue 10 November 2022

Officers' Call

President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
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Surviving Spouse Liaison Donna Martin
Newsletter Linda DeMarco, LTC, USA (Ret)

Statement of Publication

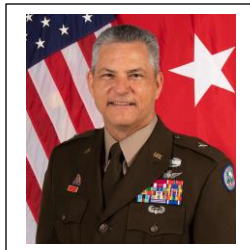
Officer's Call is the newsletter of the Greater Birmingham Chapter—Military Officers Association of America. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

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.

NOVEMBER MEETING/SPEAKER



Brigadier General Johnny R. Bass Director, Joint Staff Joint Forces Headquarters Alabama National Guard
Topic –
Overview of our ALNG force structure and current mission sets. And a brief discussion of multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan

Brigadier General Johnny R. Bass began his career in 1983 as an enlisted soldier in the Alabama Army National Guard and commissioned through the Alabama Military Academy as an Engineer Officer in 1987. He attended the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Pilot Course at Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1990. He has completed three aviation company level command assignments including a combat deployment to Afghanistan in 2004. In 2012, Colonel Bass commanded 600 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment during combat operations in Afghanistan. He has served in several key staff assignments to include a tour at U.S. Army Forces Command.

Brigadier General Bass is currently serving as the Director of Joint Staff, Alabama National Guard in Montgomery, Alabama. In this role, he is primarily responsible for coordination of all joint functions including strategy, domestic operations, and personnel administration.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Air Assault Badge, Combat Action Badge, and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

Brigadier General Bass' education includes a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Embry Riddle University, a Master's Degree in Aviation Science from Everglades University, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a Master Army Aviator, instructor pilot, and instrument flight examiner with more than 8,000 flight hours. He is qualified in the C-12, CH-47D/F, UH-60A, UH-72, OH-58A/C, OH-6A, and the UH-1H.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

November has two special days for our nation: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. I am a native of Birmingham and very proud that the celebration started on the streets of our proud city. I can remember marching with my Phillips High School ROTC Drill Team downtown through the crowds of patriotic folks. As I aged, I learned more about the great sacrifice so many have made to defend our free nation from its enemies. The parades seem to be a little less filled with that spirit of older days. Yet the fire still burns in my heart and your heart honoring those who have served and especially those who lost their lives in that service. Here is a prayer for that day which includes even more than us "military" folk.

Holy God, warrior-king who will fight the last battle and prevail, we pray You would guard and protect the men and women in uniform who defend and protect us today. Bless our military and our police. Bless those who have served. Cause wars to cease around this world. Extend your healing hand to those in pain and assure them of your love, care and forgiveness. Amen

Dear Lord, it is right to give you thanks. Open our eyes to all the blessings we are surrounded with every day, and give each of us a thankful heart. Most of all we thank You for the gift of salvation. It is in your Holy Name we pray. Amen

Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving!

Chaplain Dan Phifer

RECRUITER'S CORNER

Renew Your Chapter Dues

The chapter dues deadline is here for those members who are coming due before the 2023 calendar year. Please feel free to go ahead and renew your chapter membership online at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

The goal is 100%-chapter dues renewal

There is an alternative available for those without a credit card. If you are coming due in 2023, RSVP for the November dinner meeting, invite a prospective member to sign up at the check-in table, and pay your dues in person.

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

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

House, Senate NDAA Versions Would Improve Military Mental Health Access by Karen Ruedisueli

Throughout the 117th Congress, MOAA has worked to raise awareness on Capitol Hill of a 2020 [DoD Inspector General report](#) validating barriers servicemembers and their families face in accessing mental health care. While the Senate is still working on its version, Section 746 of the Senate Armed Services Committee's markup establishes a DoD program to provide scholarships or student loan repayment assistance to graduate level behavioral health providers in exchange for a commitment to work in the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics. The House passed its version of the annual defense authorization bill in July, and the Senate will move forward in the next few weeks to consider amendments and complete a floor vote on its version. Once the versions pass their respective chambers, the legislation moves into conference to resolve differences between the bills. While MOAA was disappointed at the lack of support for the related spring advocacy campaign topic – the [Stop Copay Overpay Act](#), which would reduce TRICARE mental health copays – Congress' efforts within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) are appreciated to address mental health care access challenges. MOAA will work to support these provisions throughout the NDAA process and looks forward to once again tackling the mental health copay issue when the 118th Congress begins next year.

Long-Term Care Bills Stall: Ask Your Lawmakers to Act Before Time Runs Out By René Campos

The 117th Congressional lawmakers are running out of time to fund essential legislation – including long-term and extended care services for a growing population of aging and disabled veterans who rely on lifesaving nursing home care and community-based services. While lawmakers were able to come together hours before the Sept. 30 deadline to pass a continuing resolution and prevent a government shutdown, Congress left for the midterms with a lengthy list of unfinished business to deal with on its return, including the NDAA and emergent issues like passing a significant disaster relief package to aid Hurricane Ian-ravaged communities. While these unaddressed priorities make headlines, legislation designed to support veterans, their caregivers, and family members also remains in limbo. This remains a top health care priority for MOAA: Congressional support in funding, resources, and staffing is needed for the VA to accelerate access to essential caregiving and long-term and extended care programs and services. Why should this issue find a spot on the lame-duck session's to-do list this November? Demographics, for one: While the VA projects an overall decrease in enrolled veterans across all age groups in its health care system, there are certain groups growing at alarming rates who will require care and services. Veterans 65 years and older make up almost half of the population enrolled in VA health care. More than 61,000 veterans are over the age of 85, and they are the fastest growing population in VA's health care system. This group is expected to increase to 387,000 in the next 20 years; the population of enrolled women veterans 85 years and older enrolled is also expected to jump 278% in the same period. Time is of the essence – progress made on these pieces of legislation would be lost if the 117th Congress adjourns without acting. Please [reach out to your lawmakers today](#) and ask them to support the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act; the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long-Term Care Act; and the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

The Alabama Veterans Memorial Park - brick dedication ceremony

<https://www.alabamaveterans.org/>

The Veterans Day step stone dedication ceremony and tribute to veterans
will be held on **Sunday November 6th at 1:30 pm.**

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



What's in a Name?

By: Suzanne Walker

For many years, spouses of MOAA members were referred to as "auxiliary members" when their spouse member died.

When MOAA established the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC), a focus group of auxiliary members to advise the association's president on matters of importance to those who had lost their military spouse, the committee suggested it might be time to move away from the term "auxiliary."

The military was starting to refer to family members who had lost a military member as "survivors." The definition of "auxiliary" -- giving help or support, especially to a more important person or thing -- was not how spouses felt. They were the ones who had managed the household, made frequent moves, gave up careers, and raised families while the military member served. They were "survivors."

Therefore, in 2013, MOAA's board of directors voted to change the name "auxiliary member" to "surviving spouse" and declared them full members with all the rights and privileges of membership, including a position on the board of directors.

Since then, two surviving spouses have served on the board of directors: Joyce Hart, who was succeeded by [Gail Joyce](#). In addition, [Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN \(Ret\)](#), is a surviving spouse on the board of directors.

The AMAC became the [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#) and remains at the forefront of leadership in MOAA for all surviving spouses. Through their dedication and hard work, they implemented the training module for surviving spouse liaisons for MOAA's regional leadership conferences, contribute monthly columns to *The MOAA Newsletter*, chartered the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), advocated for the successful elimination the SBP/DIC offset, established the annual [Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award](#), and conducted the first Spouses and Surviving Spouse Summit at MOAA's 2021 annual meeting.

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council also has expanded focus from advocacy only to a comprehensive development of services benefiting the spouse and surviving spouse community within MOAA.

We hope you will join the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council at the at future annual Spouse and Surviving Spouse Summits.

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council looks forward to continued support to educate, encourage, and engage spouses and surviving spouses of MOAA.

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mike Robinson	2
Ike Martin	8
Bill Bradley	10
Martha Killian	10
Mark Melanson	10
Monica Deason	12
Russ Frazer	14
Anne Hartline	14
Bill Aderholt	16
Joe Garner	16
Patricia Lehman	20
Bob Shuppaugh	26
Charlie Marvin	28
Ginny Lusk	29
Pat Fiol	30
Charles Knight	30

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.
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
islandmamma1@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.
Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.

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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We invite you to call us for more information.



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

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Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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AlabamaMarine.org
VVA.org - DAV.org

Cell: (404) 441-3882
don.lehman1@gmail.com

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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



November 3rd meeting will begin with social at 6 pm and meal 6:30 p.m.