

Happy New Year and let's have another great year for MOAA in 2023!

We had another excellent speaker last month with John Pinion from the Birmingham VA. Patricia and I were with family over Thanksgiving and tested positive for COVID on our return! So, sorry that we missed the meeting since we had to quarantine. The meeting was in good hands though and with lots of thanks to Harold, Wes, Michael, and Donna for helping out.

Another reminder on meeting/dinner RSVPs. MOAA must pay even if you are AWOL. We realize that last-minute things come up and changes are sometimes needed. But please try and plan the best that you can and let us know if you need to change plans. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Just a reminder too, Danberry residents have the option to eat before they come to the meeting for no cost. Just please let us know when you RSVP if you do not plan to have dinner. Once we get back to having Danberry serving our meals, which we hope will be soon, your dinner cost will then be covered by your Danberry meal plan.

Tis the Season!

Thanksgiving is history and now Xmas and the New Year are here! So, enjoy the holidays with family and friends, since they are the real gifts of life. Enjoy and we look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Website

Volume 123 Issue 1 January 2023

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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Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)
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Director Richard McKinley, CPT USAF (Ret)
Chaplain Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)
Legislative Affairs Vacant
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.

JANUARY MEETING/SPEAKER

December Meeting



(Continued from page 1, President's message)

Please renew your membership if you are due. See details on the Recruiter Corner/Membership page herein. Thank you for your support and we appreciate all that you do for MOAA!

Our January meeting is our annual business meeting, which sounds kind of boring... So, we will keep it short, plus have a mystery video of less than 4 minutes, which I think that you will enjoy. So come and don't miss it!

Happy
New
Year

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

January!

What do most people do in the first month of a New Year. Most of us make some sort of NEW YEAR RESOLUTION. OR we make more than just one resolution. It is a time to start over and make a new beginning, wipe the slate clean. I remember sitting with one of my grandsons as he was drawing a picture in his new art book. He suddenly stopped drawing and tore out the page and started a new drawing. He said he didn't like what he had done on the first drawing. We all have those same moments when we see the results of our actions, decisions or "performance" and know we can do better. We say: I've got to lose that extra fat around my tummy or get back in shape or read those books I ordered or get more sleep or clean my desk or work in the yard or be more understanding and kind to the ones I love...or, or, or.... A new beginning! A clean slate! A new direction! We have all been there. Now the "preacher" has come out in me. God wipes our slate clean. Be sure that is on your list – to walk a little closer in His Path. He will guide us through this New Year if we listen for His Guidance. Happy New Year!

Chaplain Dan Phifer

RECRUITER'S CORNER

Last Chance to Renew Chapter Dues

The chapter renewal window is closing fast. We have a few members who haven't renewed yet. If you are one of them, please attend to it right away. Thank you to those of you who already renewed.

The goal remains 100%-chapter dues renewals.

The online renewal option is payment via credit card at the following:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org>

1 Year = \$20

2 Years = \$35

3 Years = \$50

The other two options available are to pay at the monthly dinner meetings check-in desk, or mail a check or money order to:

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

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

NO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE THIS MONTH

(Continued from page 5)

SURVIVING SPOUSES

[American Widow Project](#)

[Gary Sinise Foundation](#)

[Give an Hour](#)

[Gold Star Awareness](#)

[Gold Star Pins](#)

[Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.](#)

[Guide On](#)

[Honoring Our Fallen](#)

[Hope for the Warriors](#)

[Military One Source](#)

[Military Warriors Support Foundation](#)

[National Military Family Association](#)

[Navy Gold Star Program](#)

[Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#)

[Operation Family Fund](#)

[Society Of Military Widows](#)

[Survivor Outreach Services](#)

[Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#)

[The Fallen Heroes Project](#)

[VA Benefits for Veterans' Spouses, Dependents, and Survivors](#)

[Veterans United Foundation Scholarship for Surviving Spouses and Children](#)

This list is provided on the national website as suggested reading.

GRIEF AND LOSS

[A Grief Observed](#) C.S. Lewis

[A Widow's Guide to Healing: Gentle Support and Advice for the First Five Years](#) Kristin Meekhof and James Windell

[Getting Past What You'll Never Get Over](#) John E. Westfall

[Healing A Spouse's Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas After Your Husband or Wife Dies](#) Bonnie Carroll and Alan D. Wolfelt PhD

[Here If You Need Me: A True Story](#) Kate Braestrup

[Heaven is for Real](#) Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent

[How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies](#) Theresa A Rando, PhD

[I Wasn't Ready To Say Goodbye](#) Brook Noel, Pamela Blair PhD

[Life After Loss](#) Bob Deits

[Live, Love, and Let Go](#) James K. Abshire MD

[Military Widow: A Survival Guide](#) Joanne M. Steen

[On Death and Dying](#) Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

[Second Firsts: Live, Laugh, Love Again](#) Christina Rasmussen

[Stitches](#) Anne Lamott

[When Bad Things Happen to Good People](#) Harold S. Kushner

[When God Winks](#) Squire Rushnell

[Why Are the Casseroles Always Tuna?](#) Darcie Sims

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



National MOAA Available Resources

MOAA National provides many publications of interest to surviving spouses (or future surviving spouses). Following are some of the publications. Some of these are available only to MOAA National members.

[Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#)

This guide can help you prepare, make decisions, and ease the financial, medical, and property transition for your family after you're gone. For our PREMIUM and LIFE Members, benefits, and financial counseling with MOAA staff experts can assist you through this process. Sign up for LIFE membership today and your spouse will maintain a LIFE membership with access to all benefits upon your death.

[Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On](#)

Keep this essential checklist on hand to refer to when dealing with a death in the family.

[Your Guide to Military Burials](#)

Use this resource for planning and decision-making regarding military burials and rights and to create a plan for the future.

[Survivor's Planning Guide](#)

Following the death of a loved one, it can be overwhelming to keep track of what arrangements need to be made, who needs to be contacted, and notes on important phone calls. Designed by surviving spouses, this handbook is intended to help you do just that.

Links on the MOAA National website.

- [SBP](#)
- [DIC](#)
- [Survivor's Pension Benefit](#)
- [VA Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension Benefits](#)
- [DFAS/MyPay](#) | [DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter](#)

SURVIVORS' ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that support Surviving Spouses and Caregivers

CAREGIVERS

[Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

[Gary Sinise Foundation](#)

[Give an Hour](#)

[Operation Family Fund](#)

[Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#)

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GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Carolyn Bellamy	29

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
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

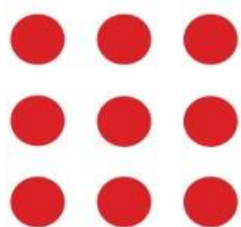
The new Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Challenge Coins are now available to order for only \$10 per coin! This coin will make a wonderful gift and must-have for any challenge coin collection. You can also order coins by contacting: LTC (ret) Don Lehman at don.lehman1@gmail.com. Display cases are available 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>



Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1



YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE.

Now let us honor you.

WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE VETERANS more than any other provider. In fact, we're part of the Dignity Memorial® network, the largest network of funeral homes and cemeteries in North America.

As a member of the Dignity Memorial network, we know more about obtaining everything that is owed to you, including monetary burial benefits, a

government-issued marker, presidential certificate and much more. We are also able to offer a FREE Veterans Planning Guide that includes worksheets and valuable information.

Regardless of whether you choose to be buried in a national or private cemetery, we can help you receive everything you have earned.

We invite you to call us for more information.



RIDOUT'S VALLEY CHAPEL

HOMEWOOD

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

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:
MOAABirmingham.org
AlabamaMarine.org
VVA.org - DAV.org

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

Still serving veterans – Once a Marine always a Marine



PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE



Jerry Ingram
General Manager

165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, AL 35242

O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-218-9772
jingram@pgatss.com | pgatss.com



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165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, Alabama 35242
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PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

Tony Marino
Tournament & Events Marketing Manager

C: 205-296-2271
amarino@pgatss.com

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



January 5 meeting will begin with social at 6 pm and meal 6:30 p.m.