

### Summer is on its way!

The grass is turning green and the yellow dust is here, so we know summer is almost here! We had another great speaker in March and I hope that all of you can come here our own, BG Jeff Newton from the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, speak to us at our April meeting. We had over 40 people at the March meeting! Our best turnout since pre-COVID.

National MOAA has re-vamped their Legislative Action Center page and are encouraging all members to register. It is a great way to keep up to date on all the issues and legislation concerning veterans, plus there are direct links to send your congressmen. There is a separate page below that explains how to register and I think you will find it very useful.

By the time that you receive this, the Ladies luncheon will have happened. I'm sure everyone had a great time. Lynn and Donna always do a superb job at planning and executing. If you missed it, be sure to plan to attend the next one.

We have several openings on our Board of Directors, plus we have some leadership positions that we would like to fill. If you would be interested in speaking to me about any of the above, please email me at [don.lehman1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com). Thanks.

And a FYI, Patricia's oncologist words to her last week: "you are in complete remission!" Just what we wanted to hear, and we appreciate everyone's prayers and concern.

With Easter coming soon, may you all enjoy faith and family. Take care and I look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting!

Respectfully,  
*Don & Patricia*



Website

Volume 123 Issue 4 April 2023

## 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)  
*Secretary* Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)  
*Treasurer* Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)  
*Past Pres.* Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)  
*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 Vacant*  
*Personal Affairs* Anne Hartline  
*Surviving Spouse Liaison* Lynn Phifer  
*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).

## APRIL MEETING/SPEAKER

### **April 6th speaker: BG (ret) Jeffery L. Newton** **Topic: Overview of the Alabama Dept Veteran Affairs**

Brigadier General Jeffrey L. Newton (Retired) is the Assistant Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montgomery, Alabama. In his current assignment, he is responsible for 63 Veteran Service Offices across the State of Alabama with the primary mission of assisting the nearly 400,000 Alabama Veterans, families, and survivors to receive from the state and federal government all benefits to which they may be entitled to under current laws.

Prior to his current assignment, he was the Director of the Joint Staff of the Alabama National Guard responsible for joint military operations relating to State and National emergencies. His 41-year military career with the United States Air Force and the Alabama Air National Guard included numerous overseas deployments with the 117<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing located in Birmingham, Alabama, supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle.

His major military awards include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Air Force and Army Commendation Medals, and the Alabama Distinguished Service Medal. In November 2021, he was inducted into the United States Air Force's Enlisted Heritage Hall - Wall of Fame. He is a graduate of Samford University, and Auburn University

Menu: Tossed salad, Lasagna, Garlic biscuit, Vanilla butter pound cake. Price TBD

Greater Birmingham Chapter officers attended the MOAA Regional Training Conference at the Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover, February 24th and 25th.

Pictured left to right:

Mike Walker, Vice President Membership, Lynn Phifer, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Dan Phifer, Chaplain, Gail Joyce, Chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and MOAA Board Member, Don Lehman, President, Donna Martin, Immediate Past Surviving Spouse Liaison, and Anne Hartline, Personal Affairs Chair, and former Surviving Spouse Liaison.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

April has two special religious holiday periods for Jews and Christians.

PASSOVER is the celebration of the exemption of the Israelites from the slaughter of the firstborn in Egypt (Exodus 12:23-27). This is Jewish Holiday celebrated in March or April in commemoration of the Hebrews liberation from slavery in Egypt. A special symbolic meal is offered in Jewish family homes.

Christians begin the celebration of Holy Week on Palm Sunday (April 2 this year). Maundy or Holy Thursday is April 6 (the Lord's Supper). On Good Friday (April 7) Christians remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. Then the high celebration of Easter (April 9) when Jesus arose from the grave.

I hope your celebration of your religious holidays fills you with a closer walk in your Spiritual Life.

Chaplain Dan Phifer



## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### Chapter Member Challenge

Welcome to all members that joined, rejoined, or renewed their GBC MOAA membership since the New Year and met the deadline. We retained at least 94%, which is an increase over last year. This is the time of year that we issue a challenge for all members to contact someone you know to join our chapter. It takes only seconds to join, renew, rejoin, or reinstate with GBC at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

### Community Events

Don't miss a chance to attend the upcoming Hoover Day on the afternoon of Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> where GBC recruiting is in support. Anyone who comes to mind to join our chapter can meet us there at Hoover Veterans Park. If it's raining, we'll announce a reschedule date.

Michael A. Walker  
LTC(Ret), USA  
Membership Chair

### **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>

MOAA Legislative Updates  
By  
Anne Hartline

MOAA's Mission: To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education and service.

MOAA is the most influential and the most respected military lobby in Washington with 10 full time lobbyists on the Hill advocating for services and benefits. On April 26<sup>th</sup> more than 200 MOAA leaders from across the United States will participate in MOAA's Advocacy in Action Day visiting all senators and legislators. Every year MOAA provides training for these volunteer chapter and council leaders on three current issues to prepare them for these visits. The first two are discussion topics, and handout information on the third issue is provided to be left with the law makers. The topics this year are:

**#1. Restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)**

Currently, our troops receive only 95% of BAH based on the housing analysis. They deserve 100%!

**#2. Reverse the TRICARE Pharmacy Network Cuts**

14 thousand independent pharmacies were cut from the network. This cut reduced choices and many options for many TRICARE beneficiaries. Some long-term care residents no longer have access to a network pharmacy to meet their needs.

**#3. Support the All-Volunteer Force**

Recruiting challenges continue to make the news. Erosion of benefits and troop cuts detract from service. Our nation must take better care of those who serve, or have served, to include families and survivors.

Among other issues currently included in ongoing advocacy are:

- Repeal the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's death.
- Continue to improve servicemembers' and veterans' Group Life Insurance.
- Improve Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%. Currently, a disabled veteran receives 43%.

We all need to become active advocates! Numbers influence votes in Congress, and MOAA's 350,000 members all need to help. What can we do:

Register as a MOAA Advocate through MOAA's Legislative Action Center  
MOAA provides contents for emails to be sent to Representatives and Congressmen.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center

Direct link: [moaa.quorum.us](http://moaa.quorum.us)

Text "MOAA" to 1-855-547-6921

MOAA.org – Advocacy – Legislative Action Center"



## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Hello Dear MOAA friends,  
My Name is Lynn Phifer, a long time MOAA spouse with my husband, Dan Phifer, a lifetime MOAA member. I have been a member of the Ladies Committee and the Surviving Spouses (SS) committee for a few years. I have recently become the SS Liaison. BUT this is not about me! This is about Donna Martin, who has been our SS Liaison since October 2018. Donna has been a member for several years. And Donna is a surviving spouse. Her heart knows the grief you have experienced. Our past surviving spouse activities, programs and luncheons have all been led by Donna with the team's input. Her organizational skills are amazing. She does not miss a single detail! Her computer skills are phenomenal, second to none. Donna runs an organized meeting, and we leave having had fun, but also knowing what to do. There is no miscommunication when Donna is in charge. And she is an outstanding mentor. I thank Donna from the bottom of my heart for all she has taught me and continues to do so. Please join me in giving Donna a well-deserved, heart-warming THANK YOU! Below are the photos taken at our March 15 Surviving Spouse program and luncheon. Thank you, Donna, for the delicious meal at the Hoover Country Club and the excellent program by Sarah Garcia. Your outstanding leadership will be missed, and you leave huge shoes to fill, but I know you are only a phone call away. God Bless you!

Photos by Kennedy Minner



Lynn Phifer and Donna Martin

Lynn Phifer, Donna Martin and Anne Hart;ine



Margie Argo, Mary Jensen and Linda DeMarco



Mary Jensen and Jerri Barnhill



Speakers: Sarah Garcia, Amanda Dotson and Megan Sisk



Speakers were from Assisted Living Locators

Topic: Enhancing Life by Planning for Long Term Living

Donna Martin





## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Hendricks	3
Barbara Bess	5
Frank Smith	19
Ed Clark	20
Terry Richmond	24
Chuck Bailey	28



### 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

### 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).



**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)



### 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.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

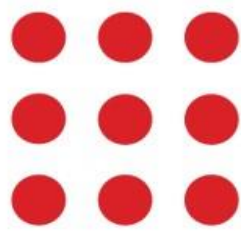
**Eligibility:** Honorably serving, former, or retired Warrants, Chief Warrants, or commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard) as well as current, former, or retired USCG, NOAA, and USPHS commissioned officers are eligible to join MOAA. If you know of anyone who may 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>



VETERAN'S CRISIS LINE



# Veterans Crisis Line

**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**

MOAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

**How to register with MOAA's  
Legislative Action Center:**



Four ways to get there:

**Direct link:** MOAA.quorum.us

**Text** "MOAA" to 1-855-547-6921

**Go to:** MOAA.org > Advocacy > Legislative Action Center

**Or scan** the QR code to the right with your phone:

Then follow the instructions on how to register.

Each of your devices, i.e., phone, laptop, iPad, must be registered separately. It's a great way to keep up with all

MOAA's advocacy issues, plus links to all your congressional representatives.

Link to MOAA's new Legislative Action Center and FAQ's:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/meet-moaas-new-legislative-action-center/>







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](http://RidoutsValleyChapel.com)



## Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

### Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:  
[MOAABirmingham.org](http://MOAABirmingham.org)  
[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)

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](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)



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

**Tony Marino**  
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***





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