

Our January meeting was attended by over 20 members and their presence was much appreciated. The annual “state of the chapter” presentation is not always the most exciting thing to hear, but we feel a responsibility to the membership to let them know how and what the chapter is doing. We will look at possibly revising the format of this meeting however, for the future.

I’d like to welcome Lynn Phifer as our new Surviving Spouse Liaison for the chapter. Donna Martin has done a superb job at this position for us, but it was time for her to move on. Lynn is excited to begin her duties and we look forward to having her.

National MOAA has chosen Birmingham for the Mid-South leadership conference for February 24-25th. We will have several officers and board members attending. They are excellent sessions and how convenient!

We still have a few stragglers who have not renewed their 2023-chapter membership dues. Please consider renewing; your membership dues go to supporting a number of worthy local veteran activities. Every member counts and again, thank you for your support and we appreciate all that you do for MOAA!

Valentine’s Day is rapidly approaching, so all you guys, do not forget! Winter is passing by and no snow yet; and do not miss that since moving south from Michigan 15 years ago. Enjoy and we look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia

Volume 123 Issue 2 February 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)
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.



Website

FEBRUARY MEETING/SPEAKER

PLEASE NOTE FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 9, 2023. Social 6:00 pm and Meal 6:30 pm

**MENU: Country fried steak, twice baked potato casserole,
seasoned brussels sprouts, yeast rolls and blueberry crunch cake.**

Speaker is Col Jayson Altieri

Topic: "Oscar Deuce and the DUCKBUTTS: The USAF O-2 Skymaster Self-Deployment to South Vietnam" (See link- https://www.afhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Fall2022Issue_All-4.pdf)

Colonel Jayson A. Altieri, USA, (Ret.), began his military service in 1984 as an enlisted Soldier with the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. Commissioned in 1989 as a U.S. Army 2d Lieutenant, he served in various Army Aviation assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, as well as units in Afghanistan, Belgium, Ecuador, Iraq, Korea, and the Panama Canal Zone. He also served in several national security level assignments with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium, and the National War College, Washington, D.C. His last operational assignment was as the Commander, 110th Aviation Brigade, Fort Rucker, Alabama and is currently an Assistant Professor of Leadership at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He also serves as the Assistant Curator for the First White House of the Confederacy, Montgomery, Alabama. He is a former Master Army Aviator and instructor pilot with more than 3000 flight hours in OH-58, TH-67, UH-1, and UH-60 helicopters. Jayson received the 2020 *Air & Space Power History* Article Award and has written several books and articles on aerospace and military related matters. His current book project, entitled *A Guest of Mr. Lincoln: The Wartime Service of Sergeant Joseph H. Wheelless, Confederate States Army*, is expected to be published sometime in early 2023.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Over my years of being a Pastor and Army Chaplain, it has been my joy and privilege to counsel couples who were excited about getting married. When we finished the pre-marital counseling, we started to talk about the marriage service. I always asked what scripture they wanted. Most had a common request for the "Love" chapter. (1 Corinthians 13) February 14 is that special day when couples think about expressing their love for that "Valentine Person" in his or her life. Even if that "loved one" now rests from their labors here on earth, we remember them especially and the love shared. *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."* 1 Cor. 13:1.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Cor 13:4-5

"And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13:13

Pull out your Bible and see all 13 verses of this 13th chapter.

May God's love for you fill you with strength and courage for all your days.

Blessings,

Dan Phiher

Chaplain (LTC-R) US Army

RECRUITER'S CORNER

This Is the Absolute Last Chance for Any Late Chapter Dues Renewals

For those who were out of town or otherwise missed the December 31, 2022 chapter renewal deadline, you have only until the end of the February to remain a member.

If you see your name below, please attend to renewing your chapter dues right away. Thank you to those of you who already renewed or already in the process of bringing yourself current before the upcoming deadline.

Brooks, Douthit, Grant, Houck, Jensen, Jett, Moss, Piatt, Richmond, Sample, Vitalis

The goal remains 100%-chapter dues renewals.

See Membership Information on page 6.

Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret), USA
2VP/GBCMOAA Membership Chair
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: ☐ 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)

Current enrollees can opt out during the open season with their spouse and/or beneficiaries' consent but won't receive a refund for the premiums they've already paid.

The open season to enroll ends Jan. 1, 2024. Anyone receiving retirement pay who hasn't already enrolled in the SBP may take advantage of the open season in 2023. Retirees are eligible who either already receive retirement pay or who would receive it except they haven't yet reached age 60.



LADIES LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023.
Details to follow,**

BE MINE



Retirees Get a Second Chance to Enroll In or Opt Out of the Survivor Benefit Plan

Editor's note: This article by Amanda Miller originally appeared on [Military.com](https://www.military.com).

Military retirees who opted out of a valuable survivor's benefit when they left active duty will get a rare second chance to enroll thanks to a new rule in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The same measure allows currently enrolled users to leave the program.

Retirees typically get only one chance to enroll in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Those who opt in usually name their spouses as the beneficiaries.

The SBP is like a life insurance policy with no cap. After a retiree dies, the SBP pays a beneficiary up to 55% of the retiree's [retirement pay](#), adjusted for inflation, monthly for the rest of the surviving spouse's life, or till a child reaches an age cap.

The SBP is such "a very good plan," Belinsky said, that for retiring service members to opt out, their spouses must consent.

But despite the benefit's high face value, many retirees declined coverage because of a rule known colloquially as the "widow's tax" and officially as [the Survivor Benefit Plan offset](#). That law reduced SBP payments to spouses who were also eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) allowances. DIC allowances are for the surviving spouses of service members who died on active duty or of veterans who died from injuries received as a result of their service.

The Defense Department has eliminated the SBP offset in phases.

When service members decline coverage at retirement, a few life changes allow them to enroll. For example, if a service member was single at retirement and later gained a spouse. But limitations apply.

Those who opt in -- the default -- get to withdraw or change their coverage only in their third year of receiving retirement pay or in limited other situations such as if their beneficiary dies first.

Those who enroll during the open season will have to catch up on paying the premiums they missed since retiring plus pay interest and "any additional amount" deemed necessary to maintain the "soundness" of the Defense Department's retirement fund, according to the new law.

(Continued on page 4)

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Herbert Osborne	1
Betsy Frazer	5
Victor Bey	15
Woody Cox	16
Carol Beall	18
Donna Wall	24
John Jeans	27

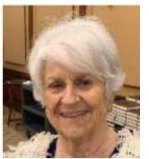
MOAA on-line photo directory

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)



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!

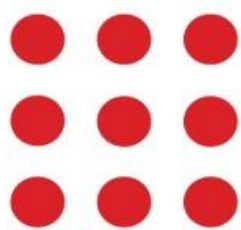
Many of us have had our ID cards automatically extended due to the COVID. However, that indefinite extension is now ending on January 31, 2022. If your ID card has an expiration date that is past or expires this month, you will need to renew it ASAP. There are several locations that you can do that here 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>



Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1



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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

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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



February 9 meeting will begin with social at 6 pm and meal 6:30 p.m.