

### Spring is almost here!

Hopefully the worst is over, and we will escape the winter with no snow! We had an excellent turnout for the February meeting to hear another great speaker, Col Jayson Altieri, a professor at the Air Force War College at Maxwell AF base. We have another one coming up on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we will hear some personal experiences from a DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) special agent. He will also speak to the DEA mission and how they operate here in the Birmingham office. It should be very interesting, so don't miss it!

The caterer we have been using is unavailable for the March meeting, so we will have Full Moon BBQ for our meal. We had a good number of no-shows for the February meeting too, so please try to attend if you have RSVP'd. Remember, the chapter still has to pay for your meal even if you are not there.

The mid-south MOAA leadership conference is being held in Birmingham February 24-25<sup>th</sup> and I will have a brief report on that at the March meeting.

There is a lady's luncheon scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, so be on the lookout for an invitation from Donna and Lynn for that.

Enjoy and we look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting!

Respectfully,  
*Don & Patricia*



Website

Volume 123 Issue 3 March 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).

## MARCH MEETING/SPEAKER

**Matt Wells,  
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Supervisory  
Special Agent, Birmingham, AL**

Matt Wells earned a Bachelor of Public Administration at Ole Miss in 1997. He has 21 years of federal service, beginning with the United States Border Patrol, where he was assigned in Carrizo Springs, TX. His DEA assignments include San Ysidro Resident Office, San Diego Field Division, and Lima (Peru) Country Office. He is currently a Supervisory Special Agent of a Task Force Group at the Birmingham District Office.

Matt's presentation will speak to the DEA's mission and some of his personal experiences in the US and South America.

Dinner will be from Full Moon BBQ.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**The Ides of March** is best known as the date on which Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Caesar was stabbed to death at a meeting of the Senate. As many as 60 conspirators, led by Brutus and Cassius, were involved. A seer (fortuneteller) had warned that harm would come to Caesar on the Ides of March (March 15). On his way to the Theatre of Pompey where he would be assassinated, Caesar passed the seer and joked, "*Well, the Ides of March are come,*" implying that the prophecy had not been fulfilled, to which the seer replied "*Aye, they are come, but they are not gone.*" This meeting is famously dramatized in Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, when Caesar is warned by the soothsayer to "*beware the Ides of March.*"

For Years the Ides of March (March 15<sup>th</sup>) was the day our Income Tax was due into the Federal Coffers. The due date was changed to April 15<sup>th</sup> and this year it is Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Matthew 22:15-22 raises the question about paying Taxes. The Lord makes a good point: "...pay to the emperor what belongs to the emperor and to God what belongs to God."

Happy Tax Time!

Dan Phiifer



## RECRUITER'S CORNER

Greetings to all members who renewed their GBC MOAA membership since the New Year. The chapter retained 94% of its members from last year. This is also a challenge for all members to contact someone you know to join our chapter. For the few remaining chapter membership renewal stragglers, try to meet the chapter renewal grace period by February 28, 2023. After this point you will have to go through the process of reinstating your chapter membership. Unless you have already done so, you may renew, rejoin, or reinstate with GBC at

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

### 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)

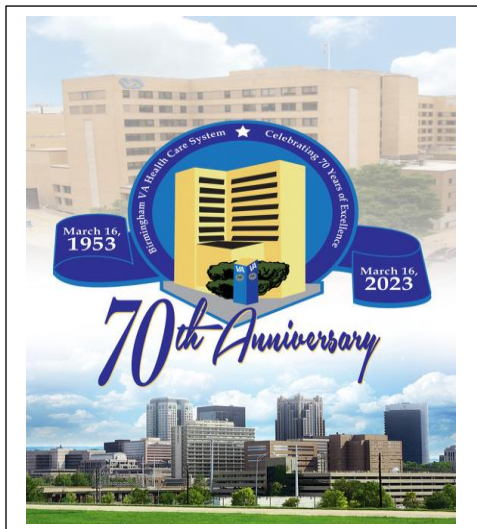


Mail this form to Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE THIS MONTH



On March 16, 1953, the Birmingham VA Health Care System (BVAHCS) opened its doors to Veterans in the historic southside district of Birmingham, Alabama. Today, the medical center is a level 1A acute tertiary medical and surgical care center with 10 community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) located in Anniston-Oxford, Bessemer, Childersburg, Guntersville, Gadsden, Huntsville, Jasper, Shoals, and two in Birmingham. The health care system employs more than 3,000 staff members that serve over 71,000 Veterans in Alabama. Read more about the Birmingham VA and its accomplishments at this link: <https://www.va.gov/birmingham-health-care/stories/birmingham-va-celebrates-70-years-of-service/>

We are proud to serve the greater Birmingham area and to be Veterans first choice for health care. Thank you for 70 years! This milestone would not be possible without YOU, our Veterans.

**Help us celebrate on March 16 at 10 a.m. by joining the ceremony via Facebook**

**Live: <https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamVAHCS/>**



**MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER**



**Greater Birmingham Chapter of  
Military Officers Association of America  
Ladies Luncheon  
for  
Surviving Spouses  
Female Officers  
Spouses of Living Members**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
10:30 am  
Hoover Country Club  
3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226**

**"Comfortable Options for Long Term Living"  
Sarah Garcia, Senior Living Locators**

**"MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits"**

**Your check will be your reservation.  
Make check payable to: MOAA GBC  
Mail to: Donna Martin  
140 Courtside Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
205-876-6274  
[donnaemaemartin@aol.com](mailto:donnaemaemartin@aol.com)**

**Cost: \$25 Reservation deadline: March 8, 2023**

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Bess	8
Harold Wehby	8
Deb Parker	9
Glenn Nivens	15
Nancy Todd	21
Linda DeMarco	23
Tommy Carpenter	23
Wally Womack	25
Ruth Walker	25
Richard McKinley	26
Mary Lou Matthews	28
Josephine Lassiter	29
Walt Sasser	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](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  
[islandmamma1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com).  
Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.

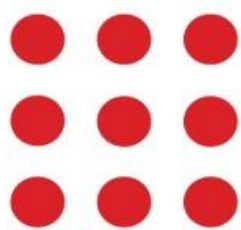
### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**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>





# 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](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***



March 2 meeting will begin with social at 6 pm and meal 6:30 p.m.