

Happy July 4th to all!

I hope everyone is having a great summer! I am writing this from Hilton Head, SC, where we love spending time with family. Our June picnic at Veteran's Park was enjoyed by all; one of the more fun meetings that we have. July 6th and August 3rd lunch meetings will be held at Lloyd's and the First Watch respectively. No RSVP's required, just show up and have a great time. Please also see a detailed meeting schedule herein for the remainder of the year; we have some great guest speakers lined up for the fall, so stay tuned!

I'm sure a lot of you enjoyed kids/grandkids graduations recently. We had 2 this year, 4 next year (one of them West Point); and we don't miss a year for 3 or 4 after that! I've included a few photos from my summer so far, so you all are welcome to do the same. Send me your favorites and we will publish them in the newsletter.

I'd like to congratulate Col Dale Murray again for being selected for Brigadier General in the Army National Guard. He will be transferring to the Maryland guard though, so unfortunately, we will be seeing less of him for a while.

If anyone would like to take on the newsletter, Linda needs a break, and it would be greatly appreciated. We have a great newsletter template set-up in Word, so it is very easy to cut and paste the monthly information. Please let me know if you are interested; the learning curve is not steep. Linda and I thank you in advance.

Recently, a radiologist friend of Patricia's who saw her brain scans from a year ago, says that she is a walking miracle! We appreciate all the prayers and thoughts that you all provided. Take care and everyone have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you at Lloyds.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Website

Volume 123 Issue 7

July 2023

Officers' Call

President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

1st VP Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)

2nd VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)

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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.

JULY MEETING

2023 MOAA future meetings and guest speaker schedule:

July 6th – Lunch (**Buy your own**), Lloyd's restaurant on 280, 11:30 – 1:00. **No** RSVP required.

August 3rd - Lunch (**Buy your own**), First Watch restaurant on 280, 11:30 – 1:00. **No** RSVP required.

Sept 7th – Dinner mtg at Danberry. UAB ROTC presentation (tentative)

Oct 5th – Dinner mtg at Danberry. BG (ret) Jeff Newton, Asst Commissioner, AL Dept Veterans Affairs. Overview and update on the department.

Nov 2nd - Dinner mtg at Danberry. Guest speaker TBD.

Dec 7th - Dinner mtg at Danberry. Guest speaker TBD.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

If I were to tell you that you are going to be okay after a hard time, what would be your reaction? I think we have all lived long enough to know that eventually, we turn out alright. On the other hand, *in the midst of a hard time*, it looks like an impossible mind trick to think we will be okay.

What if I told you that in every hard moment, you CAN rejoice? Not to minimize anyone's problems, but the reason we can rejoice is that hard times do not have the last word. When I am going through a hard time, my suffering makes me a person of stronger faith who can stand unwavering in any situation. The more difficult things are, the more I lean on God.

Our earthly struggles can lead us to spiritual things like a stronger faith in all God has done for us. He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him. Here are a couple powerful Bible references: Romans 5:3-5 and Psalm 136:4-9. These can build us up to be a stronger person of faith.

Blessings,

Chaplain Dan Phifer

RECRUITER'S CORNER

The recruiting season continues. Recruiting for the Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA is close to taking first place in the State of Alabama. There are currently 162 members showing on the National MOAA Committee Module.



First Name (Preferred name) MI Last Name Rank / Grade Spouse

Member of National MOAA? ☐ Yes ☐ No Mem # (if known) _____

Branch of Service		Status	
<input type="checkbox"/> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse

Postal Address City State Zip Code Home Phone #:

Date of Birth Cell phone # Email Address

Member: _____

Spouse _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Local Membership (Greater Birmingham Chapter) runs by calendar year.

The remainder of your first calendar membership year is complimentary.

Following yearly membership dues: ☐ \$20/year ☐ \$35/2 years ☐ \$50/3 years)

Mail to:

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

Thank you for your support!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

NO UPDATE THIS MONTH

SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

SHARE YOUR SUMMER FUN

Members share your photos – send to Don

Don's grandson Grant
graduating from HS, Louisville,
KY.



Our President with a Hilton Head
redfish



MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



July is the month for celebrating our Independence Day on the 4th. We may go to a parade or a picnic with family and friends. We always will have the American flag waving on our doorstep, t-shirts and in our hands. But how do we handle grief during these fun, patriotic times?

I recently read an article in the national MOAA newsletter entitled, "Surviving Spouse Corner: 9 Ways to Go Through Hard Times", by Suzanne Walker. After reading this comforting message I knew I wanted to share it with all of you. First, let me tell you about this author. LTC Suzanne Walker, USA (Ret.) is the executive assistant to the president and the association's meeting and conference director. She has been on the MOAA staff since 2004. She serves as staff advisor to MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council.

Below are some of LTC Walker's strategies for handling a period when we are feeling "low". Consider these tips:

1. Seek out the friendship and companionship of others. Do something you enjoy with a friend or family member.
2. Take a walk and enjoy being outside on a nice day.
3. Give your time to a worthy cause. Support those less fortunate or visit someone who is lonely.
4. Learn something new. Try a new craft or hobby.
5. Listen to music. Maybe try a genre or artist you have not listened to before.
6. Label and organize your photos. Relive the happy memories by documenting the stories behind the photos.
7. Write a letter. A handwritten note or card is always welcomed.
8. Attend a patriotic event. Watch a '4th of July' parade or help place flags at a local cemetery.
9. Make new friends by participating in your local MOAA chapter or the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter."

At a class on "decluttering", I learned to clean out your bathroom because there is no real sentimentality. I have done this. Throw away expired medications, old make-up, lotions that are almost empty, miscellaneous hairbrushes, combs, and pins. It's a good feeling to accomplish something!

May your month of July be a month of good emotions, good memories, family times and thankfulness. I hope to see you at our July activity. As you know, we meet the first Thursday of the month and for the summer months, it is a daytime event. Watch for an announcement soon.

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Phifer,
Surviving Spouse Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mac Chandler	1	
J.R. Bass	5	
Don Lehman	10	
Dan Phifer	11	
James Oliver	15	
Dale Murray	16	
Ann Munson	16	
Jeff Bast	17	
Jerri Barnhill	23	
Nell Douthit	25	
Arren Goodwin	27	
Donna Martin	29	
Mary Jensen	29	1

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.

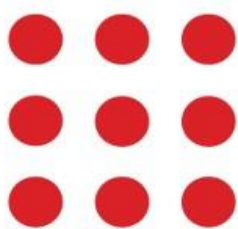
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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, USPHS commissioned officers and surviving spouses from all branches 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 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/>



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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.

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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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PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

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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

