

It's hot outside!

Congratulations to Linda DeMarco for being honored at the May meeting as the chapter spouse of the year! See photos in pages below. Linda is a hard worker, a great asset to the chapter and thank you for all that you do for us.

We are going to start our summer luncheons meetings with a picnic at Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road on June 1st. It will be at one of the three pavilions at the park and start at 4:00 PM. It should be fun, and I look forward to seeing everyone there! I'm sorry I missed the May meeting; I hear Niki's talk on Easter Island was great. He is a fantastic speaker, and we will look forward to having him back sometime again in 2024.

I had the pleasure this past month to present the MOAA Junior ROTC medal to a deserving cadet at Hoover High School. This is the first time that I had the opportunity to witness their awards ceremony and I was thoroughly impressed! There are over 90 cadets in the Air Force JROTC program, and they do some amazing things. They presented over 100 medals and awards to deserving cadets and Col Moulton does a great job as their program commander.

We have had some turnover on our board of directors recently. If you or someone you know may have an interest in serving as a board member, please let me know via our chapter email, contact@moaabirmingham.org. Thanks.

Take care and everyone have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you at the picnic.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Website

Volume 123 Issue 6

June 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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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.

JUNE MEETING/SPEAKER

IT'S A PICNIC

The first summer meeting will be a picnic at Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road at one of the pavilions.

June 1st

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

BBQ

Call or email Doug Markham (dgmarkham3143) @gmail.com or 205-420-2631
by May 29th to make reservations.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "*Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.*" May our Flag continue to fly proudly representing the nation of the free and home of the brave.

The United States Army also celebrates the **U.S. Army birthday** on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position on June 14, 1775. Happy Birthday!

Of course, we celebrate "**Father's Day**" on the third Sunday of June each year. We thank God for the men who hold firm to God's guidance in bringing up children who respect others, honor our country, and love their families. We pray for strength for all "Fathers" as they face the *unique* challenges of today's society. God bless our flag, our military arms, all fathers, and this Nation.

Blessings,

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-Retired)

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>)

One of MOAA's primary missions is "advocacy"; lobbying and representing legislation that effects the entire veteran population at the national and local levels. If you are not receiving MOAA's weekly newsletter via email, I encourage you to do so. It contains a lot of useful information and is a great way to easily keep up on important matters that may affect us. You can manage your subscription for the newsletter as well as other useful subscriptions at:

https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx

OUTSTANDING SPOUSE OF THE YEAR

Linda DeMarco was awarded Outstanding Spouse of the Year at the May meeting by Lynn Phiher, Surviving Spouse Liaison.





June is a difficult month for surviving spouses. Fathers' Day occurs and opens the door for new grief as widows and children are missing their loved ones.

Another reason is because June is the most popular wedding month. This means many surviving spouses are recalling that wonderful day many years ago or more recently when they said, "I do".

Reading an article in the April 2023 issue of "Military Officer", written by Patricia Kime, entitled, "Preparing for a Military Sponsor's Death, and What to Do When It Happens", inspired some thought-provoking questions which I want to share. First, we need a checklist. Having crucial details listed will help you and family members. Correct names need to be on every account and asset. This includes mortgage, vehicle titles and financial accounts. Ensure that the DFAS, SBP and DEERS paperwork have correct survivor/ beneficiary names. Also, keep an updated file with all policies, computer and phone passwords and code words. As Gail Joyce, our national MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison says, "Troubles arise when people don't do their due diligence beforehand, not taking care of things that are easy to take care of."

Once a Military Sponsor dies, there are many phone calls and contacts to be made, including the funeral home and DFAS. When planning ahead, the spouse and other family members will have an easier time dealing with the necessary activities at the same time they are grieving. It is a gift to plan.

We plan ahead on many things that might happen, such as a car accident or a house fire. Shouldn't we plan ahead on something that will happen?

Sending good wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Phifer

Surviving Spouse Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Donald Brooks	1
JD Crawford	6
Helen Green	8
Pat Singletary	10
George Lord	11
David Hicks	15
Joel Maxwell	18
Harb Moore	19
GT Merriam	26
Tim McGraw	29

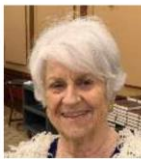
MOAA on-line photo directory

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.

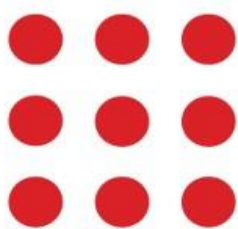
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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, 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/>



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



PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

Joe Stephens
Assistant General Manager

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O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-209-1138
jstephens1@pgatss.com



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



June 1 meeting -Picnic at Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm