

Home from the cold, back to the cooler

It's a welcome change to come back to finally some cooler weather in Alabama! We just returned from Iceland, where we had some days in the 40's and cancelled excursions due to snow on the roads. Sorry I missed our September meeting; it looked to be fun with Hand in Paw; see below for some photos of the big furry friend that was in attendance. Our October 5th meeting should be excellent too; we will welcome our own BG (retired) Jeff Newton, the Assistant Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs in Montgomery. Jeff has also agreed to sit on our Board of Directors, so let us turn out and give him a big welcome!

Once again, our chapter has been selected by National MOAA for the five-star LOE (Level of Excellent) award! This was a team effort, and I would like to thank all of you who helped make this happen. We could not do any of this without our entire, faithful MOAA membership either, so a big shout out to everyone for helping to keep our chapter viable. A little recognition helps, but what we do for our veterans and their families is what we should all really be very proud of.

Have fun, enjoy life and we hope to see you at the October meeting!



Website

Volume 123 Issue 10

October 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 Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (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

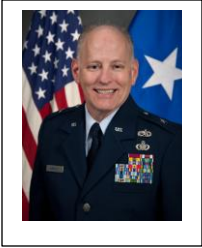
Officer's Call is the newsletter of the Greater Birmingham Chapter—Military Officers Association of America. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

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.

OCTOBER 5th MEETING



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 117th 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: Meatloaf, Tossed Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes. Glazed Carrots, Rolls
Cherry Cobbler

Dinner cost will be \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, October 2, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - dgmarkham3143@gmail.com

Social at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This has been one of the worst months I have experienced. I can't find anything I am looking for. I keep stumbling over things that find their way into MY way. I stumble and can't find a place to sit and relax. My wife is asking me questions which I can't answer. I am tired and dirty from my assigned tasks (which never end).

Any ideas what I am going through?

All those "wonderful moves" in the military from "Fort Here to Fort There" We have all experienced "moving in the military." BUT this "downsizing" move has been worse than all those previous "moves" which we have experienced. *"Do we keep this? Will we have room for that? Why did we bring that? There is no room for that!"* Those are just some of the more tame questions my wife and I have been asking ourselves and each other as we move to *one level living*. Our prayers are asking forgiveness for some rather "short" remarks we have made to each other. We know that God will forgive and get us through this also. Amen!

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>

No report this month

**REDSTONE ARSENAL
52nd RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
October 19-20, 2023**

October 19, 2023

ID Cards (One Stop Bldg. 3494) 0730-1700

Legal Services (SJA Bldg. 3439) 0830-1530

October 20, 2023

Free Breakfast & Lunch

Benefit Briefings (Heiser Hall, Bldg.3712) 0900-1215

Health Fair (**Free Flu Shots**) / Vendors Exhibits

(Community Activity Center, Bldg.3711) 1215-1530



Directorate of Human Resources

Retirement Services

United States Army Garrison

(256) 842-2719 / (256) 876-2504

BE ALL YOU CAN BE!

SOLDIER FOR LIFE!

**PICTURES FROM SEPTEMBER
MEETING**



MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



We are getting ready for the month of October. Sometimes the weather is warm and sunny, as we experience a late summer. Other times we have wind and rainstorms. It usually is time to get out our sweaters and sweatshirts.

Recently I have had two important reunions: my 53rd nursing school reunion and my 56th high school reunion. We had so much fun socializing, reminiscing, sharing stories, and photos. These times with special friends made me realize how important friendships are to staying in touch. Connecting with others brings about health benefits, too, as it helps our cognition and memory. Being social helps prevent loneliness and isolation, which are associated with chronic disease and premature death. When we are with people, we use facial expression, tone of voice, body language, speech, and action. We are using our muscles and our brain cells. If we have been out of touch with our friends lately, it's time to take back our social life.

October is a great time to rekindle friendships. Matter of fact, put October 18 on your calendars. This is the date for our surviving spouses fall luncheon and program. We will meet at the Hoover Country Club on Wednesday, October 18, at 10:30 for an informative program presented by Patricia Anderson. She is the Alabama Survivor Outreach Support Coordinator and is extremely knowledgeable in this field. Please plan on joining us to learn more about services available. We will also have a delicious meal of Chicken Cordon Bleu.

You will receive an invitation in the mail by the end of September. We are looking forward to seeing you and socializing with each other at this event.

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Phifer
Surviving Spouses Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Lyles	1
Jack Vogt	1
Vicki Edwards	2
Charles Jager	8
Tim Jett	8
Bill Satterfield	9
Emma Vaiton	13
Margie Argo	16
Barbara Stone	21
Reuben Melton	27
Dorsey Ingram	31

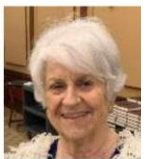
MOAA on-line photo directory

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

If your ID card has an expiration date that is past or expires this month, you need to renew it ASAP. There are several locations in the Birmingham area, just google "military ID card renewal near me." 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.

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.

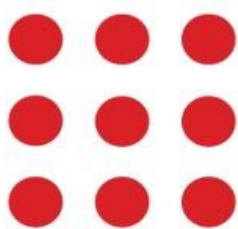
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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/>



**Greater Birmingham Chapter of
Military Officers Association of America**

**Ladies Luncheon
for
Surviving Spouses
Female Officers
Spouses of Living Members**

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

10:30 am

**Hoover Country Club
3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226**

**"VA Benefits for Surviving Spouses"
Patricia Anderson, Survivor Outreach Services**

"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
donnamaemartin@aol.com
Lynn Phifer - 205-919-9430**

Cost: \$25 Reservation deadline: October 11, 2023

National Veterans Awards Dinner Ticket Information

Event: National Veterans Awards Dinner

When: Friday, November 10, 2023, 5PM

Reception - 6PM Dinner

Where: Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North Birmingham, AL 35203

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Deadline: The deadline for ordering tickets is October 16, 2023.

Link: <https://birminghamveteransdinner.swell.gives/> Dear National Veterans Awards Dinner Supporter,

We are excited with our move to digital ticketing this year. Outlined below are the steps to purchase individual tickets or a table of 8 tickets. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, Liz Carey

Executive Committee

Ticketing Coordinator National Veterans Day Foundation in Birmingham ticketing.nvdf@gmail.com

PURCHASING INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

1. From the event website above, select "Purchase Tickets" button on the right side of the page.
2. Select "Individual Ticket" and enter the name, email address and phone number of the ticket holder. If you have been invited to be at the head table, you may select "Head Table".
3. Select the applicable group from the list (scroll down to see the entire list). Click add ticket which is on the left side after the last group name.
4. You can click "Add Another Ticket" to purchase additional tickets and repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. When finished adding tickets, click next, fill in your contact information, and pay.
6. Each ticket holder will be emailed their individual ticket.
7. About a week prior to the event, all ticket holders will receive an email with their table assignments.

PURCHASING A TABLE

1. From the event website above, select "Purchase a Table".
2. Check the box if you will be sitting at this table.
3. Select the applicable group from the list (scroll down to see the entire list).
4. Click next, fill in your contact information and pay.
5. You can enter the names and email addresses of the other table attendees now or wait on the email with a link to do it later.

After purchasing a table, you will receive an email with a link to invite your guests. Click on the link and you will be taken to the page where you will enter their names and email addresses. When submitted, they will receive an invitation and they can choose confirm or deny.

Confirmed guests will be routed back to the event website to confirm email and receive ticket.

As the table host, you will receive a notification of any declining.



