

Finally, the hot summer may soon be over.

With September nearly upon us, hopefully the long hot summer is almost behind us! Just to be sure, Patricia and I are leaving the country for cooler clime (Canada, Greenland, and Iceland), so unfortunately, we will miss the September dinner meeting. We have a great program planned too. Some four-legged friends may be visiting us during social time and then we have Stacey Roudebush of "Hand in Paw" to speak about their dog therapy program and the grant that they have received for veterans. An article in the Over the Mountain Journal about their program is included herein. Should be fun, so don't miss it! We have some great guest speakers lined up too for the remainder of the year, so please mark the 1st Thursday of each month on your calendar.

Our summer luncheons and June picnic were fun and well attended, so we will plan on having something similar for next year. If anyone has any ideas for a different venue or place to meet, please let me know. We will plan on having catered dinners at Danberry for the foreseeable future; they simply do not have and probably will not have the server staff to accommodate us. A big thanks though to our Wes Cox and Bobbie Collier from Danberry who have helped us through COVID and make our dinner meetings happen.

Kids are back in school, rush hour traffic is worse for the few of you that are still working, but retirement is great and I highly recommend it. I've been enjoying it now from my civilian job for 6-years and have yet to speak to anyone yet who has regretted it. So please, have fun, enjoy life and we hope to see you soon!

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Website

Volume 123 Issue 9

September 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.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Speaker:

Stacey Roudebush, M.A.

*Director of Volunteers and Programs
Hand in Paw*



Stacey Roudebush joined Hand in Paw as a volunteer in 2017. A graduate of the University of Alabama in Fine Arts, she also holds a Master of Art in Arts Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Stacey loves serving her community, organizing volunteers, and developing programs. She has also worked with non-profit organizations in the visual and performing arts, humanities, environment, and behavioral health. She enjoys painting, embroidery and spending time with her husband Joel, daughter Ava and Hank the beagle, the family dog.

See more information on page 8.

Menu: Chicken Tetrazzini, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Rolls, Strawberry pie

Dinner cost will be \$20 per person.

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, September 4, 2023, 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

I read a little in Isaiah 12 verses 2-3 and think it might be good for our September thought.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

Sounds like Living Water for our parched souls to me! Imagine a sweltering summer day. You feel wilted, so thirsty that all your focus shifts to that need. Then someone hands you a glass of water, and you gulp it down, finally refreshed.

This is the picture God gave His people through Isaiah. They knew their sin of turning from God and rejecting His ways; They knew His righteous anger; and they thirsted for salvation.

Like them, our soul thirsts and is not satisfied until it is filled. Like them, we praise God for providing what we need to be overflowing. We have been brought to the wells of salvation.

Let's drink it up. Let's go to our respective church and drink deeply. Let's "sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously.... Shout, and sing for joy!" A Prayer: Father, thank you for satisfying our parched souls with Your living water!

Dan Phifer
Chaplain (LTC-R) U.S. Army

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>)

Please check your email subscriptions at <https://www.moaa.org/>

The MOAA weekly newsletter subscription especially, will keep you up to date on important current MOAA issues and there are other notifications that you may want to subscribe to also. And if you joined MOAA before 2018, you were automatically “opted out” of all email subscriptions! I was surprised when I recently looked at mine. So, log into your account on the link above and then directly below your name, click on “email subscriptions” to see what is available.

Sign up to be a MOAA advocate!

Additionally, you can find other issues that may interest you in MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at www.moaa.org/takeaction. There, you can sign up to be an “advocate, so you are ready to engage our legislators through MOAA’s call to action. It’s an easy and effective way to engage and make your voice known!



HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Hello dear friends,

I recently was introduced to the magazine, "TAPS", which stands for Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors.

At first glance I thought it was a magazine for young widows and remarriage, children of a fallen soldier, and servicemen killed in action.

TAPS had stories about falling in love again, Good Grief camps for bereaved children and teenagers, and how to deal with a tragic death.

However, as I read more deeply, I saw articles on grieving at any time, on grieving but not being crazy, and on hope and healing.

I want to share some comforting words from an article entitled, "Wearing Your Heart on Your Sleeve", written by Matt Daud, a surviving father of CPL Christopher Daud, US Marine Corps Reserve. He talks about proudly remembering the loss of his son by wearing distinctive colors, caps or shirts. Belonging to a unique group of people who have endured similar experiences encourages one to feel like he/she belongs to a family. Complete strangers would approach him and ask about his service connection. This led to conversations about his son. Talking about his son eased the pain into pride and joy. This tight connection to other people brings healing. Instead of mourning by yourself, you talk about your loss with pride. He ends his article with the knowledge that survivors know "we belong to a family unlike any other."

Please reserve the date, October 18, 2023, on your calendars. This will be our fall Surviving Spouses luncheon and program at the Hoover Country Club. Our speaker will be Patricia Anderson, VA Benefits for Surviving Spouses Officer.

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Phifer,
Surviving Spouses Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerry Ingram	1
Beth Smith	2
Len Mueninghoff	8
Leo Deason	9
Ron Bradstreet	11
Jim Langley	16
James Wilson	17
Mike Walker	21
Susan Bradshaw	23
Bob Barefield	24
Cynthia Cox	24
Gene Cushman	24
Dan Brown	28

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.

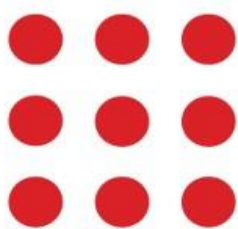
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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/>

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a diagonal pattern.

From OTMJ August 10th issue:

‘The Vodka for Dog People’: Tito’s Donates \$65K to Help Expand Hand in Paw’s Animal-Assisted Therapy

August 7, 2023

Animal-assisted therapy provider Hand in Paw recently received a donation from Tito’s Handmade Vodka that will help expand its ability to provide animal therapy to help vulnerable populations.

The \$65,000 gift from Tito’s will enable Hand in Paw to train, evaluate, mentor and place therapy teams, as well as provide animal-assisted therapy, to senior citizens and veterans in central Alabama.

Hand in Paw serves several vulnerable populations. The dogs and handlers are trained to provide comfort and affection to people in hospitals, retirement homes, hospice care and schools.

But the group has been experiencing a shortage of therapy teams to meet the needs of the community.

“With the support of Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Hand in Paw will now be able to provide services to organizations, like the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Birmingham and seniors in facilities throughout central Alabama at no cost,” a press release issued by the organization states.

Funding from Tito’s, which dubs itself “the Vodka for Dog People,” will allow Hand in Paw to recruit and train 30 new therapy teams in one year that will visit senior citizens and veterans who may be experiencing anxiety and isolation, among other emotional issues.

Additionally, the donation will allow Hand in Paw to launch a targeted volunteer recruitment campaign to help expand the nonprofit’s growing “paw print” in the greater Birmingham and Tuscaloosa areas.

“We are truly honored to have this support from Tito’s Handmade Vodka to expand our animal-assisted therapy program,” said Margaret Stinnett, executive director at Hand in Paw. “This funding will create the opportunity for dynamic growth within our organization and allow us to continue serving our central Alabama communities.”

Lindsey Bates, director of philanthropy operations at Tito’s, said, “We’re excited to support the work that Hand in Paw is doing to serve vulnerable populations in need. As the Vodka for Dog People, we know firsthand the positive impact that dogs can have, and the care that Hand in Paw is providing in Birmingham will continue to benefit the community for years to come.”

Hand in Paw is accepting applications for its Therapy Team.

Prospective service animals must be two years or older, and the owner must have owned the animal for more than six months.

Additionally, dogs and their owners are required to complete a group obedience course, according to the press release, to ensure the animal and owner are well-prepared to begin the intensive Therapy Team training program.

For more information on the teams, visit handinpaw.org/volunteer.

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.



