



Hello yellow-green dust!

Yes, it is here, so that means the warm weather is about upon us and we don't have to wash our cars for a month! I trust that everyone also had a happy and blessed Easter.

Our March speaker, Tim Nagy, presented an interesting talk on some medical research that he was involved with at UAB. Our April speaker is Niki Sepsas who many of us have heard and we try to have him speak to us once a year. He is an outstanding speaker no matter the topic, and this time he will be talking to us about the story of finally identifying the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima. And it 75 years to do so!

We are implementing a new on-line dinner reservation and payment system this month for our meetings, where payment can be made by credit or debit card. Please check it out and I hope that you choose to use it. The link is <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/rsvp-monthly-meeting-dinner/>. We have also made some needed updates and improvements on the website, so please check it out too and provide us feedback on what you may or may not like about it. The link is <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/>. We have still been having some costly no-shows for our meetings, so the new on-line rsvp system should help.

A calendar for other upcoming speakers and events is included herein, plus available on our website at: <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/events/>

The 2024 Chapter dues renewals are completed; although we had to drop a few members, our membership is still healthy and we appreciate the support that all of you provide our MOAA! I found a few more good laughs for this month's newsletter, so enjoy and hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia

Volume 124 Issue 4 April 2024

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 Donna Martin
Past Pres. Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)
Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)
Director Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (Ret)
Director: Doug Markham, CPT, USN (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.



APRIL 4th MEETING

Danberry at Inverness
235 Inverness Center Drive
Birmingham, Al 35242
205-443-9500
Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Menu: Hamburger Steak and gravy
Mac and Cheese
Green Beans
Cold Slaw
Yeast Rolls
Peanut Butter Pie
\$25.00

Reservations are due by NOON Monday, Apr 1st

Preferred method:

RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:
<https://www.moaabirmingham.org/rsvp-monthly-meeting-dinner/>

or alternate method:

Call/email Donna at 205-876-6274 or donnamaemartin@aol.com

SPEAKER: Niki Sepsas

Twelve Hands and a Flag: The Raising of the Stars and Stripes Over Iwo Jima.

Photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped a photo of six men raising a flag on the summit of Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945, on the island of Iwo Jima in one of the bloodiest fights in the Pacific during World War II. The iconic image has become the very symbol of the United States Marine Corps. This presentation chronicles how the six men had been misidentified an astonishing **three** times before the Commandant of the Marine Corps finally set the record straight in 2020 on the identity of those six men.

RECRUITER'S CORNER

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>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A woman and her grandmother, a very forgiving and religious soul, were sitting on their porch discussing a member of their family. **"He's just no good,"** the young woman said. **"He's completely untrustworthy, not to mention lazy."**

"Yes, he's bad," the grandmother said as she rocked back and forth in her rocker, **but God loves him."**

"I'm not so sure of that," the younger woman persisted.

"Oh, yes," assured the elderly lady. **"God loves him."** She rocked and thought for a few minutes and then added, **"Of course God doesn't know him like we do..."**

As God's children, having realized our sin and confessed it to God, **we** are forgiven of all that **we have done**. God does not know us **as we were** but rather **as we are --- His forgiven children. We can give thanks for His Love and Forgiveness!**

Blessings,

Chaplain Dan Phifer

U.S. Army Retired

MOAA speakers for 2024:

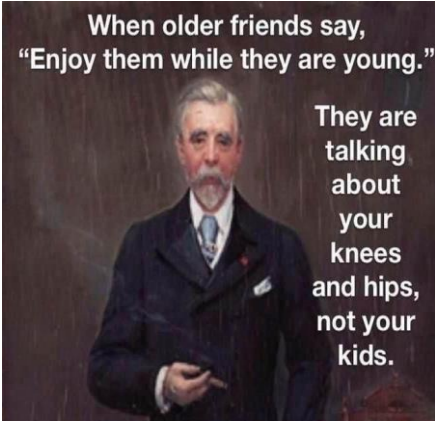
- **May 2** – Spouse appreciation – Speaker: Eloise Whritenour, Topic: Everplans
- **June 6** – Annual picnic, no speaker – Veteran's Park on Valleydale Rd.
- **July, August** – Lunch meetings, BYO, no speaker. Locations TBD.
- **September 5** – TBD
- **October 3** – TBD
- **November 7** – TBD. Possible National MOAA site visit.
- **December 5** – TBD. Holiday program. Tentative, Ray Reach, vocalist/pianist.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

No report this month

When older friends say,
"Enjoy them while they are young."



They are
talking
about
your
knees
and hips,
not your
kids.

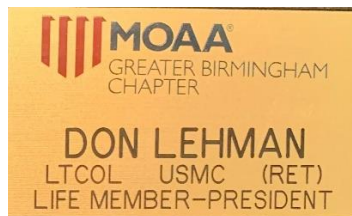
Some things are better
left unsaid.

Which I usually
don't realize until
after I've said them.



MOAA Nametag order soon:

We will be putting in a nametag order soon. The cost will be about \$16 each. If you would like one, please email me at don.lehman1@gmail.com. Life member tags are gold colored, non-life members white. Don



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 left with your phone:

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



"No mail, low morale"

Who doesn't like to get a card in the mail? When it's our birthday or special holiday, like Christmas, we are happy to be remembered. What about getting a card for no special occasion? That indeed can lift our spirits! I want to share with you an article I read in the DAV magazine, January/February 2024 edition, entitled, "No Mail, Low Morale". The article talks about an all-female US Army unit during WWII called the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight". They were shipped to Birmingham, England with one clear mission: "Sort and deliver years of backlogged mail intended for US troops, government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the European theater." The mail was two to three years old, meaning our soldiers had not heard from their loved ones at home in a very long time. Imagine how poor their morale must have been!

The dedication of this female unit had helped to connect our US troops to the home front. Battalion Six Triple Eight received recognition in 2018 when a monument in their honor was unveiled at Buffalo Soldier Military Park in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 2022 legislation awarded the unit the Congressional Gold Medal.

This inspiring article made me think of our MOAA GBC Ladies Committee.

I want to thank our committee, a group of eight, who reach out to our 44 surviving spouses monthly. It isn't always a card in the mail; it might be a phone call, a text, or an email message. Whatever means of communication is used, the purpose is the same. We want to boost the morale of our surviving spouses and remind them they are not forgotten.

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Phifer,
Surviving Spouses Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Hendricks	3
Barbara Bess	5
Frank Smith	19
Ed Clark	20
Terry Richmond	24
Chuck Bailey	28

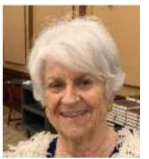
MOAA on-line photo directory

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.



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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!

