



Baby it's cold outside!

Here we are in the new year, and it looks like we're in for some cold weather for a few days anyway. Hopefully it passes quickly and we can look forward to spring weather soon. Still beats being up north though; talked to my daughter in KC today and it's below zero there until Tuesday!

We had a great January meeting with Col Chris Moulton and several of his JROTC cadets from Hoover HS. We were all thoroughly impressed with the program that they offer to young adults and the challenges they have faced and overcome. We have another super speaker lined up for February, **Col Thomas (Jay) Skinner, IV**, who currently serves as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Alabama Army National Guard. His topic will be **"An update on Alabama National Guard activities and the cooperation programs with European Allies, like Romania"**.

A calendar for other planned speakers and events is included herein, plus available on our website at:

<https://www.moaabirmingham.org/calendar/2024-02/>.

I'm pleased to report that our Birmingham MOAA chapter state of the union is in great shape. In past years, we have had an annual business meeting in January, but the Directors have elected to forego that meeting indefinitely. Instead of boring members with details from a PowerPoint presentation, we will now provide the annual report (finances, membership, etc.) via an email blast to members sometime in the month of February.

The remaining delinquent chapter dues members will receive a phone call soon. We appreciate everyone's support, so please consider renewing your membership if you are one of the above. Thank you in advance.

Happy Valentine's Day to all and hoping to see you soon! Take care.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



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 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.

FEBRUARY 1 MEETING

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

Menu

Meatloaf
Garlic mashed potatoes.
Glazed carrots.
Tossed salad.
Rolls
Cherry cobbler

\$25.00

NOTE CHANGE: Reservations must be made by noon Monday, January 29, 2024, with Don Lehman at don.lehman1@gmail.com or 404-441-3882

SPEAKER

Col Thomas (Jay) Skinner, ANG.

Topic: Update on Alabama Army National Guard activities and the cooperation programs with European Allies, like Romania.

Col Skinner's Biography

Col. Thomas "Jay" Skinner is a 1990 graduate of the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Commerce and Business Administration with a Major in Real Estate and a 1993 graduate of Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. Col. Skinner began his legal practice with a mid-sized Birmingham firm before founding the Law Offices of Thomas J. Skinner, IV, LLC, with offices in Birmingham and Valley Head, Alabama. Col. Skinner currently serves as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Alabama Army National Guard, where he oversees all legal matters for the command. Col. Skinner is also the CBRN liaison officer with the Alabama National Guard's State Partnership Program partner nation of Romania. Col. Skinner's prior assignments include Command Judge Advocate of the 31st CBRN Brigade, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate and Chief of Military Justice of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, Command Judge Advocate of the 142nd Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, and Senior Defense Counsel for the Alabama Army National Guard. In 2013, Col. Skinner deployed to Southwest Asia where he served in Kuwait and Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Col. Skinner recently completed a two-year term as President of the National Guard Association of Alabama, and he is currently attending the U.S. Army War College and is expected to graduate in the Summer of 2024 with a master's degree in strategic studies. Col. Skinner is a resident of Mountain Brook, Alabama, but he also spends a great amount of time at his family's home in Mentone, Alabama.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
LADIE'S LUNCHEON
MARCH 20, 2024**

(More information to follow)

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

Anger can cause us to do some dumb things. Several years ago, Bill of Mt Clemons, Michigan, wrote to Reader's Digest to tell about a memorable argument he had with his wife. It was well under way as they left a party one evening. Once they were in the car, words were flying. The area they were driving through was one of those crime-filled sections of town, so they stopped arguing long enough to lock their doors. Then they started again.

His wife had really worked up a steam, and after a few choice words from him, she shouted, *"Stop the car and let me out!"*

Bill pulled over to the curb. His wife unlocked the door and got out, but then looked around and got back in again.

Looking a little sheepish she said, *"Take me to a better neighborhood."*

That broke them both up – and the argument too. Anger can cause us to do some dumb things.

Question for the day: *"How would you like to be married to you?"*

Blessings,

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-US Army- Ret)

MOAA speakers for 2024:

- **February 1** – Col Tomas (Jay) Skinner, ANG. Topic: Update on Alabama National Guard activities and the cooperation programs with European Allies, like Romania.
- **March 7** – Tim Nagy, retired UAB, amateur sports car racer. Topic: TBD; Sports car racing at Barber Sports or medical.
- **April 4** – Niki Sepsas, history/travel lecturer. Topic TBD.
- **May 2** – Spouse appreciation – Speaker/venue TBD.
- **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

JANUARY MEETING

Shirley Ferrick drawing
for Wes Cox



Col. Moulton and ROTC cadets. President Don Lehman



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



Hello dear friends,

I have recently moved and downsized, and I am still finding unusual things in the saved boxes. I have found a church newsletter dated January 1984. I was curious why I saved it. Looking through the newsletter, I found a poem which I want to share. The newsletter is entitled, "Lutheran Layman". The poem does not list an author.

It is entitled, "Sometimes....".

Sometimes I remember the pain.

Sometimes just a tear falls.

Sometimes an unexpected flood of tears wells up from deep down inside.

Sometimes I remember feeling so alone.

But mostly I remember new growth.

Sometimes I remember thinking, "Why me?"

Sometimes for unknown reasons I feel unexpected sadness.

Sometimes a certain piece of furniture or familiar place reminds me.

Sometimes I wonder if I'm the only person who feels like this.

But mostly I remember new friends and their love.

Sometimes I remember a million eyes judging me

Sometimes I remember feeling such a failure.

Sometimes I can't forgive myself and

Sometimes I wonder what God really thinks of me.

But usually I remember that He has forgiven me and has forgotten my sins.

Sometimes I try to tell others how I feel and I choke up.

Sometimes I want to shout to everyone, "Don't make my mistakes."

Sometimes I try to forget.

Sometimes I do.

But mostly I remember God makes me new in Christ each day.

Sometimes I remember anger and resentment.

Sometimes I remember wondering if I'd ever trust again.

Sometimes I remember wanting to turn off my feelings.

Sometimes I remember feeling like I just wanted to give up.

But mostly I praise God for giving me a new life:

for my beautiful family,

for my many friends who love me,

for giving me a purpose on earth,

for the promise of eternal life with Him.

Sometimes I remember----just sometimes.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Phifer

Surviving Spouses Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Herbert Osborne	1
Betsy Frazer	5
Victor Bey	15
Woody Cox	16
Carol Beall	18
John Tingley	23
Donna Wall	24
John Jeans	27
Nancy Barefield	

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: donnaemaartin@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)



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.

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.



(Left blank intentionally)



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!

