



We halfway thru the hot summer!

I trust that everyone is making it through the hot summer and able to find some needed relief. We just returned from Highlands, NC; highly recommended to enjoy daytime temperatures in the mid-70's and 60 degrees at night! We just had to return here too soon.

We had a nice turnout for our July luncheon social meeting at the First Watch Restaurant and will do it again on **Thursday, August 1st**, same place, same time. The food and service were excellent, and everyone had a great time catching up. More info herein; no RSVP required, just show up and have a good time.

Please plan ahead and mark your calendars for our first back to Danberry meeting on **September 5th**, when we go back to having buffet dinners and guest speakers. We are kicking off the season with a visit from MOAA National officer, Col Theodore J. Janosko, USA (Ret), Council & Chapter Affairs Committee Chair. More information and a bio on Col Janosko will be included in the September newsletter. It's very important that we have a good turnout, plus it's always great to hear about MOAA from the horse's mouth. So please plan to attend if at all possible, it should be very informative and your chance to ask difficult questions.

National MOAA has completely revamped their website, it is much more user friendly, and I encourage all to check it out at <https://www.moaa.org/>. There is a lot of good information on it and they update it frequently, so be sure to go to it often. National is also in the midst of transitioning to a new non-profit management software system which has been a real challenge; the Committee Module (CM), which manages and helps track our chapter membership has been off-line for several months now. The good news is though, that the new CM has been released to several chapters for beta testing, so they are almost there! It has been a hardship without access to it and we are looking forward to the new system being available soon.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and come join us at the August lunch meeting. See you all soon!

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia

Volume 124 Issue 8 August 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)
Director: Mark Rubino, LCDR, 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.

AUGUST 1 MEETING

1100 – Social Period

1130 – Lunch

Location:

First Watch

5479 Hwy 280 South, Suite 128,

Birmingham, AL 35242

Speaker:

None

Menu:

Order off First Watch Menu

Price: Pay for your own



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.

To join or renew, please complete the application below or join/renew online at: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/membershipnew>.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I remember a story from the Olympics a few years ago. *Always there are tragedies and triumphs!* Usually there is a distinction between the two. In the 400-meter race, the distinction became blurred. At the start of the race Englishman Derek Redmond popped his right hamstring. This is a severe and excruciating injury that ends most runner's chances of finishing the race. BUT not Dereck Redmond! He got back up and started hopping towards the finish line. The other runners had all finished the race in a matter of seconds. Redmond, in tears, slowly and laboriously kept hopping. It looked as if he would fall at any moment!

Suddenly, a man appeared beside Derek. His father had run down from the stands and pushed his way through the security guards to reach his son. Derek's father put his arm around his son and let him cry on his shoulder for a second. Then, with his father holding him up, Derek hobbled to the finish line and finished the race.

There is a word of HOPE for you and me. We have a Father who comes out of the stands and carries us over the finish line. God loves and cares for us and will carry us through everything, even the tears of this life.

Blessings,

Chaplain Dan Phifer
U.S. Army Retired

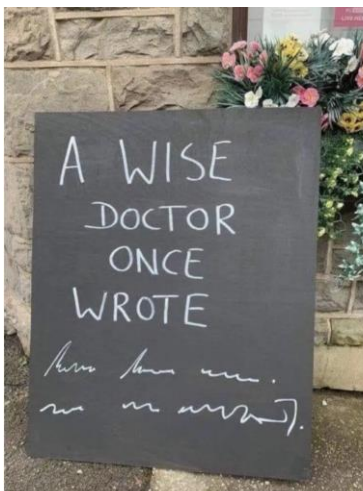
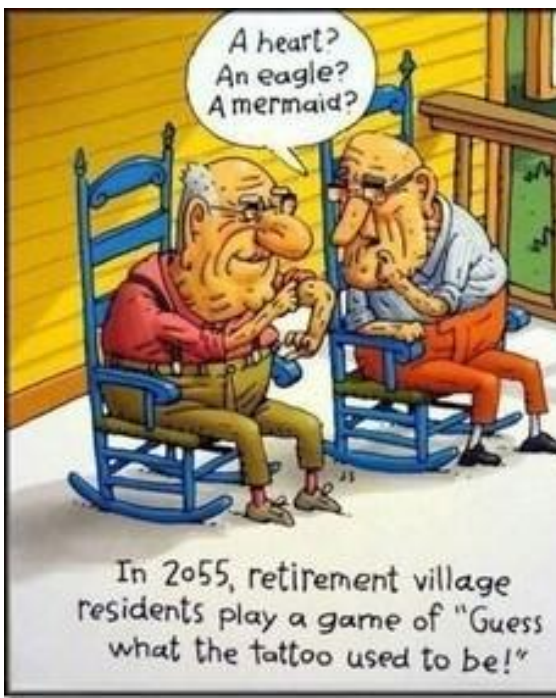
MOAA speakers for 2024:

- **September 5** – MOAA National Officer, Col Theodore J. Janosko, USA (Ret), Council & Chapter Affairs Committee Chair
- **October 3** – TBD
- **November 7** – TBD.
- **December 5** – Holiday program. Ray Reach, vocalist/pianist.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

No report this month



Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

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 everyone,

All of our surviving spouses have endured many military moves during our spouses' assignment changes. As a surviving spouse, many stories can be shared about times when trying to get employment when another move was apparent.

In the July 2024 MOAA magazine, the article, "Supporting Spouses" talks about the readiness impact of military spouse employment. It shares stories of military spouses having difficulty in employment when change-of-station orders are received. Hidden barriers and inequities in spouse employment become apparent.

Spouse Maria Donnelly shared, "I Lost my Identity; I Felt Like I Wasn't Contributing to Our Family." There seemed to be a hesitancy in hiring spouses. The word, "Dependent" often conveyed undereducated or inexperienced. Frequent military moves are intended to rotate talent, advance leadership and improve skills for the soldier. This concept should apply to the military spouse as well. It is nearly impossible to get ahead when one is always starting over. One thing is certainly true, military spouses are resourceful!

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Phiher
MOAA GBC
Surviving Spouses Liaison

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July:

Mac Chandler	1
J.R. Bass	5
Don Lehman	10
Dan Phifer	11
Mary Jensen	12
James Oliver	15
Dale Murray	16
Jeff Bast	17
Jerri Barnhill	23
Arren Goodwin	27
Donna Martin	29



August:

Bucky Wood	2
Steve Coleman	7
Paul Pocopanni	8
Tracy Mullins	9
Sam Sparks	12
Shirley Palme	13
Jack Natter	14
Lynn Hendricks	17
David Burford	18
Rose Marie Ritz	20
George Meighen	20
Laurie Berenotto	25
Ginger Branson	26
Sam Killian	28
Tony Berenotto	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)



The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. In the upper left corner, there is a smaller, more detailed inset of the flag's star field. Centered in the middle of the image is a black rectangular box with a thin white border. Inside this box, the words "Thank You Veterans" are written in a white, hand-painted, chalk-like font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Thank You" on the top line and "Veterans" on the bottom line.

Thank You
Veterans



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!



Meeting August 1, 2024