



### Time for a picnic!

We will meet at Veterans Park on Valleydale Rd. Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> for our annual picnic. Time is 4:30 p.m. until and will be catered BBQ. See the RSVP link herein and look forward to seeing you there! Our May spouse appreciation meeting was special, and we recognized Margie Argo as our spouse of the year. Congratulations to Margie! Also, a big thank you to Lynn Phifer and her ladies committee for making it all happen. Some photos included herein.

We also had a Zoom/Webex presentation by Eloise Whritenour on Everplans; it was very interesting, and the link below provides more information on what they do; a solution for organizing, storing, and sharing your vital documents and information. As MOAA members, we get a good discount on their rates.

<https://www.moaa.org/everplans>

May has been busy; I hope that all the moms enjoyed their Mother's Day and that the May graduations have been a success. The brick dedication ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park took place on May 19<sup>th</sup> and we had 3 MOAA members once again assisting, Donna Martin, Mark Melanson and Deb Parker. Thank you all for helping! And of course, Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> with many remembrance ceremonies taking place around Birmingham.

I would like to welcome Mark Rubino, a GBC MOAA past president, who has agreed to come onto our board. And now that he is retired, we hope to see more of him around too.

Our summer meeting schedule will be informal with the June 6<sup>th</sup> picnic, then lunch meetings on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>; locations for July and August yet to be determined. I trust that all are having a great start to the summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,  
Don & Patricia

Volume 124 Issue 6 June 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](mailto:newsletter@moaabirmingham.org).

## **JUNE 6 MEETING**

Veteran's Park, Valleydale Road

Main pavilion - 4:30 until ???

No speaker, just good conversation & Full Moon BBQ

### **Menu:**

Pulled pork/pulled chicken.

2 sides, iced tea

& a half-moon cookie

**\$20 each**

**Reservations are due by NOON Monday, June 3, 2024**

### **Preferred method:**

RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:

<https://june-2024-reservations.cheddarup.com>

### **or alternate method:**

Call/email Donna at 205-876-6274 or [donnamaemartin@aol.com](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com)



Don Lehman at Oak Mountain High School speaking to 400 juniors about his military career, experiences, and Vietnam



## 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. Note: the MOAA National online join/renew computer system is being upgraded and will be unavailable until sometime in May.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Years ago, when the Military Services wanted to recruit young men and women to be soldiers, they didn't have fancy TV commercials. All they had was a POSTER. On it was a drawing of a man with a tall hat, a goatee, and a finger pointed outward with these words underneath: "*Uncle Sam Wants You!*" That meant that the United States government wanted you to be a soldier. How did **Uncle Sam** become a symbol for the United States?

There was once a man in Massachusetts named Samuel Wilson who was around when Paul Revere made his famous ride to warn the American people that the British were coming. Later Sam Wilson worked for the government stamping the letters "U.S." on barrels of beef. Since those initials had not previously been used to stand for "United States," the townspeople assumed they meant "Uncle Sam." And before long, Uncle Sam had acquired a goatee and a tall hat, and people around the world thought of him as a symbol for the United States of America. On June 14, 1775, the U.S. Army was founded when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of "*expert riflemen*" to serve the United Colonies for one year.

May God continue to bless our nation and those who serve in all the military services.

Blessings,

**Chaplain Dan Phifer**  
**U.S. Army Retired**

### MOAA speakers for 2024:

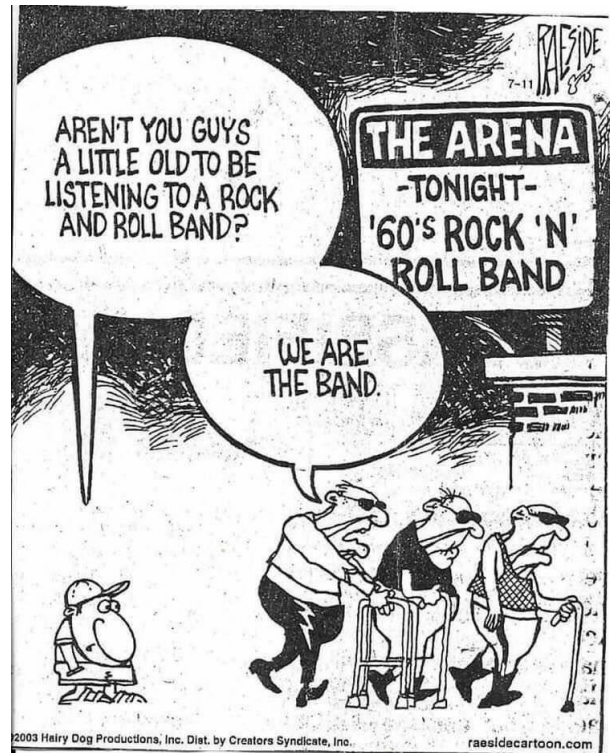
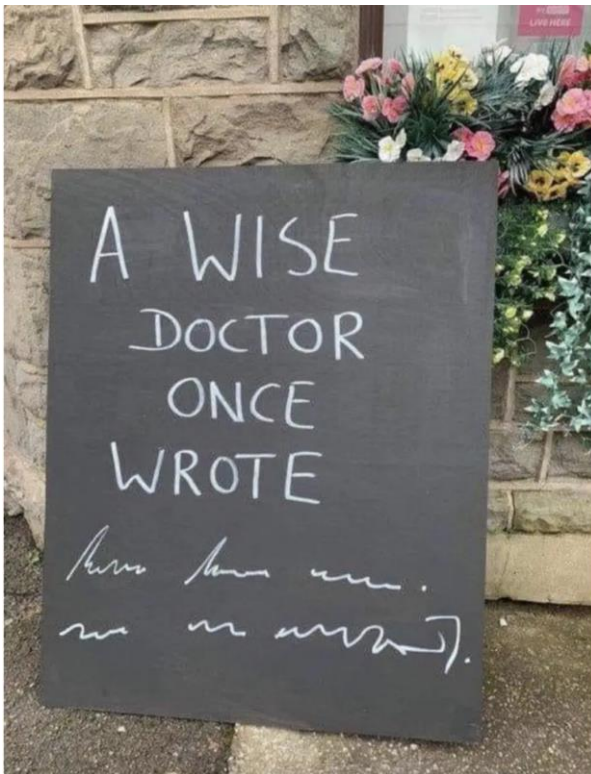
- **July, August** – Lunch meetings, BYO, no speaker. Locations TBD.
- **September 5** – TBD
- **October 3** – TBD
- **November 7** – TBD. Possible National MOAA site visit.
- **December 5** – TBD. Holiday program. Tentative, Ray Reach, vocalist/pianist.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

No report this month



## Legislative Action Center



Four ways to get there:

**Direct link:** [MOAA.quorum.us](http://MOAA.quorum.us)

**Text** "MOAA" to 1-855-547-6921

**Go to:** [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org) > Advocacy > Legislative Action Center

**Or scan** the QR code to the left with your phone:



## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

May was Spouse Appreciation Month. All lady spouses were recognized at our May meeting and given a bracelet called "Honor Flight". The bracelet has 14 tiles representing the 14 wars our military have participated in. We reminisced about times our husband was deployed leaving us to raise the children alone, spending a holiday without him, or waving goodbye as he leaves for a place unknown.

A while back, we had selected a spouse to receive the Spouse Excellence Award; she is Margie J. Argo. In case you missed the May meeting, I want to share with you Margie's biography: "Margie was born and raised in South Louisiana. She obtained a BS degree in Food and Nutrition from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette in 1968 and a MS degree from LSU in Baton Rouge in 1970. In 1982, Margie was commissioned as a 1 LT in the AL Army National Guard assigned to the 109th Evac Hospital in Birmingham as a Hospital Dietitian/Weight Control Officer. During this assignment, she received her appointment to CPT. In 1998 she was transferred to the 167th SPT CMD to serve as Subsistence and Weight Control Officer. While in this assignment, she was promoted to MAJ. In 2001 Margie was transferred to the USAR 75th Combat Support Hospital in Tuscaloosa with a promotion to LTC. In this position she served as a Hospital Dietitian and supervised food service personnel in various base and field hospitals. Margie retired in March 2005 with a combined total of 23 years of service. In civilian life Margie worked in various areas of Nutrition and Food service. Her longest held position was with Jefferson County Health Department in Birmingham. She worked as a Public Health Nutritionist from 1982 to 2003. Margie remains active as a member of MOAA, MOAA Ladies and JCDH Retirees. As often as they can, Margie and her husband Jerry take off to visit the "Grands" in Montana and Maryland."

As you can see, Margie truly deserves this recognition. Not only is she a military spouse, but she, too, has served in the military for 23 years.

Margie was presented with a framed picture of herself and her husband with an attached plaque reading, "Spouse Excellence Award". In the picture, her husband is wearing a T-shirt that reads, "My wife is super awesome." How appropriate!!

If you are a spouse and missed the May meeting, please reach out to me for a bracelet.

I want to welcome our newest caller, Dottie Garner, to our ladies committee. The callers reach out monthly to our surviving spouses, assuring them they are not forgotten. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Lynn M. Phifer  
Surviving Spouses Liaison



## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Donald Brooks	1
JD Crawford	6
Helen Green	8
Frank Palme	10
Pat Singletary	10
George Lord	11
David Hicks	15
Joel Maxwell	18
Harb Moore	19

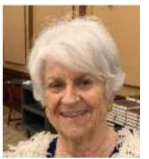
### MOAA on-line photo directory

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](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com).



**Killian, III, Sam P.**  
4545 Magnolia Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Email: [spkiii@bellsouth.net](mailto:spkiii@bellsouth.net)  
Spouse: Martha T. Killian  
[marthak36@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com)  
Spouse: Patricia A. Lehman  
[islandmomma1@gmail.com](mailto: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.





**MAY MEETING  
SPOUSE APPRECIATION**

Margie Argo and Lynn Phifer



Giving Margie a picture of her and her husband Jerry



**Surviving Spouse Committee**

L to R: Dottie Garner, Margie Argo, Donna Martin, Cynthia Cox, Anne Hartline and Lynn Phifer. Not pictured: Jerri Barnhill, Linda DeMarco and Heidi Mueninghoff.







## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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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

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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 June 6,  
4:30 - ???  
Veteran's Park,  
Valleydale Road  
Main Pavilion