



It is a great time to be a member of MOAA, and with our upcoming State convention in August here in Birmingham, it will be a very busy time too, along with our usual summer events.

I hope the April presentation about the very first Antarctic Expedition to “winter-over”, or the spending of the terribly cold and dark winter down in the Antarctic, back in 1897-1899, was of interest to our chapter. This was the Belgian scientific expedition of Captain de Guerlache, who commanded the ship called the Belgica. The second engineer aboard was my maternal great-grandfather, and I am forever grateful that he made it out of the grip of the Antarctic ice.

We would like to remind our members that the 1 May 25 meeting is the Spouse Appreciation dinner! Bring your “better half” to celebrate.

Thanks to everyone in our chapter for helping make the Birmingham MOAA Chapter a place where all our fellow Officers and spouses feel welcome, and can share comradeship and fellowship.

With your invaluable help, I hope to continue growing our chapter, and making us proud to be part of something bigger than each of us as individuals, an organization such as the Military Officers Association of America, which strives to support and defend our hard earned benefits, such as Tricare for Life (TFL) and Veteran’s benefits. Feel free to reach out with any ideas and suggested Speakers, topics of interest, or simply things that matter to you.

Thanks for being a member of our Birmingham MOAA Chapter! Stay safe out there!

Harold A. Coghlan  
CW4, U.S. Army (Ret)

Volume 127 Issue 5

May 2025

## Officers’ Call

*President:* Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)

*1st VP:* vacant

*2nd VP:* vacant

*Secretary:* Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)

*Treasurer:* Donna Martin

*Membership/*

*Past Pres:* Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

*Director:* Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)

*Director:* Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (Ret)

*Director:* Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)

*Director:* James Oliver LTC, USA (Ret)

*Chaplain:* Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)

*Legislative*

*Affairs:* Mark Rubino, LDCR, USN (Ret)

*Personal*

*Affairs:* Anne Hartline

*Surviving*

*Spouse* Lynn Phifer

*Liaison*

*Newsletter:* Jimmy Langley, 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).



Website

## May 1, 2025 MEETING

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

### MENU

**Chicken Alfredo with Penne Pasta**  
**Country Style Green Beans**  
**Baby Glazed Carrots**  
**Rolls and Butter**  
**Assorted Cookies and Brownies**

**Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.**  
**Reservations must be made by noon Monday, April 28, 2025.**

**Preferred method:**  
**RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:**  
**(AND NOW YOU DO NOT PAY ANY CREDIT CARD FEES!)**

<https://may-1-2025-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com>

### or alternate method:

**Email / call Donna Martin at [contact@moaabirmingham.org](mailto:contact@moaabirmingham.org) or 205-876-6274.**

### Speaker for Ladies Night



### **"Aging Safely in Place"**

**Lt. Christine Shores, Chaba Valley Fire and EMR (Emergency Medical Response)**

Lt. Shores, a graduate of the University of Montevallo, currently serves as the Community Risk and Reduction Officer and acting Lieutenant on B-shift at the Mt. Laurel Station. She also has a part-time job with Shelby County 911 and holds the position of Fire Dispatcher.

Her college summer job at the YMCA evolved into a 23 year career as a Childcare Director. In 2004 she began volunteering for the Cahaba Valley Fire District and completed Recruit School in 2006. During this time she continued working at the YMCA as the Day Camp Director at YMCA Hargis Retreat and worked part time with the fire department. In 2019, she was hired full time, and in 2021, when Hargis was sold, she was promoted to Lieutenant in the fire department.

She is the youngest of three children, and her two brothers both served in the military. The oldest brother is a retired Air Force Colonel, and her younger brother served four years in the Air Force. She lives in Chelsea with her two cats and often visits her mother who lives in Hoover.

## 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://www.moaabirmingham.org/membership/>

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

May is a great month when we can remember those special people who have made our lives filled with warm and thankful feelings.

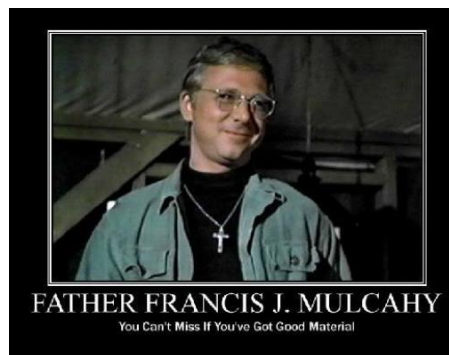
First, we remember our mothers with special thanksgiving. They are the ones who gave us birth into this world with so many challenges and opportunities to grow into the talented adults we become. The American version of "Mother's Day" began in 1907 at the initiative of Anna Jarvis. She organized the first Mother's Day Service and celebration at a church in West Virginia. This year we shall celebrate Mother's Day on May 11. If the "Mother" in your life is present in this life *or rest from her labors in life everlasting*, it is an opportunity to remember and give thanks to God for her special care of you and your children.

Later in May we shall honor in our memory those who gave their lives in service to our great country. Look out for announcements about special opportunities around Memorial Day. Our Veterans Cemetery will have special remembrance opportunities we can attend.

Blessings,

**Dan Phifer**

**Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army**





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

### MOAA: Key to Efficiency Efforts Is Not Breaking Faith With Troops, Veterans



Photo by Markus Rauchenberger/Army

By MOAA Staff

MOAA outlined several key areas of concern “to our members and our nation” amid ongoing government efficiency work, pledging to use “all available resources” to ensure promises made to those who serve and have served, as well as their families and survivors, are kept.

Those top priorities, as outlined in a recent press release:

- **PROTECT** the value of service-earned health benefits from new TRICARE fees, disproportionate TRICARE cost-share increases, or barriers to accessing care in the Military Health System or through the VA.
- **PRESERVE** the pay earned by those in uniform, including scheduled pay increases and established concurrent receipt provisions and eligibility.
- **PREVENT** burdensome delays in VA claims processing and/or reduction of earned VA benefits.
- **DEFEND** the veterans and military spouses who continue their service in the federal government — and other federal employees who serve veterans.

MOAA called the work to find efficiencies in government “not only appropriate, but necessary” given mounting debt and other fiscal challenges. However, “without thorough review and implementation, our nation risks breaking promise and faith with the wider military and veteran community — a risk that weakens our national defense for generations,” the release states.

MOAA outlined other avenues for “responsible defense budget reform”, in a previous statement including greater efficiency in program management and acquisition, along with an overall budget strategy designed to limit “hasty cuts” in favor of long-term stability.

## Legislative Action



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:



## Hello GBC Ladies!

May is Ladies month for MOAA GBC!

Our speaker will be Lt. Christine Shores. Christine has been working with the Chelsea Fire Department for years and is very well qualified to speak with us about preparing for our older years and today .... ways to prepare our homes for safety!

So, Ladies this is the meeting to attend and bring your soldier and to become more informed! Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Make reservations on link on pg. 1 or call Donna Martin [205-876-6274](tel:205-876-6274)

Cynthia Cox



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## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Musgrove	3
Peter Poerschke	6
Kris Crawford	9
Trish Coghlan	18
Bonnie Westbrook	19
Dick Ritz	22
Susan Hamel	28
Tom Fickling	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](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com).

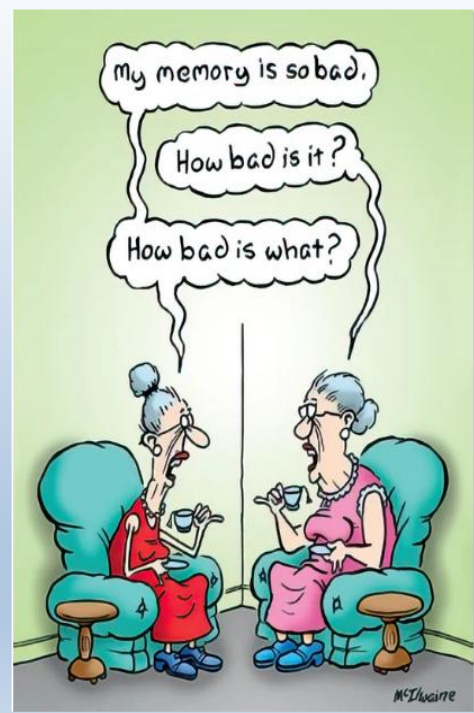
	<b>Killian, III, Sam P.</b>	USN Ret CDR Life	
	4545 Magnolia Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: <a href="mailto:spkiii@bellsouth.net">spkiii@bellsouth.net</a> Spouse: <i>Martha T. Killian</i> <i>marthak36@gmail.com</i>	205-408-7721 (h) 205-903-6638 (c) BD: 8/28 BD: 11/10	
	<b>Lehman, Donald D. (Don)</b>	USMC Ret LTCOL Life	
	1204 Greystone Parc Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: <a href="mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com">don.lehman1@gmail.com</a> Spouse: <i>Patricia A. Lehman</i> <i>islandmomma1@gmail.com</i>	404-441-3882 (c) BD: 7/10 BD: 11/20 404-725-7152 (c)	

### MOAA program & speakers for remainder of 2025:

Also available on our website at <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/meeting-dates/>

- May 1 – Annual spouses appreciation meeting. Speaker “Aging Safely in Place” Lt. Christine Shores
- June 5 – Annual chapter picnic, Veterans Park on Valleydale Rd
- July 10 – Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 7 – Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 22-24 – MOAA Alabama Council of Chapters State meeting, Birmingham, hosted by GBC Birmingham
- September 4 – No meeting in September
- October 2 – Speaker/topic TBD
- November 6 – Speaker/topic TBD
- December 4 – Speaker/topic TBD







## 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 May 1, 2025