



It is a great time to be a member of MOAA! Besides having a very Hot Summer, 2025 will be a very busy time too, along with our usual summer events.

I hope you all enjoyed the July Lunch at First Watch restaurant on Hwy 280. As usual, they had good salads, sandwiches, and an all-day breakfast menu to choose from!

For August 2025, remember we will again meet, not at Danberry, but at **"First Watch restaurant"** on Hwy 280 across from Lee Branch shopping center (5479 US-280 W, Suite 128). The date is Thursday, 7 AUG 25 at 1100 hrs. , so please mark your calendar.

Our menu for the chapter meeting and lunch in August is: whatever delicious thing you like off the menu and order to eat. I personally enjoyed their offering of ½ of a sandwich and ½ of a salad!

Thanks to everyone in our chapter for helping make the Birmingham MOAA Chapter a place where all of our fellow Officers and spouses feel welcome and can share comradeship and fellowship. By the way, it's not too early to start planning for the National Veteran's Day dinner in November, see info inside.

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)

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)
Board: 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.



AUGUST 7, 2025 MEETING

Location -
First Watch on Hwy 280

11:00

Lunch at your own expense

Reservations requested by noon Monday, August 4, 2025.

We need reservations to reserve TABLES, NO MONEY

<https://august-2025-lunch-reservation.cheddarup.com/>

or alternate method:

Email / call Donna Martin at contact@moaabirmingham.org or 205-876-6274.



Old folks are worth a fortune,
with silver in their hair,
gold in their teeth,
stones in their kidneys,
lead in their feet and
gas in their stomachs.

Grandma: I have become a lot more social
with the passing of the years,
some might even call me a frivolous old gal.
I'm seeing five gentlemen every day!

As soon as I wake, Will Power
helps me get out of bed.
Then I go see John.
Then Charley Horse comes along,

and when he is here, he takes a lot
of my time and attention!

When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows
up and stays the rest of the day.
He doesn't like to stay in one place very
long,
so he takes me from joint to joint!

After such a busy day,
I'm really tired and glad to go to bed,
with Ben Gay!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day.
He said that at my age I should be
thinking about the here-after.

I told him I do, all the time.
No matter where I am,
in the kitchen or down in the basement,
I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

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

Two sisters spent the day fighting! That evening they prepared for bed, still mad at each other! As usual, they knelt by the side of their beds for nightly prayers. "Dear God," the eight year old began, "Bless mommy and Daddy, bless the cat and the dog." Then she stopped. Her mother gently prodded, "Didn't you forget somebody?" She glared across the bed at her six year old sister and added, "And, oh yes, God bless my ex-sister."

Sometimes we wish it were that easy, don't we? But our brothers and sisters don't become ex's just because we are angry. We were created for relationships. Broken relationships tear at the very reason behind our existence.

Many people today struggle with forgiveness, and yet we cannot become the people God intends us to become until we are able to forgive the wrongs of others and seek reconciliation.

Blessings,

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Legislative Action Center

What the 'Megabill' Means for Servicemembers, Veterans, and Military Families ... and What's Next

By: Kevin Lilley,

July 09, 2025

When the House narrowly passed the Senate version of the legislation July 3 without any changes, it ended the immediate threat to the "90-10 rule" – a critical protection for veteran education benefits that, if repealed, would've left student-veterans vulnerable to aggressive recruiting tactics from for-profit colleges. The House version would've replaced the rule with a new, untested system of protections, at the cost of \$1.6 billion over 10 years. MOAA worked with fellow advocacy groups and stakeholders to protect the current rule.

The new law includes \$150 billion in DoD funding, some of which addresses MOAA focus areas:

- **Better BAH:** \$2.9 billion in supplemental funds for the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), though details on how the funds will be spent remain unclear. MOAA has fought to restore BAH to 100% of projected housing costs.
- **Unaccompanied Housing:** \$1 billion for Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force housing, and more than \$230 million to support the Marine Corps Barracks 2030 program.
- **Health Care:** \$2 billion in additional funding for the Defense Health Program.
- **Child Care:** \$100 million in child care fee assistance, and another \$62 million to modernize staffing at DoD child care centers.
- **More Spouse and Family Support:** \$100 million for Impact Aid payments (designed to assist school districts with large DoD populations), and \$10 million for military spouse professional licensure.

With the megabill now law, Congress already has resumed work on the two more typical tracks that set agency budgets and agendas for the fiscal year – authorization and appropriation.

DoD: Separate from the megabill, DoD has requested nearly \$850 billion in funding for FY 2026. The House is expected to vote on its DoD appropriations bill, which allocates \$831.5 billion, in mid-July; the bill passed the House Appropriations Committee last month. The FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) should also make strides in July before lawmakers leave for summer recess in early August.

Legislative Action



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

The following article by Brenden McMahon MOAA's associate director, Government relations, stresses the importance of MOAA members to push for progress on key issues.

MOAA's advocacy is as strong as its members. By staying informed and participating in campaigns in our Legislative Action Center at www.moaa.org/takeaction, members amplify MOAA's voice on Capitol Hill.

Advocacy in Action is a critical opportunity for members to engage directly with lawmakers and push for progress on key issues.

Protecting benefits is not just MOAA's mission-it's a shared responsibility with its members. Together, this partnership ensures those who serve and their families continue to receive the support they have earned.

Cynthia Cox
Military Spouse
CBC MOAA

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

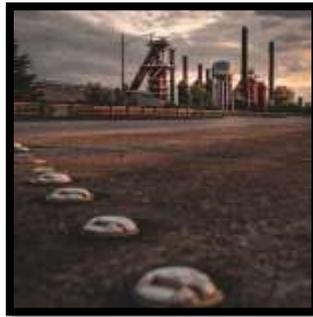


The Most Haunted Places in Alabama



Fort Morgan - Gulf Shores

Fort Morgan is a Third System masonry fort built between 1819 and 1833 and served a prominent role in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Spanish American War, World War I and World War II. Many believe the souls of those that perished there are still around. It's rumored that the ghosts wander the grounds of the fort at night. Visitors have reported hearing the voices and cries of men at night, hearing footsteps when no one is around and seeing ghostly apparitions wandering the halls. The most witnessed ghost is that of a young woman who was attacked in the fort. It's believed she roams the fort searching for justice with hopes of finding her attacker.



Sloss Furnace - Birmingham

Sloss Furnace is a national historic landmark that transformed coal and ore from surrounding areas into hard steel from 1882 to 1971. This facility not only paved the way for the industrial revolution, but it also quickly earned Birmingham the nickname of "The Magic City." However, the facility's rich history has also earned it the title of one of the most haunted places in the south. The urban legend begins with James "Slag" Wormwood, a foreman of the graveyard shift who, to impress his supervisors, would make his workers take dangerous risks, resulting in 47 workers losing their lives and countless others losing their ability to work during his reign. In 1906, it was alleged that Wormwood lost his footing at the top of the highest blast furnace and plummeted into a pool of melted iron ore. Slag was reportedly dizzy from the gases in the furnace, but many believe that the workers fed him to the furnace. After Slag's disappearance, many complained of an unnatural presence and claimed to have been approached by a man whose skin appeared badly burned and who angrily shouted commands at them.

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sam Sparks	12
Shirley Palme	13
Jack Natter	14
Lynn Hendricks	17
David Burford	18
Rose Marie Ritz	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 gave 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)



MOAA program & speakers:

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

- August 7 - Casual lunch, no program, BYO, First Watch on Hwy 280
- September 4 - No meeting in September
- October 22 - Ladies Luncheon at Hoover Country Club.

Save the Date – Veteran’s Day Activities

Monday, November 10, 2025, 5PM Reception - 6PM Dinner

Cost

Early Registration: April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 - \$75.00 per person.

Late Registration: October 1, 2025 - October 15, 2025 - \$100.00 per person.

Deadline: The deadline for ordering tickets is October 15, 2025.

<https://birminghamveteransdinner.swell.gives>

Where

Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd N, Birmingham, AL 35203





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 7, 2025