



It is a great time to be a member of MOAA! Besides being a very Hot Summer, 2025 has been a very busy time too, along with our usual end of summer and beginning of fall events.

I hope you all enjoyed the September meeting at the Danberry. We especially want to thank Wes Cox for always doing a superb job of ensuring we have a great catered meal!

For October 2025, remember we will again meet at Danberry. Date is Thursday, 2nd of October 2025, at 1800 hrs. for Social Hour. Our speaker will be Lt Col U.S. Air Force (Ret) Raymond E. Yielding (see bio inside).

Our Speaker for our November 6th, 2025, meeting will be Ms. Deanna Pack, the Alabama Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports.

And of course, our December 2025 meeting will have no speaker, since it is, as always, our Chapter's Christmas celebration meeting!

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.

By the way, it's not too early to start planning for the National veteran's day dinner in November (info inside)

With your invaluable help, we 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)
- Director:* Mark Rubino, LDCR, USN (Ret)
- Chaplain:* Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (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@moabirmingham.org



OCTOBER 2, 2025 MEETING

**Danberry at Inverness
235 Inverness Center Drive
Birmingham, Al 35242
205-443-9500**

Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

MENU

**Mama's fantastic Meatloaf
Whipped Potatoes with gravy
Green beans Almondine
Rolls and butter
Apple Cobbler**

**Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.
Reservations must be made by noon Monday, September 29**

**Preferred method: RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:
(NO CREDIT CARD FEES!)**

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

or alternate method:

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

SPEAKER: Raymond E. Yielding, Lt Col (ret) USAF, was born in 1949 and raised in Florence, AL. He is oldest of five siblings, is an Eagle Scout, and graduated from Coffee High School in the Class of 1967. He was an electrical engineering coop student at Auburn University and was commissioned a 2Lt in the USAF through ROTC in the Auburn University class of 1972. He earned a master's degree in management through Troy University. Ed attended pilot training at Williams AFB, AZ. He qualified and flew the RF-4, F-4E fighter, the SR-71, and the C-20 during his 23 years of active military service. After retiring from the USAF, Ed flew the DC-9, DC-10, and the 747-400 for Northwest Airlines, retiring in 2009 as a Delta pilot after the airlines merged.

In 1983, he was selected for the SR-71 at Beale AFB CA. He flew 93 SR-71 overseas reconnaissance missions and became an SR-71 instructor pilot and developmental test pilot. When the SR-71 fleet was retired in 1990, the Smithsonian Institution requested one for display and requested an official coast-to-coast aircraft speed record to call the public's attention to the retirement of the amazing SR-71 and to honor all the highly dedicated Americans who designed, maintained, supported, and flew the SR-71 during its 25 years of vital Cold War service. Departing California March 6, 1990, SR-71 tail 972, pilot Ed Yeilding, and RSO (Reconnaissance Systems Officer) JT Vida set that record, plus three city-to-city speed records. The four records still stand. Cruise speed was the flight manual limit, Mach 3.3, 2190 miles per hour, reaching an altitude that day of 83,000 feet, flying coast-to-coast in 67 minutes 54 seconds. That SR-71 is on display at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport west of Washington DC.

In 2007, he was added to the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham, in 2008 to the Walk of Honor near the Marriott Shoals Hotel in Florence AL, in 2011 named Distinguished Eagle Scout, in 2023 named Distinguished Auburn Engineer, and in 2024 received the Champions of Flight award. His military awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, four Air Medals, three Commendation Medals, six Outstanding Unit Awards, and four Combat Readiness Medals.

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

I was reading Dr. Chauncey Crandall's Heart Health Report and found some information we all could profit from reading! **Gratitude Decreases Mortality Risk!** That was enough to catch my interest! The effect of Psychological health on cardiovascular disease has long been underrated and ignored. Now we know that emotions such as anger, stress, and depression, as well as circumstances such as social isolation take a heavy toll on the heart. He said positive emotional factors can balance the negative impact; factors such as optimism, emotional vitality, life satisfaction, sense of purpose, and mindfulness will improve your heart health. I'm in favor of having a properly functioning and healthy heart! Bet you are also! Gratitude is one way we can Cultivate a healthy HEART!

Suggestions: Write down before sleep or when you wake up a few small things you are grateful for, such as a talk with a friend, an outdoor walk, a visit with your grandkids. Reread it when times seem tough.

Write a gratitude letter to someone you haven't seen in a while and tell them what their friendship means to you, why you appreciate them, and how knowing them has made a difference in your life.

Express Gratitude. Let others know you are grateful for them by giving compliments or praise for their kindness or other positive traits.

Volunteer. Being of service to others is a great way to ease loneliness, make new friends, and feel connected to your community.

Do an act of Kindness. Bake someone a cake or run an errand for them; if he or she is alone, drop by for a talk and offer some company.

Focus on the POSITIVE. Reflect on the positive aspects of your life to generate a more optimistic outlook.

Go to Church or your house of worship. There is nothing like going to church & thanking God for your blessings to foster overwhelming gratitude. Today is the perfect time to start; establish the habit and keep it all year long for better heart health!

Blessings,
Chaplain Dan Phifer
U.S. Army Retired

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Legislative Action Center

MOAA: Ending TRICARE For Life Weight-Loss Drug Coverage Sets Bad Precedent, Puts Patients' Progress at Risk By: Karen Ruedisueli August 26, 2025

MOAA is urging the Defense Health Agency and lawmakers to halt plans that would end coverage of GLP-1 weight loss drugs for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries in the coming days – plans which risk the progress made by patients taking these medications and cast doubt on the future of the TFL benefit.

TFL coverage of GLP-1 drugs that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat weight loss (Wegovy, Zepbound, Saxenda, Qsymia, Phentermine, or Contrave) is slated to end Aug. 31. Halting this policy change would provide time to assess the legislative and regulatory history governing TRICARE policy on weight loss medications and determine next steps to avert negative impacts to beneficiaries.

MOAA has collected considerable feedback from impacted patients, all of whom went through an extensive prior authorization and [step therapy](#) process to document comorbid conditions, lifestyle changes, and trials of alternative medications before meeting clinical criteria for approval. TRICARE does not cover these drugs for cosmetic purposes.

These MOAA members attribute notable improvements to high blood pressure, sleep apnea, elevated A1C (a pre-diabetes indicator), and other medical conditions to their GLP-1 medications. They are worried progress will be reversed if they can no longer access such drugs. A physician from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center also reached out to MOAA with concerns about the new policy and its impact on Walter Reed's military retiree patients. Members who are not directly impacted say the change represents a terrible precedent and could lead to further targeted cuts to TFL, the TRICARE benefit for Medicare-eligible military retirees. MOAA shares these concerns.

Please share your story through Legislative Action Center at the link below.

[Tell MOAA](#)

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:



**Greater Birmingham Chapter of
Military Officers Association of America**

**Ladies Luncheon
for
Surviving Spouses
Female Officers
Spouses of Living Members**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2025
10:30 am
Hoover Country Club
3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226**

Program: Fraud and Scams

**Speaker: Experienced in the topic
from a highly respected agency.**

MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits

**Contact for information
hartline.anne@gmail.com
Anne Hartline - 205-422-8885**

Cost: \$25 Reservation deadline: October 15, 2025

**To reserve and pay online use the following link:
<https://oct-11-2025-reserve-and-pay.cheddarup.com>**

**To reserve and pay by check:
Make check payable to: MOAA GBC
Mail to: Donna Martin
140 Courtside Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242**

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jack Vogt	1
Vicki Edwards	2
Charles Jager	8
Tim Jett	8
Bill Satterfield	9
Emma Vaiton	13
Margie Argo	16
Reuben Melton	27
Dorsey Ingram	31

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: donnaemartin@aol.com.

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

MOAA program & speakers for remainder of 2025:

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

- October - Raymond E. Yielding, Col USAF retired. Piloting the SR-71's last mission in 1999
- November - Ms. Deanna Pack, Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports
- December - Holiday program, songs and fun





Seventeenth Annual Wreaths Across America – 13 December 2025

Alabama National Cemetery - Montevallo, Alabama

The Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. (BSSFI) needs sponsors for our 17th Annual Wreaths Across America project -- a nationwide fundraising endeavor to provide a live Maine Balsam Wreath for each Veteran's grave each Christmas season. Wreaths sponsored by this BSSFI endeavor are for Veteran's graves in the Alabama National Cemetery (ALNC), located on HWY 119 in Montevallo. The 2025 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at 11AM on December 13, 2025 and is coordinated by the Support Committee of the Alabama National Cemetery. The cost to sponsor a wreath is \$17.00. In 2025, we will need approximately 11,500 wreaths for our Cemetery. All wreath sponsors as well as family members of those buried within ALNC are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.

To sponsor wreaths for the ALNC, please complete this form and return it with your payment, to BSSFI, PO Box 661, Chelsea AL 35043. Your checks or money orders must be made payable to BSSFI, for: Wreaths Across America. Wreath sponsorships are accepted throughout the year. Each sponsorship is tax deductible. For sponsorships of \$250 or more, a donation acknowledgment will be sent to the email address written down below. For more information or to donate online, please visit our website www.bluestarsalute.org and then click on "DONATE OR SPONSOR" and then "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA".

"IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF" RECOGNITION

This year, the names of your loved ones will be included in the Ceremony Program which will be viewable online and be available for downloading and printing. For the "In Honor/In Memory" names to be included in the Ceremony Program for 2025, forms must be received no later than November 30, 2025.

Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Form

Please print clearly

Name of Individual/Organizational Sponsor: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Sponsorship Amount (\$17 each): _____

In Honor of (living): _____

In Memory of (deceased): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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 OCTOBER 2, 2025