



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

I hope you all enjoyed the August Lunch at First Watch restaurant, and as usual they had good salads, sandwiches, and all-day breakfast menu items to choose!

For September we will again meet at the Danberry. The date is Thursday, September 4th, 2025, at 1800 hrs. for Social Hour. Our speaker will be U.S.C.G. (Res) Lt. Cdr., Dr. Brian Barsanti, Executive Director of the Southern Museum of Flight.

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.

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)
- 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.



SEPTEMBER 4, 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 Tetrazzini
Fresh Grilled Vegetables
Country Style Green Beans
Rolls and Butter
Peach Cobbler

**Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.
Reservations must be made by noon Monday, September 1, 2025.**

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

<https://september2025-reservation-and-payment-copy.cheddarup.com/>

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

**Save the Date
Ladies Luncheon
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 10:30 am
Hoover Country Club
Program: Fraud and Scams
Speaker: Experienced in the topic from a highly respected agency.**

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

Can you remember the last major misunderstanding you had with someone? You said one thing, and they heard something different, and the result was a mess. It may turn out to be really funny when you look back on it years later. *But not at that moment!* At that moment, it was frustrating.

Norm Williams shared a misunderstanding he had at his local library when he requested copies of 2 books by author Deborah Tannen. She is in "Communication Research". One of her most popular books is titled *That's Not What I Meant*. Another is titled *You Just Don't Understand*. Williams went to the library and asked the clerk to check the availability of these two books.

"What's the first book?" the librarian asked.

"*That's Not What I Meant*", he said.

"Well, what do you mean?" she asked.

"That's the title of the book," he replied.

"Okay, and the other book?" she asked.

"*You Just Don't Understand*," he replied.

"Excuse me?" said the confused librarian.

It took a while, but Williams finally got his books.

Misunderstandings can be frustrating. They waste our time and energy.

God calls us to be patient and understanding. Sometimes our patience is short and that causes our lack of understanding. Between spouses, friends, relatives and co-workers a little more patience will help.

Colossians 4:4 reads: "*Pray, then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear.*" Enjoy your day!

Blessings,

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Legislative Action Center

MOAA is advocating for in the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), based on Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly's letter to Congress:

MOAA's Advocacy Focus: Strengthening Support for Servicemembers and Families

House-Passed NDAA Highlights

- Veterans Service Organization (VSO) in TAP Counseling
 - Mandates VSO participation in Transition Assistance Program to help servicemembers better navigate benefits and post-service life.
- Family Separation Allowance (FSA) Increase
 - Raises monthly FSA to \$400, easing financial strain on families during deployments or assignments away from home.
- TRICARE Prime OB-GYN Access Pilot
 - Removes referral requirement for obstetrical and gynecological care, streamlining access for beneficiaries.
- TRICARE Select Enrollment Flexibility for Pregnancy
 - Treats pregnancy as a qualifying life event, allowing plan changes outside the annual open season for better prenatal care access.

These provisions reflect MOAA's push to modernize and humanize military benefits, especially in areas like health care, family support, and transition planning. If you're tracking defense policy or writing about military life, this is a rich vein to explore—especially how these changes could impact readiness, retention, and morale.

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

MOAA can help! An article written by Ana Durrani recently appeared in the July issue of Military Officer Magazine. Check out the following MOAA.org articles and resources for facing down fraud of all types:

- Three-part Don't Be Scammed series: "Be alert," "You're the Victim," and "Prevention," www.moaa.org/bealert
- Protect Yourself From these 5 Common Fraud Schemes, www.moaa.org/5fraud
- How to recognize (and report) 5 common Text Scams, www.moaa.org/textscams
- MOAA recorded webinars (available to Premium and Life members), including "Protect Yourself from Identity Theft and Fraud," "Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud", and "Protecting Yourself and Your Family, From Cybercrime," www.moaa.org/webinar-archive

Cynthia Cox
Military Spouse
GBC MOAA



SPEAKER

Brian Barsanti is the executive director of the Southern Museum of Flight, home to one of the best collections of historic aircraft in the Southeast as well as the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame.

Dr. Barsanti obtained his graduate degree from the UAB Department of History while studying under what he calls “some of the finest historians in the world.” He enjoyed his experience so much that he became an instructor in the department. Along the way, he began working as the educational programs instructor at the Southern Museum of Flight. Eventually he filled other roles in the organization including museum administrator and historian.

Soon he knew he wanted to go back to school once more. “My experiences in the classroom, coupled with my experiences at the museum, led me down the path to completing the PhD in Education with an emphasis on Educational Leadership and Higher Education Administration,” says Barsanti.

His interest in aviation stems from his coursework at UAB, his faculty mentors in the department, and his military experience — he currently serves as an officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserve.

It is clear that his background and formal training in history and education play a large part in his career. “One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job has been the fact that I had the privilege of transforming the museum into an educational tool and cultural resource,” he says. To Barsanti, the museum is a “living, breathing educational institution. I simply love it!”

Jared Bash

MOAA program & speakers:

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

- **September - U.S.C.G. (Res) Lt. Cdr., Dr. Brian Barsanti, E. D. Southern Museum of Flight**
- **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**

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerry Ingram	1
Beth Smith	2
Len Mueninghoff	8
Ron Bradstreet	11
Jim Langley	16
Mike Walker	21
Susan Bradshaw	23
Cynthia Cox	24

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)



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 September 4, 2025