



It is a great time to be a member of MOAA!

I hope you all enjoyed the October meeting. We especially want to thank Wes Cox for always doing a superb job of ensuring we have a great catered meal at the Danberry, and for inviting such a great speaker as his Air Force SR-71 Pilot and classmate, Lt Col (Ret) Raymond Yielding! It was awesome to see those “near-space” pictures, culminating with the “speed run” from California to Washington, DC, a record that still stands today!

For November 2025, remember we will again meet at the Danberry. Date is Thursday, 6th of November 2025, at 1800 hrs. for Social Hour. Our speaker 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 Chapter’s Christmas celebration meeting!

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:

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.

We are also looking for a couple of members that wish to help in leadership roles in our chapter, such as stepping up to the Board of Directors, or to take the role of Catering coordinator from our great friend, Wes Cox, who has done a magnificent job for many years.

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@moaabirmingham.org](mailto:newsletter@moaabirmingham.org).



## NOVEMBER 6, 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 Pot Pie  
Mama's Macaroni and Cheese  
Cranberry Walnut Salad  
**Banana Pudding**  
Rolls

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.  
Reservations must be made by noon Monday, November 3

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

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

or alternate method:

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



**SPEAKER:** Deanna Pack has served as Program Coordinator for the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports since 2017. In this role, she leads statewide initiatives that promote health, wellness, and physical activity across Alabama. Deanna also serves as the State Coordinator for the Alabama Senior Olympics, where she oversees events that encourage active lifestyles and friendly competition among adults aged 50 and older.

In addition to her state leadership role, Deanna is the Treasurer for the Masters Games of Alabama and a standing board member of ASAPERD (Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance). Through her work with the Commission, she collaborates with numerous programs and organizations, including the Alabama State Games, Special Olympics, Pro-Instruct, and the State of Alabama Employee Walk Days, among many others.

#### **Program talking points:**

- What are the Alabama Senior Olympics?
- Who can compete?
- Growth of the Games over the past 10 years
- Sports offered
- National Senior Games
- Ways to get involved

## 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

**We celebrated Mother's Day in May and then, in June, Father's Day, and maybe we celebrated Grandparent's Day in September. Some years ago, a woman named Susan Lenzkes wrote a little poem she called "Parenthood." It went like this:**

**I searched - but there definitely was not a packet of instructions attached to my children when they arrived.**

**And none has since landed in my mailbox.**

**Lord, show me how to be a good parent.**

**Teach me how to correct without crushing,**

**help without hanging on,**

**listen without laughing,**

**surround without smothering,**

**and love without limit ---**

**The way You love me.**

**When God answers that prayer in our lives, then we can sing David's song (Psalm 22:22-31) with new appreciation; Because we see in our children a taste of our own immortality; and because we want our children to live by the values and ideals of our own lives; and because we hope that our children will carry forward with the path that we've set them on.**

**And then, as David put it, future generations will be told about the Lord (verse 30).**

**Blessings,**

**Chaplain Dan Phifer**

**U.S. Army Retired**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

In October 2025, MOAA's legislative action was focused on national advocacy efforts, including updates from the Senate's advancement of the annual defense bill and continued work on legislation like the Star Act. The TotalForce+ Conference is scheduled for October 28-29, which will involve discussions on strengthening national defense and supporting the military community. While no specific actions are listed for Alabama, members can engage with national campaigns through the MOAA Legislative Action Center.

### National legislative action

- **Defense Policy Bill:** MOAA is tracking amendments to the annual defense policy bill, which the Senate has advanced.
- **Star Act:** The organization continues to work on passing the Star Act to end the pay offset for combat-injured veterans.
- **Health care for military families:** MOAA supports bills aimed at improving health care access for military families, such as the TOTAL Care Act and the Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act.
- **Dental care for Guard and Reserve:** The Dental Care for Our Troops Act is a priority to provide dental care for the Selected Reserve.
- **Transition services:** MOAA supports legislation like the TAP Promotion Act to improve transition assistance for servicemembers.

### How to get involved

- Use the MOAA Legislative Action Center to find your elected officials, track legislation, and contact your lawmakers.
- Register for the Legislative Action Center to stay informed about key priorities and campaigns.
- Engage with your local MOAA chapter for state-specific updates and opportunities.

TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select beneficiaries are not impacted by this change, but they are still subject to prior authorization for weight-loss drugs. You can find updated prior authorization criteria for GLP-1 weight loss medications using the TRICARE formulary search tool. Please join us by contacting your elected officials to urge them to halt plans to end coverage of GLP-1 weight-loss medications for TFL beneficiaries.

### 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:



## MOAA GBC Ladies Luncheon



On October 22, 2025, the MOAA Greater Birmingham Chapter hosted its Ladies Luncheon, focusing on the important topic of scams and fraud prevention. Members and guests gathered to hear from two detectives from the Hoover Police Department, who provided valuable updates on the latest scams affecting our community.

The detectives emphasized the increasing risks associated with mailing checks through the USPS, noting that this method has become a frequent target for fraudsters. Attendees were advised to consider safer alternatives for bill payments to protect themselves from potential losses. Additionally, the presentation covered the growing role of cryptocurrency in fraudulent schemes. The detectives explained how scammers are leveraging digital currencies to carry out sophisticated fraud and offered practical tips for recognizing and avoiding these threats.

The luncheon provided an excellent opportunity for members to stay informed, ask questions, and share experiences. The MOAA Greater Birmingham Chapter remains committed to supporting its members with timely information and resources to help safeguard against scams.

# GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER	
AC Roper	6
Bill Bradley	10
Martha Killian	10
Mark Melanson	10
Anne Hartline	14
Bill Aderholt	16
Joe Garner	16
Patricia Lehman	20
Bob Shinpaugh	26
Charlie Marvin	28
Pat Fiol	30

### MOAA on-line photo directory

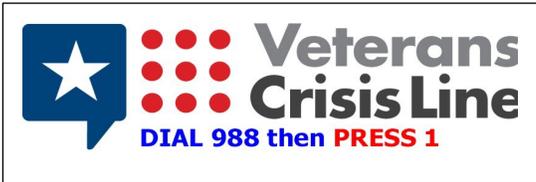
Below is a sample of our chapter on-line photo directory, available via a private link to our members only on our website. It can be found at: <http://moaabirmingham.org/#>. You will need to request a log-in/join if you gave not already in order to access the "Members Only" page. If you and or your spouse 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](mailto:donnaemartin@aol.com).

	<p><b>Killian, III, Sam P.</b>                  4545 Magnolia Drive                  Birmingham, AL 35242                  Email: <a href="mailto:spkiii@bellsouth.net">spkiii@bellsouth.net</a>                  Spouse: <i>Martha T. Killian</i>  <a href="mailto:marthak36@gmail.com">marthak36@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>USN Ret CDR Life                  205-408-7721 (h)                  205-903-6638 (c)                  BD: 8/28                  BD: 11/10</p>	
	<p><b>Lehman, Donald D. (Don)</b>                  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>  <a href="mailto:islandmomma1@gmail.com">islandmomma1@gmail.com</a></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/>

- 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](http://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.

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**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

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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 NOVEMBER 6, 2025