

**Danberry, Thursday, 5 February 2026
1800 hr. for Social Hour.**

**Our speaker will be Peter Kirchikov's, and the topic will be
"Survival Under Communist Russia and Pursuit of Freedom".**

**Peter Kirchikov is a noted writer, born in Ukraine, a talented speaker of eight
languages, and a very interesting person.**

Don't miss it.



Coming in April, Miss America 1999 Nicole Johnson





Have a wonderful year 2026, It is a great time to be a member of MOAA!

I hope you all enjoyed the January meeting at the Danberry this past January 8th. We had a very enjoyable and entertaining talk by USCGR Cdr Brian Barsanti, Director of the excellent Southern Museum of Flight, one of the true "Jewels of the South".

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 a great Year 2026, and part of that great performance is renewing your Birmingham MOAA membership, which you can do from 1 to 3 years at a time, with the convenience of paying your membership Chapter dues via the Cheddar Up link, as sent by the Chapter on a recent email, with Zero fees added to your dues payment.

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.

I would be remiss if I did not share that our Birmingham MOAA Chapter was recently awarded not one, but TWO "Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award" from the MOAA National Headquarters for the 2024 Chapter Newsletter and 2024 Chapter Website, both signed by Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), president of MOAA. These awards are a testament to the hard work performed by our Past Chapter President, Lt Col USMC (Ret) Don Lehman, and our Newsletter writer and producer, Lt Col USA (Ret) Jim Langley. Congratulations on a job well done! Please see our awards in our newsletter.

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

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

Volume 128 Issue 2 February 2026

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

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.

Get together
February 5, 2026 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, February 2

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

<https://february-2026-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com/>

or alternate method:

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

January Welcomed Jon and Cindy Shively and John Zerakis – **speaker** Dr. Brian J. Barsanti



RECRUITER'S CORNER

2026-chapter renewal notifications have been sent out via email and letter!

Your continued support is much appreciated and allows us to support veteran initiatives and issues at the local, state, and national levels. You may pay your GBC chapter dues via debit/credit card at: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/moaa-gbc-renewal/items?cart> with NO credit card fees!

If you have any questions about your dues renewal or membership, please email us at contact@moaabirmingham.org. Please note, chapter dues are separate from national MOAA dues! GBC Chapter dues are: 1-Year \$20, 2-Years \$35, 3-Years \$50

MOAA eligibility: All honorably serving, former, or retired warrant/commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard), as well as USCG, Space Force, NOAA, and USPHS. Surviving spouses are also eligible to join MOAA and our chapter. If you know of someone interested in MOAA and our chapter, have them contact us at contact@moaabirmingham.org or better yet, invite or bring them to a meeting. Note, you must be a National MOAA member, at least the FREE Basic membership, to belong to the local chapter.

To join or renew your MOAA membership, you may also print, complete, and return the paper application below to the address on the form. You may also join/renew online at: <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/membership/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

During my years of being a Pastor and Army Chaplain, it has been my joy and privilege to counsel couples who were excited about getting married. When we finished the pre-marital counseling, we started to talk about the marriage service. I always asked what scripture they wanted. Most had a common request for the "**Love**" chapter. (1 Corinthians 13)

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." 1 Cor. 13:1.

February 14 is that special day when couples think about expressing their love for that "Valentine Person" in his or her life. Even if that "loved one" now rests from their labors here on earth, we remember them especially and the love shared.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Cor 13:4-5

"And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13:13

Pull out your Bible and see all 13 verses of this 13th chapter.

May God's love for you fill you with strength and courage for all your days.

Blessings,

Chaplain Dan Phifer
U.S. Army Retired

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act ([H.R. 2148](#) | [S. 879](#))

What it does: Expands health care coverage and career transition support for caregivers, and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement.

Who it supports: Millions of caregivers.

MOAA's take: "Just as our veterans answered the call to serve our nation, their caregivers also answered the call to step up and serve them," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO. "These dedicated individuals put their own futures on hold — sacrificing financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being — to fulfill the nation's promise to take care of our veterans and provide the care veterans deserve.

How you can help: [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

Military CARE Act ([H.R. 6796](#))

What it does: Requires the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing beneficiaries with a standardized platform to report barriers to MTF care and creating a data record that does not exist today to give Defense Health Agency leadership and Congress the insights needed to address systemic access challenges.

Who it supports: All TRICARE beneficiaries, but especially military families.

MOAA's take: We advocated aggressively for this priority in 2025 as part of our spring Advocacy in Action campaign. Military families must have a more effective option for reporting access problems — an option that also increases transparency to beneficiary challenges and leads to greater accountability and oversight of the MHS.

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

I recently read in the MOAA January magazine that, surprisingly or not, military families are at an elevated risk for identity theft compared to our civilian peers. During our serving years we have regularly interacted with hundreds of agencies, organizations, and systems that require sharing personal information. Sharing this information puts us at risk of our information being misused. Some points to remember, when filling out forms online or in person, consider if every piece of information should be shared. Ask if the information is necessary and about security protocols. Create complex and varied passwords. If your identity is compromised, promptly report to local authorities, military command, and the Federal Trade Commission. Include a report to your financial institutions and other companies that may be impacted.

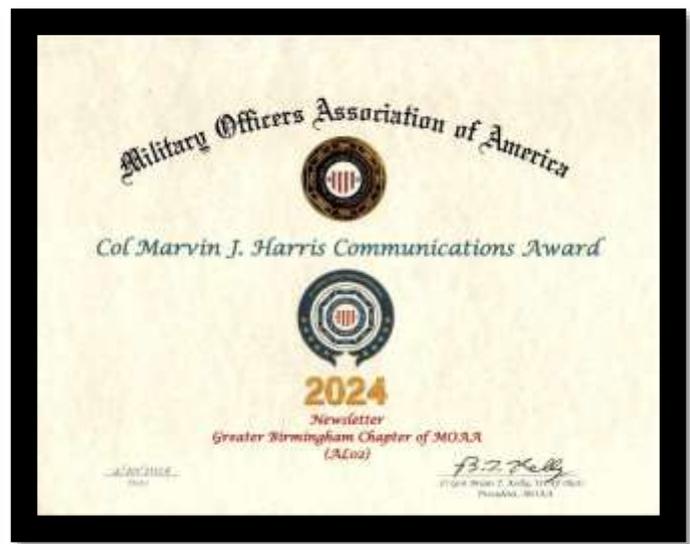
Lastly, be proactive by following your credit report. The website recommended by MOAA is www.annualcreditreport.com

A summary of "Take Steps to Protect Your Data"

By Kate Harrell. January 2026, MOAA

Cynthia Cox

GBC MOAA



GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – February

Nancy Barefield	7
Joel Cornett	13
Cindy Shively	14
Victor Bey	15
Woody Cox	16
Carol Beall	18

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>	

2026 mtg dates, speakers & topic:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Feb 5 - Dinner mtg. | <i>Peter Kirchikov's, "Survival Under Communist ..."</i> |
| • Mar 5 - Dinner mtg. | Niki Sepsas , Greenland |
| • Apr 2 - Dinner mtg. | Nicole Johnson, Miss America 1999 |
| • May 7 - Dinner mtg. | Spouse/SS recognition. |
| • Jun 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. | BYO. |
| • Jul 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. | BYO. |
| • Aug 6 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. | BYO. |





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!



PO Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253-0153