

**Danberry, Thursday, 2 April 2026  
1800 hr. for Social Hour**

**Coming in April, Miss America 1999  
Nicole Johnson**



*The topic of her talk will be "My journey to becoming Miss America"*

*National MOAA will send a "blast" email to our catchment area, inviting prospective members and recently transferred MOAA members that have moved near the Birmingham area, so that they may enjoy this distinguished VIP speaker and consider joining our Chapter, so be prepared to meet some new faces next month. I am sure you will enjoy hearing Ms. Johnson! HC*



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

I hope you all enjoyed the March meeting at the Danberry this past March 5th. We had a great talk by none other than Niki Sepsas, our resident Cruise Ship line “raconteur extraordinaire”. Niki has spoken to us a number of times, and he never, ever disappoints! Niki told us all about Greenland, along with a great overall summary of man’s migration around the world starting 200 million years ago!

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

I wanted to mention that your Board of Directors has decided to order additional challenge coins since we had run out of the old batch. Don Lehman was kind enough to purchase about 10 challenge coins that have the national MOAA logo to tie us over until our own Greater Birmingham Chapter challenge coins are made. We will be sending out an email soon announcing a member donation campaign to support the purchase of the new challenge coins, and the email will have a link to allow our members to donate via the “Cheddar Up” link, where we can donate using our credit cards with Zero Fees added. For those members that donate 50 dollars, they will receive one of the newly designed challenge coins.

I will be travelling to Washington DC in April to take part in MOAA’s “campaign in the hill”, ie, when State representatives and leaders walk the halls of Congress pushing our ideas for things that help or support our Active and Retired military members, such as Tricare for Life, Pharmacy support, VA care for our veterans, and many other advocacy ideas.

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

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

Volume 129 Issue 4 April 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:* Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)
- Director:* James Oliver LTC, USA (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](mailto:newsletter@moabirmingham.org).



**Get together**  
**April 2, 2026 MEETING**

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

**Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm**

**MENU**

**Sliced Turkey with gravy**  
**Cornbread Stuffing with gravy**  
**Cranberry sauce**  
**Garden salad**  
**Yeast Rolls**  
**Peach Cobbler**

**Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.**  
**Reservations deadline is noon Monday, March 30**

**Dinner cost will be \$30 after the reservation deadline**

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

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

**alternate method:**

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Two sisters spent the day *"Verbally" fighting*. That evening they prepared for bed, still "mad" at each other. As usual, they knelt by the side of their beds for their prayers. *"Dear God"* the 8-year old began, *"Bless Mommy and Daddy, bless the cat and our dog."* Then she stopped. Her mother gently prodded, *"Didn't you forget somebody?"* She glared across the bed at her 6-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,  
Chaplain Dan Phifer  
LTC-Retired  
US Army

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

**Advocacy in Action 2026: MOAA's Key Issues, and How You Can Add Your Voice**

**By: Terry Waters**

**March 4, 2026**

On April 15, leaders from among MOAA's 350,000 members – representing a community of more than 22 million current, former, and retired uniformed services personnel – will bring these important issues to Capitol Hill as a part of MOAA's signature annual advocacy campaign, Advocacy in Action. This year, our efforts will center on four initiatives designed to uphold our nation's commitments to our servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors – and we need your support.

**Major Richard Star Act** - Combat-injured servicemembers who are medically retired before reaching 20 years of service lose some or all of their earned retirement pay because it is offset by VA disability compensation. The [Major Richard Star Act](#) (H.R. 2102 | S. 1032) would correct this long-standing injustice for these wounded warriors.

**Shutdown Fairness Act**- The Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168) would provide a permanent fix, ensuring members of the armed forces continue to receive pay and benefits during funding lapses while Congress resolves broader appropriations matters.

**GUARD VA Benefits Act** - The GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732) would restore penalties for unauthorized fees and oversight. Veterans should never have to surrender a portion of their earned benefits to unregulated, for-profit intermediaries.

**Military CARE Act** - The Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796) would establish a centralized digital platform allowing TRICARE beneficiaries to report access-to-care problems, route concerns to the appropriate patient advocate, and provide the Defense Health Agency and Congress with aggregated data to address widespread challenges.

**We Need Your Support**

As MOAA advocates prepare to bring these priorities to Capitol Hill in April, lawmakers are listening closely to the voices they hear back home. They want to know these issues don't just matter in Washington – they matter in their districts, to the constituents they represent.

That's why this year's Advocacy in Action effort includes a focused digital campaign designed to generate a strong, coordinated wave of messages in the coming weeks. When our in-person advocates walk into congressional offices, they should be reinforcing what lawmakers have already heard from you, their constituents. Your support can make the difference between a bill gaining traction or being lost among competing congressional priorities.

You can help today by:

- **Signing up for [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#)** to send prepared messages to your elected officials and receive priority alerts when it is time to act.
- **Calling your lawmakers directly** via MOAA's Capitol Hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to express your support for MOAA's legislative priorities.
- **Engaging with [your local MOAA chapter](#)** to strengthen grassroots efforts and coordinate legislative outreach within your district.

When our members walk into congressional offices, they carry the collective voice of our nationwide community. Your work will help ensure Congress keeps faith with those who serve to protect our nation.

**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:



## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER

### **The Value of Connection**

**By: Pat Green**

**March 03, 2026**

**How do you stay in touch with others? Maybe you prefer social media, like Facebook or LinkedIn. Perhaps email is your preference. Many connect through text messages. For some, like me, a phone call is top choice.**

**The need for a personal connection still exists. Nothing can brighten your day like a call from an old friend. Sharing a memory or exchanging a laugh with someone lifts the spirits. Personal communication builds strong families and good friends and creates successful institutions and cohesive organizations.**

**Within MOAA chapters, personal interaction among members provides opportunities to build friendships, exchange ideas, and share experiences. I recently returned from my annual MOAA council leadership training/convention. You feel the connection of shared experiences and our shared purpose at such events, but you feel more: It's the hugs exchanged, the appreciation of each member and their contributions, and the connection to the MOAA leaders and staff who attend. It was an experience that energizes and renews your commitment.**

**Your council and chapter create a cohesive network for the work of MOAA. They also provide a setting for friendships to flourish. This shared affinity should be practiced in your chapter. The chaplain and the surviving spouse liaison serve as personal outreach to each member. Their role is very important.**

**A chapter member who lives alone and has no local family needs a chapter friend or neighbor to exchange a greeting with each day. It could be as simple as texting "Good morning" and the recipient sending a thumbs-up response. The greeter and recipient should share contact information for their next of kin in the event that the greeting is not returned.**

**I know of one chapter that has created such a program, called Buddy Check. This might be a good idea to discuss at your next meeting. A chapter should also have a list of emergency contacts for its members in case a member becomes ill at a meeting. I personally have experienced two situations where that information would have been helpful.**

**Make caring for and connecting with each other part of your mission to never stop serving.**

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTH DAY – April

<b>Peter Hendricks</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Frank Smith</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Dane Clark</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Terry Richmond</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Brian Barsan</b>	<b>28</b>

### 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: [donnaamartin@aol.com](mailto:donnaamartin@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: Martha T. Killian  <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: Patricia A. Lehman  <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>	

#### 2026 mtg dates, speakers & topic:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apr 2 - Dinner mtg.</li> <li>• May 7 - Dinner mtg.</li> <li>• Jun 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant.</li> <li>• Jul 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant.</li> <li>• Aug 6 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant.</li> </ul> | <p>Nicole Johnson, Miss America 1999</p> <p>Spouse/SS recognition.</p> <p>Det. Austin Rosenow, Hoover Police Department</p> <p>Annual picnic and BBQ at Veterans Park on Valleydale Rd.</p> <p>BYO.</p> <p>BYO.</p> |
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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!**



PO Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253-0153