

PICNIC **Thursday, 4 June 2026**

**1600 hours meet at Veterans Park Pavilion on
Valleydale Rd**





It is a great time to be a member of MOAA, and with our Summer Season starting soon here in Birmingham, it will be a very busy time too, along with our usual summer and vacation events.

I hope you all enjoyed the May presentation about “Fraud and Scams” presented by Detective Austin Rosenow from the Hoover Police Department! Our guest speaker certainly covered a tremendous amount of information that is useful to everyone wanting to avoid being a fraud victim.

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.

With your invaluable help, I 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.

There is a great and new (free is always great!) mental Health initiative that is being funded by the State of Alabama Mental Health Commission, and offered to Alabama Veterans, with licensed counselors, willing to meet you on virtual or in-person meetings. This is particularly important since the VA has reduced many of their in-person or online MH support services to our veterans, as a result of DOGE personnel reductions, and or staffing cutbacks in the MH Department in Birmingham and other VA facilities. The service is provided through “UWill”, and can be accessed by creating an online free account at <https://app.uwill.com>. There is no cost, and it’s a great service for veterans needing help with stress, PTSD, or any other mental health needs.

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

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

Volume 130 Issue 6 June 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:* Trish Coghlan, 1LT, USA (Ret)
- 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@moaabirmingham.org.



Get together June 4th, 2026 Picnic

Veterans Park on Valleydale Road near Spain Park High School

1600 hours

Our Menu

Pulled pork, buns,
Cole slaw,
baked beans,
Full Moon cookie,
tea

Cost will be \$20 per person.
Reservations deadline is noon Monday, June 1st

Dinner cost will be \$25 after the reservation deadline

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

<https://june-2026-reservations-and-payment.cheddarup.com/>

alternate method:

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



The new chapter challenge coins are here and look great! Thank you and much appreciation to all of those who contributed to the fund raiser helping to pay for them. If you wish to purchase one, they are \$15 each.

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 the 1982 World Series, a newscaster asked Joe DiMaggio this question:

"What was your most unforgettable moment when you played in the World Series?"

Joe, one of the greatest baseball hitters of all time, smiled and replied, *"The time I dropped two fly balls on two consecutive pitches."*

Now that's just like most of us. We always seem to think about our failures instead of our successes. But the good news is that through God our mistakes can be forgiven...and forgotten. We forget them-- not by hiding them in the back of our mind, but by openly bringing them to God and asking Him for forgiveness.

Many of us stop there--we let the Lord forgive us, but we don't forget our mistakes.

The key to forgetting our sins is to accept God's forgiveness and then to forgive ourselves as well.

Isaiah 43:25 says, "I even, I am he who blots out your transgressions...(who) remembers your sins no more" (Isaiah 43:25). The Lord promises to forgive and forget our sins--giving us the privilege and power to do the same.

**Blessings,
Chaplain Dan Phifer
LTC-Retired
US Army**

Advocacy in Action: Star Act Stories

Approximately 54,000 combat-injured veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. The Major Richard Star Act would remedy this injustice. The Star Act is one of the four priorities that make up MOAA's 2026 Advocacy in Action campaign. Here are stories of veterans affected by this offset.

Philip Sweet, USAF (Ret) Age: 31 Family: Married to an Army reservist, two children Time served: 11 years

Cause of medical retirement: Medical conditions sustained in an aircraft incident and other injuries that occurred in a combat zone

Effect of retirement: "My life was upended because of medical retirement. I expected to finish out my military career, whether on active duty or in the reserves. ... Now, financially we miss out on some of the money we should be receiving for my service and sacrifice. We feel as though my service is lessened because of my medical retirement."

Amount lost each month because of offset: \$4,500

How he advocates for the Major Richard Star Act: Writes to his elected officials to raise awareness about why it needs to pass. He says: "If I received the full benefits I earned, my family's life would be completely changed. It's time for Congress to honor the contract I signed at 18 years old."

Staff Sgt. Joseph Turner, ARNG (Ret) Age: 43 Family: Wife, who is his caregiver, and three children

Time served: 17 years

Cause of medical retirement: PTSD and neck and back injuries

Effect of retirement: "My wife is unable to work because she is my full-time caregiver. ... I am the sole provider for my family. The passage of the Richard Star Act would be life-changing for us." Amount lost each month because of offset: \$1,600.

How he advocates for the Major Richard Star Act: Sharing his story and speaking out against the injustice. "I decided to sort of step into it less for myself but for others. Joining the efforts to speak out isn't about me, it's about fulfilling my creed as an NCO to help my soldiers and veterans." He says: "I, like many others, are no longer fit for service. We did not have a choice. ... If it were up to me, I would have 25 years' time in service, to date, not the 17 years where my career ended. It's absurd and insulting to be a cyclical campaign issue with no action."

The Star Act is one of the four priorities that make up MOAA's 2026 Advocacy in Action campaign.

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

The future of women in the U.S. military looks a bit like a river in spring flood season. Powerful forward movement, swirling resistance, and a whole lot of people arguing about the map.

The future of women in the U.S. military is moving steadily forward, despite ongoing debate about standards, culture, and combat roles. Women now serve in every branch and nearly every military specialty, including aviation, artillery, intelligence, cyber warfare, logistics, and combat leadership. They make up close to 20% of today's armed forces, and their role continues to grow.

One reason is practical necessity. The military faces recruiting shortages and increasing demand for highly skilled personnel. Modern warfare depends not only on physical strength, but also on technology, intelligence, cyber operations, drones, satellite systems, and rapid decision making. These areas reward technical ability, discipline, and adaptability, where women have proven highly capable.

At the same time, physical standards remain a major issue. Military leaders continue debating whether combat requirements should be completely identical for men and women in all combat positions. Supporters argue standards must remain strict and equal for battlefield effectiveness. Others point out that many women have already demonstrated success in demanding combat environments over the past decade.

The military of the future will likely rely less on sheer physical force and more on advanced technology and teamwork. As warfare changes, women will probably continue expanding into leadership positions, cyber commands, intelligence work, aviation, and space operations. More women are expected to become generals, admirals, and senior commanders.

Challenges still exist. Some traditional military cultures remain resistant to change, and balancing military careers with family life continues to be difficult for many service members. Questions about readiness, standards, and social policy will continue to spark political debate.

However, one fact is increasingly clear: the question is no longer whether women belong in the U.S. military. Their service and contributions are already established. The real issue now is how the military adapts to future warfare and how both men and women will work together to meet those challenges in the decades ahead.

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

June Birthdays

Donald Brooks	1
Frank Palmer	10
Pat Singletary	10
George Lord	11
Ann Roberson	11
David Hicks	15
Joel Maxwell	15
Harb Moore	19

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: donnaemaartin@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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 4 – afternoon mtg at local park. • Jul 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. • Aug 6 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. | <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

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