

Danberry, Thursday, 7 May 2026 1800 hr. for Social Hour



Austin Rosenow is a detective with the Hoover Police Department. His expertise is fraud. He and his colleague, Det Kyle McCreless, presented on the topic of fraud at the October ladies luncheon. The information was both current and valuable, and deemed one of the best programs ever! The detectives told the group, "It's not a matter of if, but a matter of time before we are all affected." As technology becomes more sophisticated, so do the bad actors who prey on the uninformed and highly vulnerable (us older folks). Detective Rosenow will help us recognize and, hopefully, avoid getting trapped in the dark web and becoming victims of fraudulent activity.



Our President at Advocacy in Action 2026



I also hope you all enjoyed the April meeting. We had a great and interesting talk by Dr. Nicole Johnson, Miss America 1999. Not only was she a beautiful and interesting person, but she amazed us with her lifelong story of struggle overcoming Type 1 Diabetes and now helping others by conducting research and education on Diabetes at UAB.

I was recently granted the opportunity to represent the Alabama MOAA Council in Washington D.C. for MOAA's Advocacy In Action (AIA 2026). We did a tremendous amount of good work on behalf of all of our MOAA members, in all our Alabama Chapters and Council. It is a time to attend training classes on most critical MOAA Advocacy Issues to best present them by personally visiting every state Senator and Representative. Every day started at 0700 and finished 2100, with a lot of walking (luckily, I had my good "LPC's" on, my Leather Personnel Carriers, lol).

I was matched with an Active Duty Officer stationed in DC, Major Michael Gilbertson. We went to visit Sen. Tommy Tuberville, Sen. Katie Britt (whom I knew), Rep. Robert Aderholt, Rep. Gary Palmer, Rep. Mike Rogers, and Rep. Terri Sewell. I had met several that were elected to represent Alabama, and that made it easier to meet and push for our Veteran's rights and issues.

I can tell you, I didn't mince words or hold back when advocating for the Major Richard Star Act, the Guard VA Benefits Act, the Military Care Act, or the Shutdown Fairness Act. These are all important proposed Acts, but the most important by far is the Star Act and treating the 54,000 Combat Wounded Veterans fairly, by allowing them to stop being penalized and treated like second class veterans, like they currently are, by reducing most or all of their Military Disability pay (Chapter 61) and reducing it dollar for dollar from what they receive in VA Disability pay. At a CBO estimated cost of 900 Million dollars a year for all 54,000 combat injured veterans, it is pocket change compared to the cost of even one day's worth of ammunition expended in war (average 4.5 Billion a day in Iran, for example). I explained that cutting veteran benefits or not paying for disabled veterans is not 'the American way' of, and if they felt that "post war costs were too expensive, then just don't get us into wars"! Thank you for allowing me to go fight for you and 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 5 May 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
May 7, 2026 MEETING

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

Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

MENU

BBQ Chopped Chicken
Barbecue Sauce and Pickles
Southern Cole Slaw
Mama's Macaroni and Cheese
Baked Beans
Rolls
Chocolate Cake

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.
Reservations deadline is noon Monday, May 4th

Dinner cost will be \$30 after the reservation deadline

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

<https://may-2026-reservation-and-payment-62014.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 contributed over \$50 or pre-purchased coins, please stop by the registration desk at the May meeting to pick up your coin(s). 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

Soon we shall celebrate Mother's Day and then in June, Father's Day. 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 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
LTC-Retired
US Army**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



MOAA members brought the organization's top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15, visiting about 300 congressional offices; interacting with lawmakers and staff members around conference tables, in hallways, and over coffee; and carrying forward the mission of preserving service-earned benefits for all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors.

"We beat the heat," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO, referring to record-setting D.C. temperatures. "This is an energy-adding event: You're out in the heat, it's a long day, but you end the day with more energy than you came in with. Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. We've made great strides on these issues by connecting our members with their lawmakers on the Hill, but our work is far from over."

MOAA members from across the nation visited offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation:

- **The Major Richard Star Act**, which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.
- **The Shutdown Fairness Act**, which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act**, which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they've earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit "claim sharks."
- **The Military CARE Act**, which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues, and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.

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

May is Spouse Appreciation month!

Come join us for dinner on May 7th, a chance to talk about protecting your valuables and privacy, and to show support to MOAA spouses who have supported us throughout the years! May is Spouse Appreciation month! We will have a Hoover detective to speak on fraud and scam.

This meeting is for you ladies! And bring your spouses too 😊

Cynthia Cox

Military spouse GBC MOAA



APRIL SPEAKER – NICOLE JOHNSON -MISS AMERICA 1999

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTH DAY – May

Jonathan Shively	13
Trish Coghlan	18
Bonnie Westbrook	19
Dick Ritz	22
Susan Hamel	28
Tom Fickling	29
Harold Coghlan	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: donnaamartin@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"> • May 7 - Dinner mtg. • Jun 2 – afternoon mtg at local park. • Jul 2 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. • Aug 6 - Lunch mtg at local restaurant. | <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> |
|---|--|





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