



I hope and wish you all have had a wonderful and safe Summer 2026, It is a great time to be a member of MOAA!

I also hope you all enjoyed the August Luncheon at the First Watch restaurant this past August 6th. We had a great gathering, with some 13 folks attending, including a prospective new member (who was promptly signed up on the spot by Trish, who was carrying a Chapter Membership application with her). His name is Dr Jay Phelan, Captain US Navy (Ret). These summer lunches are not only fun, and good eating, but a great way to stay connected with your fellow Chapter members.

Please remember that our Chapter Ladies Luncheon will be on September 23rd at 1030 hrs., at the Hoover Country Club. (See enclosed invitation)

For our September 3rd meeting the speaker for the evening will be Alabama State Representative Neil Rafferty. He is a Marine (no such thing as an "ex" Marine), and a very nice and engaging person, I am sure you will enjoy hearing and meeting him.

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.

I hope all of our members have renewed your Birmingham MOAA membership, Information is included in membership section.

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

Harold A. Coghlan
CW4, US Army (Ret)
Blessed to be your President"

Officers' Call

Volume 126 Issue 8 Aug 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: Vacant
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 September 3rd , 2026

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

Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

MENU

lasagna, green beans, salad with chocolate cream pie

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.

Reservations deadline is noon Monday, August 31st

Dinner cost will be \$30 after the reservation deadline

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

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

alternate method:

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

:

SPEAKER : Neil Rafferty, District 54 Alabama State Representative

Neil is a Marine veteran and the winner of the 2022 Alabama State MOAA Eubanks award for outstanding advocacy for veterans' legislative efforts. He will be speaking to us about the upcoming legislative season and issues related to veteran affairs and policy.



Neil Rafferty is a devoted public servant, a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and the State Representative for Alabama's House District 54, serving the people of Birmingham since his election in 2018. Born and raised with a deep sense of civic duty, Neil enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he learned the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. These principles continue to guide his work today in the Alabama Legislature. After his military service, Neil returned home to Birmingham, driven by a desire to continue serving his community in a different capacity.

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

We are all at our best when it counts. *But what are we like when no one's looking?* That's where "character comes in---being consistent even when it does not seem to matter!"

Courage. Discipline. Vision. Endurance. Love. These character qualities are often becoming endangered. All too often we hear of marriages falling apart, governments lying, businesses cheating and scandals rocking *even the church*. But with God's guidance and strength, we can maintain character that lasts despite temptations and troubles.

In the military we were all taught what character, courage, self-discipline, endurance and genuine concern for others does. Each builds our strength as individuals and members of the various teams we were part of in our units.

I know those characteristics still show forth in our lives and relationships now even after retirement. I see that in our meetings and other fellowship activities. Our Character does count!

May we still spread that character always.

Blessings,
Dan Phifer
Chaplain (LTC-Retired)
U.S. Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) focuses its September 2026 news cycle on national virtual educational events, ongoing board elections, and legislative pressure during the congressional summer recess.

Featured National Events & Webinars

MOAA is hosting several critical virtual info-sessions throughout September 2026 to help veterans, survivors, and active members maximize their benefits

Internal MOAA Updates

- **2026 Board of Directors Election:** Members are casting votes to fill eight structural vacancies on the board. Voting also covers the formal approval of MOAA's **2026–2028 resolutions** to guide its advocacy principles over the next two years. [[1](#)]
- **Annual Meeting Preview:** Early registration notices are circulating for the **2026 MOAA Annual Meeting** scheduled for October 22 at the Hotel Heron in Alexandria, Virginia. [[1](#) [2](#)]

Legislative & Advocacy Focus

Following its **Summer Advocacy in Action** campaign, MOAA continues pushing constituents to meet with lawmakers locally before the fall congressional session restarts. Key legislative priorities include: [[1](#)]

- **The Major Richard Star Act:** Continued lobbying to eliminate the concurrent receipt pay offset for combat-injured, medical retirees.
- **The Shutdown Fairness Act:** Protecting military and uniformed service salaries against potential federal funding lapses.
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act:** Restoring criminal penalties to protect veterans from predatory, unaccredited "claim sharks". [[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)]

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



**Greater Birmingham Chapter of Military Officers Association of America Ladies Luncheon
For Surviving Spouses Female Officers Spouses of Living Members**

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

10:30 am

Hoover Country Club 3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226

Program:

Journaling Your Way through Family, Faith and the Future

Speaker: Audrey Adkins

MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits

For Information:

Trish Coghlan

Pkcoghlan2@gmail.com

205-601-2159

Cost: \$25 Reservation deadline: September 19, 2026

**Payment online or by check
will be your reservation.**

Payment online: Use the following link

<https://luncheon-fall-2026-reserve-pay.cheddarup.com>

Payment by check: Make check payable to: MOAA GBC

Mail to: Donna Martin

235 Inverness Center Drive, Apt 206

Hoover, AL 35242

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

September birthdays

Jerry Ingram	1
Beth Smith	2
Len Mueninghoff	8
Ron Bradstreet	11
Jim Langley	16
Jodi Barsanti	18
Jane Fickling	20
Mike Walker	21
Susan Bradshaw	23
Cynthia Cox	24
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: donnamaemartin@aol.com.

	Killian, III, Sam P. 4545 Magnolia Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: spkiii@bellsouth.net Spouse: Martha T. Killian marthak36@gmail.com	USN Ret CDR Life 205-408-7721 (h) 205-903-6638 (c) BD: 8/28 BD: 11/10	
	Lehman, Donald D. (Don) 1204 Greystone Parc Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: don.lehman1@gmail.com Spouse: Patricia A. Lehman islandmamma1@gmail.com	USMC Ret LTCOL Life 404-441-3882 (c) BD: 7/10 BD: 11/20 404-725-7152 (c)	



The new chapter challenge coins are here. If you wish to purchase one, they are \$15 each.
<https://challenge-coin.cheddarup.com/>



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	
☐ Army	☐ Marines	☐ Active Duty	☐ National Guard
☐ Air Force	☐ Navy	☐ Retired	☐ Former Member
☐ Coast Guard	☐ Other	☐ Reserve	☐ 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