



Greetings Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Members and Friends!

We will be having our first live meeting in over a year on Thursday, May 13th! See details enclosed for our outdoor, socially distanced picnic at Veterans Park on Valleydale Road on May 13th...please note the DATE CHANGE from our normal meeting time.

Memorial Day is coming up and is a time to remember, especially our fallen fellow veterans. This year many of the venues and celebrations will still be virtual or restricted to an extremely limited number of participants. The Veterans Memorial Park brick laying ceremony that our chapter normally supports with volunteers will again be virtual; hopefully, the November ceremony will be back live.

Our Zoom meetings have been well attended over the past some months and I appreciate all of the support that our membership has provided in these difficult times. I am looking forward to seeing some of you in person at the picnic and also at our summer luncheon meetings starting in June, which will be held at Lloyd's Restaurant.

We will participate in several recruiting/community outreach events in April and May that Michael Walker has been instrumental in securing for the chapter. In the meantime, stay well, be safe and look forward to seeing you soon!

Respectfully,

Don

Volume 121 Issue 5 May 2021

Officers' Call

President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
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Legislative Affairs Eless Brown, Col USA
Personal Affairs Anne Hartline
Surviving Spouse Liaison Donna Martin
Newsletter Linda DeMarco, 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.

MAY SPEAKER - MARK DAVIS

May Chapter meeting is Thursday the 13th! Mark Davis will be our guest speaker

Meeting will take place at Veterans Park in Hoover, located on Valleydale Road. We will gather at about 4:30 PM, have a short presentation on the proposed Veterans Monument at Veterans Park and then enjoy some good ole Alabama BBQ from Full Moon. Cost will be about \$15 per person. This will be our first live meeting in over a year; but outside and socially distanced, so please plan to come join us!

Mark Davis served in the Navy, has been a successful business owner and now spends an inordinate amount of his time giving back to veteran organizations. Name a veteran organization here in Birmingham and he has probably been involved in it at some point in time. His enthusiasm and guidance will I'm sure make the Hoover Veterans Monument a success



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER
AND
HONOR



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In the words of Barry Manilow, "Looks like we made it!" Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are going to be meeting in person this month! I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road. One of the things that this pandemic has taught me is not to take in person Fellowship with others for granted!

So why is Fellowship so important? I really believe Fellowship with others is a gift. Think about it. What is the worst punishment for those who are in prison, short of death? ISOLATION. Does anyone else feel like you have been isolated long enough? Were you looking for a place to get your vaccine? When you finally got your shots, did you feel like a stone was lifted off your back? Did you feel freed? I did. So did Joan. And this past Sunday we finally had a Sunday school class IN PERSON! Halleluiah!

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 provide us some good ways to express ourselves as we come out of this pandemic. Verse 16 says to Rejoice always. I agree, and say, why not? We live in the greatest country on earth, in one of the most beautiful and misunderstood states in the US, and we just had two A-Day games with fans in the stands! Rejoice! Verse 17 says to Pray without ceasing. I know that many of us have been doing this for months. And we know that there is Power in Prayer. Finally, verse 18 says in everything (that is right) in EVERYTHING give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Guys, remember that Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th. Ladies, thank YOU for all you did, and still do, to help form the backbone of our military families. You are special and deserve this incredibly special day of recognition. Please remember those who are still deployed and go in harm's way. Pray for their safe return and pray for their families. My prayer for you this month is from Paul's letter to the Romans: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

See you soon.
Mac Chandler



GBC MOAA Key Dates 2021

Date	Event
May 5	Board Meeting
May 13	Chapter meeting picnic at Veteran's Park on Valleydale Rd
May 23	AVMP Memorial Day Ceremony - Virtual/zoom
Jun 3	Chapter meeting - Lloyd's Restaurant on 280.
Jul 1	Chapter meeting - Lloyd's Restaurant on 280.
Aug 5	Chapter meeting - Lloyd's Restaurant on 280. Ladies Recognition & Excellence Award
Sept 29	Ladies Luncheon
Aug 11	Board Meeting
Sep 2	Chapter meeting - Location TBD
Oct 7	Chapter meeting - Location TBD
Nov 4	Chapter meeting - Location TBD
Nov 10	Board Meeting
Nov TBD	Birmingham Veterans Day Parade and Awards Dinner
Nov TBD	AVMP Veterans Day Ceremony
Dec 2	Chapter meeting

Application for Membership/Renewal - Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA (Please print or type)

First Name MI Last Name Grade Rank Preferred Name Name of Spouse
 Branch of Service: Army Air Force Navy Marines Coast Guard Other: _____
 Status: Active Duty Retired National Guard Reserve Former Member Surviving Spouse

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____
 National MOAA Membership Number: _____ National Membership Type: Basic Premium Life
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Renewal or New Membership (membership runs by calendar year)
 Regular Membership or Surviving Spouse: \$20/year \$35/2 years **\$50/3 years**
 Supporting Membership (\$50) or Sustaining Membership (\$100)
 ROTC Affiliation (electronic communications only - no cost)



Mail this form to Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253



LEISLATIVE UPDATE

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

The White House Budget: What Early Figures Mean for You and Your Benefits By Allison Reilly

The DOD proposed budget is set at \$515 billion, a 1.7% increase from the FY 2021 enacted level and roughly 0.5% behind inflation. The plan has received criticism. Some lawmakers have stated this figure is not a sufficient increase to maintain a strong national defense, while others have questioned the need for even the limited increase.

The White House called for \$113.1 billion in discretionary VA Funding, up \$8.5 billion (8.2%) from the FY 2021 enacted level. This money is in addition to the funds provided to the VA via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Priorities highlighted in the administration's request include:

- Medical Care: \$97.5 billion for VA medical care up \$7.6 billion (8.5%) from FY 2021 enacted figure
- Suicide Prevention: nearly 75% increase from \$230 million to proposed \$542 million
- Technology Improvements: \$2.7 billion to continue VA electronic health record modernization, and \$4.8 billion to VA's Office of Information Technology
- Agent Orange Claims Processing: \$40.3 million to hire 334 new claims processors
- Medical Research: \$882 million in discretionary funds for such things as prosthetics, traumatic brain injury, and toxic exposure
- Memorial Services: \$394 million to ensure Veterans and their families have access to world-class memorial benefits

House Panel Tackles Growing Backlog of VA Compensation and Pension Exams by Brenden McMahon

A March 23, 2021 House committee hearing addressed the critical VA exam backlog preventing hundreds of thousands of Veterans from receiving earned benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost 350,000 Veterans are awaiting their compensation and pension (C&P) exams, a figure that has tripled since early 2020. The exams were paused VA-wide in April 2020 and restarted late the next month at some locations. MOAA was encouraged to hear the subcommittee's bipartisan concerns and calls for action. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the VA's Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) concur that a detailed written plan to address the backlog, uniform guidance across all levels, as well as quality contracted examiners are needed. MOAA continues to engage with VA, Secretary Denis McDonough, and other Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) partners to address the issues and improve the quality of, and timely access to VA health care and benefits.

Help Extend TRICARE Benefits for Some 'Gray Area' Reserve Component Retirees by Karen Ruedisueli

Bipartisan, bicameral legislation would extend TRICARE benefits to reserve component retirees who receive retirement pay before age 60 due to deployment credits but do not get retiree TRICARE coverage until they reach age 60. The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act would ensure the 'gray area' retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit. MOAA supports this legislation that would ensure all uniformed services retirees who receive retired pay are also covered by the TRICARE health care benefit. Reiterating that Reserve component members who have earned early retirement pay through deployment credits should receive the full retirement package, including health care coverage.

EVENTS

Lakeshore Foundation golf outing for sight impaired veterans

Lakeshore Foundation's Lima-Foxtrot program for disabled veterans, hosted a sight impaired golf outing at Highland Park Golf Course in April. Two of our members were fortunate enough to be able to meet the players, assist them on the course and enjoy the day! More volunteer opportunities will arise with Lakeshore in the months ahead, so please stay tuned and consider participating when possible. It is a lot of fun as well as rewarding!

Charlie Marvin helping line up one of the golfers.



Don Lehman with "the team"
Lamar, Freddie and Marv



Hoover Day, Sunday, April 25th

Thanks to our membership chair, Michael Walker, our MOAA chapter recruited 3 new members at the Hoover Day celebration at Veteran's Park. Beautiful weather, great people watching and an event well worth attending.

RECRUITER'S CORNER

The GBC MOAA 2021 Recruiting Season Begins

Hoover Day Celebration (Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM)

Hoover Day is upon us. To get there that day, enter 4800 Valleydale Road (or Jaguar Drive) into your GPS. Once you turn onto Jaguar Drive off Valleydale Road, you will soon see the main Veterans Park entrance on your right. GBC MOAA representatives will be present near the main pavilion from 11:00AM until complete. **It is an opportunity to invite GBC prospects who may be interested in joining.** The event helps serve our chapter's greater community public exposure initiative.

GBC MOAA Outdoor Picnic (Thursday, May 13, 2021, Afternoon, 4:30PM Until Complete)

Bring a friend to the GBC picnic at Veterans Park and we would be happy to meet them. For MOAA-eligible prospects, **a picnic is a happy event for prospects to visit and consider joining GBC MOAA.** It will be a fun afternoon and another way to throw support behind GBC's 2021 community public exposure initiative.

Alabaster Community-Wide Yard Sale (Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon)

The City of Alabaster is hosting its annual community-wide yard sale event "Trash to Treasure Extravaganza" at Buck Creek Park. There will be outdoor tables setup for interested citizens to sell clutter from their attics or garages on that day. A GBC representative will be present at one of the tables. **This event is a GBC community outreach and engagement activity that includes the potential for welcoming future members.** Enter 701, 6th Avenue Southwest, Alabaster into your GPS to get there.

Eligible individuals who prefer to do so, can **join, or renew** with GBC electronically. If you know of anyone who qualifies, our chapter's membership page is [GBC MOAA Website](#). Please direct any prospective members who come to mind to our website to start the process and sign up as members. As a second option they can visit the redesigned [National MOAA Website Join and Renew System](#). Thanks again for everyone's support to GBC past, present, and future. Let us continue to make our chapter better with a convenient option for interested and eligible applicants to join.

Updated chapter photo directory now available!

Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret), USA
Membership Chair
zywalk@gmail.com

Donna Martin, our database guru and who we could not function without, has updated the membership photo directory and it is now available on our website, at <http://moaabirmingham.org/photo-directory-of-members/>, of course, if you have internet access. Also, for security purposes, only GBC MOAA members can have access to the on-line directory. If you have not been granted access for the Members only tab on our website, and wish to gain access, you will need to follow the instructions under the "join us" which is located on the "directory" as well as the "log-in" pages, under the Members Only tab. It's pretty straight forward, just follow the instructions and then, once our website developer verifies that you are a dues paying GBC member, he will send you a log-in and password.

If you DO NOT have internet access, please call or email Donna Martin at (205) 408-4761 or donnamaemartin@aol.com and she will mail you a hard copy. FYI, the online directory is in PDF and can be printed from your home computer.

If you see that your photo is missing in the directory, please send a selfie to Donna per above. If you are as bad with names and faces as I am, you will find the directory of great value!





The Friday before [Mother's Day](#) in the [United States](#) is observed as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. It is a day to acknowledge the significant others of military personnel who hold the fort down at home while their partners are protecting the country.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Focusing on Finances After Loss

By: Pat Green

The loss of a spouse has quite an impact. At first, you are busy dealing with grief and helping your family recover from the loss. Eventually, though, you must focus your energy on finances. You have lost your financial partner.

Your goal should be to live comfortably with as little financial stress as possible. Losing a spouse often means a reduction in family income. This requires some changes and hard decisions as you consider:

- **Where should I live?** Many factors are involved in this decision. Work, commute time, children, their friends, activities, and school proximity, health, safety, and other family responsibilities are all important.
- **What can I afford?** This is probably the most important consideration. If you and your spouse were conservative in spending, your living expenses and debt might be manageable. Do a budget analysis based on your current income and spending. Be aware of adjustments. Income might be down, but taxes might be up if your new IRS tax status is "single" (higher rates). Include new insurance costs for yourself to protect any dependents. Do not forget to add in the expense of services your spouse provided, such as lawn mowing, painting, or handy jobs. Do the calculations. If you can stay put for a while, great!
- **How can I make changes to my current home?** It is home, and you love it. You can freshen things up with some inexpensive changes like rearranging furniture, adding some fresh paint, buying a new bed or bedspread, and relocating photos and wall art.
- **What if a change of address is necessary?** Downsizing or moving might be the best option for your new financial circumstances or emotional state. Make a pro/con list of emotional factors and expenses. Be thoughtful about real estate commissions, state income tax, moving, and redecorating expenses as well as all those emotional pluses and minuses. Investigate whether spousal disability exemptions and entitlements are available at a new home or new location. Changing states can generate issues. Do your homework. Be diligent!

This is a lot to do and a lot to consider but help and resources are available. There are excellent calculators and programs online to assist with mortgages, investments, budget analysis, and insurance decisions, including on MOAA.org. Find them at [MOAA.org/Finance](https://www.moaa.org/Finance).

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lois Faires	3
Jim Musgrove	3
Peter Poerschke	6
Anne Nelson	12
Bruce Williams	16
Paul Gonthier	17
Dick Ritz	22
Larry Houck	24
Susan Hamel	28
Tom Fickling	29

OBITUARIES



Beverly Joan "B.J." Niedermeier
APRIL 22, 1947 – DECEMBER 22, 2020
 B.J. Niedermeier, born Beverly Joan Lawrence (Ward), passed away December 22, 2020 at the age of 73 after a battle with Covid 19.

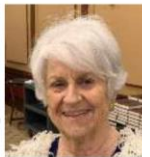
MOAA on-line photo directory

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 have 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
islandmomma1@gmail.com

USMC Ret LTCOL Life
 404-441-3882 (c)
 BD: 7/10
 BD: 11/20
 404-725-7152 (c)



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 and/or Facebook



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Greater Birmingham MOAA Coins

The new Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Challenge Coins are now available to order for only \$10 per coin! This coin will make a wonderful gift and must-have for any challenge coin collection. You can also order coins by contacting:
 LTC (ret) Don Lehman at don.lehman1@gmail.com.
 Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.



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We invite you to call us for more information.



RIDOUT'S VALLEY CHAPEL

HOMWOOD

Lt. Col. (Ret) Mac Chandler, Family Service Counselor

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)



Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:

MOAABirmingham.org

AlabamaMarine.org

VVA.org - DAV.org

Cell: (404) 441-3882
don.lehman1@gmail.com



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Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

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Saturday 3–11PM

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Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

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MAY MEETING MAY 13