



Greetings Members and Friends,



On April 10th, MOAA representatives will gather on Capitol Hill with the goal of visiting every legislator's office to make MOAA's case for ending the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, stabilizing TRICARE fees, and maintaining compensation for currently serving troops. Dave Jensen, President of the Alabama Council of Chapters and Anne Hartline, GBC MOAA will represent all Alabama MOAA members in this annual effort. See the March issue of *Military Officers*, go online at moaa.org, or read this month Legislative Update in this newsletter and explore the ways you can support MOAA's "Storming of the Hill."

We have done well in our membership campaign for 2019, retaining 88% of our membership. There are still many MOAA members living in the Greater Birmingham area who have not joined our Chapter. Don Lehman, 2nd VP/Membership Chair will begin our campaign to contact these individuals in the coming months. If you know someone who is eligible to become a Chapter member encourage them to join. On April 27th, we will set-up a Chapter booth at the "Celebrate Hoover" day. Don Lehman will spearhead this effort and needs support from one or two other Chapter members. The event will be held in Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road, 11:00am – 3:00pm. This is another good way to reach out to potential members. Contact Don at 404-441-3882.

Our speaker last month was Chapter member, Dr. Michael Walker, who discussed his recently published book, *Sharon Tate Campaign Plan MMXX*. It was a very interesting talk and I am eager to begin reading his book. This month's speaker is MG Lee S. Price, USA (Ret). MG Price, a Birmingham native, who served in the US Army for 38 years and will discuss, "leadership lessons from Special Operations Command (SOCOM), in the context of extreme decision making."

Our next Meeting is April 4; social hour begins at 6:00pm. Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully,

Wes

Volume 119 Issue 4 April 2019

Officers' Call

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

1st VP Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)

2nd VP Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

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TOPS Liaison Al Wood, LTC, USA (Ret)

Legislative Affairs Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)

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.

The background of the entire page is a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

Speaker

Major General N. Lee S. Price

U.S. Army, Retired

206 Hart Fell Crescent

Mountain Brook, Alabama 35223

C: (205) 335-3034, website – GeneralLeePrice.com

NLeeSPrice@gmail.com

General Price retired from the United States Army in 2014 as a Major General after over 38 years of military service. She served in the Army Signal Corps, the Special Operations community, and in the Army Acquisition Corps. She has an extensive background in computers that began in 1974 when she first started writing computer code. Her interests expanded into communications when the value of information-sharing began to be realized. During her time in the service, she earned two Master's Degrees: one in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona, and another in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Among her many awards for achievement and leadership, General Price received the Army's highest award, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, as well as the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Action Badge.

General Price's career began when she enlisted as a Private First-Class clerk-typist. Among her many "firsts" in the Army, she was the first woman to achieve the rank of General Officer in the Army Acquisition Corps, the first woman to be selected for General Officer while serving in the U.S. Special Operations Command, and the first woman to serve as an Army Program Executive Officer. Upon her retirement, only seven women in the U.S. Army had achieved higher rank.

General Price's career culminated as the Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications – Tactical (PEO C3T) from November 2009 to September 2013. In this capacity she managed and directed 9 of the Army's 27 major programs, an annual value of \$4-6 Billion. This included the Army's #1 priority for modernization – upgrading the global, Army-wide tactical communications and networked computer applications – those communications and cyber systems used in hostile environments by deployed forces. During this timeframe, Congress and the Defense Department created the Network Integration Evaluation (NIE), a comprehensive method to evaluate Army-wide solutions and to shorten the acquisition cycle. Her organization became the Network Integrator to validate the operational network and assist the Army in making wise investments while divesting unsatisfactory solutions.

Earlier in her career, Colonel Price was assigned as the Deputy Acquisition Executive for the U.S. Special Operations Command (US SOCOM) from 2005 – 2008 when the command grew by almost 40%. She was trusted with the management of command's most critical projects for the Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, other special operators, and National assets. As a colonel, from 2002 – 2005, she established a \$300 million comprehensive commercial communications infrastructure for the State Department and U.S. Forces operating in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Qatar. During the push to deliver Y2K-compliant computer systems, she was stationed in Yongsan, Korea where she upgraded the largest command and control software system within the Department of Defense. With over 1500 users, a version of this comprehensive (Internet of Things) system remains in use in Korea by all US and Republic of Korea forces (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines).

As the President and CEO of Price Solutions, LLC since 2014, General Price is an independent business consultant and executive coach supporting a wide range of clients. She serves on the boards of

Thursday, April 04, 2019

Social Hour: 1800 hrs. Dinner: 1830 hrs.

- **Cost:** \$26 per person.
Payment for meal is due at the door (checks are preferred).
- **Location:** Danberry at Inverness, 235 Inverness Center Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242.
- **Reservations:** Contact CAPT Doug Markham, 205-420-2631 or dgmarkham3143@gmail.com 9 by 1200 Noon on Monday April 1st to make or cancel your reservation. Note: Your reservation is not complete until you have received a confirmation call or email.
- **Menu:** Caesar Salad, Crab topped Filet over Mashed Potatoes, Bacon Braised Brussel Sprouts, Asparagus, Assorted Bread, Pecan Pie
- **Cash Bar:** \$5 (wine and mixed drinks); \$3 (beer); Drink tickets available at registration desk.

Driving Instructions - Danberry at Inverness, 235 Inverness Center Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242

- **Traveling from I-65** (South or North): Take the I-459 interchange toward Atlanta. Proceed north on I-459 and take Exit 19 onto Highway 280 toward Childersburg. Travel approx. 2.2 miles on Highway 280 and turn right onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on right). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.
- **Traveling South on I-459:** Take Exit 19 onto Highway 280 toward Childersburg. Travel approx. 2.2 miles on Highway 280 and turn right onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on right). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.
- **Traveling West on Highway 280:** Turn left onto Inverness Center Drive (Fresh Market shopping center on the left). Travel approx. 1/2 mile and turn left into Danberry at Inverness.

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



Speaker (continued).

Southern Research Institute where she is the Chair of the Compensation Committee; the Lakeshore Foundation where she serves as the Chair of the Governance Committee; and University of South Florida's Institute of Applied Engineering. She is a lifetime member of several military-affiliated organization, including the Signal Corps Regimental Association (cyber professionals), Association of the United States Army, and the Military Officers Association of America. General Price currently resides in Birmingham where she grew up. She enjoys being near family and childhood friends where she occasionally shows off her culinary skills. She enjoys travel and fitness but when home, she is often seen outside exercising her Chocolate Labrador Retriever.

Chaplain's Corner

I love spring in Alabama. We are given the gift of the budding of our beautiful azalea's and dogwoods, the spring flowers, and the yards finally coming back to life. Spring in Alabama is just downright beautiful. It is the new renewing of life in things gone dormant for winter.

Another significant thing about April this year is that on April 21st, the Christian community will be celebrating Easter, that most significant day in the Christian calendar when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also means for many of us a day with the family, children hunting Easter eggs, and others eating chocolate Easter bunnies. Yum!

For our members who served in Viet Nam, April also represents the official end of that war, on April 30, 1975. Our guest speaker this month would like for as many Viet Nam veterans as possible to come to her presentation. She has something special for you special folks!

This Easter, and the rest of the month of April, let's all think long and hard about how we can learn to love our neighbors as ourselves. And then let's do it. May God continue to bless each and every one of you, and may He continue to bless these United States of America.

Mac Chandler, LTC (Ret) U.S. Army



Recruiter's Corner

Final chapter membership retention

Final chapter renewals are in and we have maintained 88% of our membership for 2019! 142 out of 161 members from last year are now paid and in good standing. We retained 24 new members of the 38 that joined last year. Unfortunately, after signing up, many never attended a meeting and did not renew for 2019. Final notices were sent out, but it is still not too late to renew. See renewal form enclosed. Those that we still have in arrears are:

Henry Boger
Brittany Byrd
Leo Deason
Mike Diamond
Greg Estes
Wayne Fitts
John Foft
Charles Gorham
Juan Gutierrez-Mazorra
Robert Horsley
Jane Larose
Kenneth McRae
Rudolph Morgan
Dale Murray
Paul Porter
Bob Shinspaugh
George Singleton

Thanks to all for your support and let's build the chapter even more this year!

Semper Fi,
Don Lehman, LTC, USMCR (retired)
Membership Chair

^HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Hendricks	3
Warren Todd	9
Frank Smith	19
Ed Clark	20
BJ Niedermeier	22
Mike Kozlik	23
Terry Richmond	24
Billy Joe Camp	27
Chuck Bailey	28



Legislative Update

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

Storming the Hill 2019

In April, MOAA will “Storm the Hill” to interact with legislators of both Houses of Congress to discuss specific issues that affect the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. To understand the purpose of this event I think we need to briefly revisit MOAA’s history and purpose.

MOAA was founded in Los Angeles, CA, on Feb. 23, 1929 as the Retired Officers Association. The association’s goal was to provide assistance and advice to fellow military officers throughout the United States. This concern for others fostered natural fraternal relations among members from all branches of the uniformed services.

By the beginning of World War II, MOAA’s leaders realized that they needed to reorganize and expand to become an effective force on behalf of their members. MOAA moved to Washington, D.C., in 1944 with a membership of 2,600.

After a membership vote, the association changed its name from The Retired Officers Association (TROA) to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), on January 1, 2003.

Through an act of Congress in 2009, MOAA was granted a [federal charter](#). This gave MOAA an expression of congressional support for all of the group’s activities as a Veterans Service Organization (VSO). It also enabled all state-level MOAA affiliates to represent veterans on governor-level veterans advisory councils. The Alabama Council of Chapters currently has 2 representatives on the Governors Veterans Advisory Board.

Today, MOAA has grown to a membership of more than 350,000 members and is the country’s largest military officers’ association.

MOAA’s purpose also has grown to include career transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities.

While MOAA does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association’s board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today’s actively serving military leadership.

The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - its status as a tax-exempt veterans’ organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.

(Continued on next page)

Legislative Update (continued)

This is not to say that you, as an individual citizen cannot participate in or directly support a candidate's election for public office. We, the GBC MOAA Chapter cannot advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates.

What I have discussed so far is background for what I think is one of the top MOAA initiatives each year, Storming the Hill. Storming the Hill is a unified approach to ensure that members of both houses of Congress understand what we, as MOAA members, consider to be justifiable benefits that have been earned for years of service to the country and should be supported through legislative action.

Storming the Hill

On April 10 and 11th, MOAA Staff and 2 representatives from each State Council will Storm the Hill. State Council members meet with their State legislators, or members of their staff if the legislator is not available, in both houses of Congress to discuss selected veteran issues. Dave Jensen and Anne Hartline will represent the Alabama MOAA Council. The issues that will be discussed this year are:

- Maintaining equity of Military pay with the civilian sector to continue recruiting and retaining quality service members,
- The SBP/DIC offset, commonly referred to as the Widow's Tax, and
- No further erosion of the TRICARE benefits

Finally, and what I want you to focus on is what you can do to support the Storming of the Hill initiative and proposed legislation throughout the year.

There are 2 relatively simple ways that you can communicate with your congressional representatives that have been provided by MOAA.

First, visit the Legislative Action Center on MOAA website at moaa.org. This site allows you to express your views as key events are happening. The site is user friendly. Simply,

- select the Take Action Tab
- select an issue
- fill in some basic information, which will allow MOAA to address your concerns with the appropriate legislators.

- click the submit button
- you will then receive a letter that you will be able to customize, select the representative you want it sent to, and then send it.

Second, in the monthly "*Military Officer*" magazine there are letters or postcards that discuss specific issues that you can tear out, sign and send. The March issue contained letters to the Majority and Minority leaders of both houses of Congress concerning support of ending the Widows Tax.

Let's all do our part to protect the benefits that have been earned by years of dedicated service to our Country—communicate with your legislators!

MOAA GBC Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies Luncheon on March 6th, at Hoover Country Club was most enjoyable and informative. Donna Martin, our GBC Surviving Spouse Liaison, presided and introduced Jerri Barnhill who gave an Inspirational Thought followed by Col (Ret) Deb Parker leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our special guest LTC (Ret) Dave Jensen, President of the MOAA Alabama Council of Presidents, brought greetings from the Alabama Council. His wife Sissie and four other ladies from the MOAA Coosa County Chapter in Gadsden attended including Mariella McNair, their Surviving Spouse Liaison.

COL (Ret) Wes Cox, our GBC President, presented an update on legislative affairs. He urged everyone to call our congressperson and Senator Richard Shelby to ask them to cosponsor bills HR 553 and S 622, then vote to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset. Please call Senator Doug Jones and thank him for writing and presenting S 622.

Anne Hartline, Chairman of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee to the President of MOAA national, urged all surviving spouses to join the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter which meets quarterly by conference call. She also strongly encouraged everyone to complete MOAA publications, either "Personal Affairs Guide" for spouses of living service members or "Survivor's Planning Guide" for surviving spouses.

Our speaker was Aimee Barnes, Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch, who gave information on preparing for our financial health in the future. We all need to plan and share with our family or the executor of our estate. Having important papers, such as your will, power of attorney, property deeds and automobile titles, in one place is essential along with names of your attorney, accountant and financial advisor. Lists of bank accounts, insurance policies, and others to be notified will be most helpful. Financial planning includes examining your current cost of living and predicting future needs for your care. There is data available to assist in this planning.

Margie Argo decorated the tables, and Cynthia Cox helped everyone get name tags and MOAA publications. Lisa Phillips provided Mary Kay favors, and Hoffman Media gave us "Southern Lady" magazines. Lloyd Beard took pictures.

Others attending were Dorothy Balkovetx, Nancy Barefield, Ginger Branson, Linda DeMarco, Vicki Edwards, Marge Jeffries, Stella Malone, Heidi Mueninghoff, Anne Nelson, BJ Neidermeier, Lynn Phifer, Gina Rowe, Catherine Sperando, Emma Vaiton and Ruth Walker.



Margie Argo, Donna Martin and Stella Malone.



Jerri Barnhill gave the Inspirational Thought.



Standing: LTC (Ret) Dave Jensen, President, MOAA Alabama Council of Chapters, Sissie Jensen, Cynthia Cox, COL (Ret) Wes Cox, our GBC President. Seated: Donna Martin, GBC Surviving Spouse Liaison, Aimee Barnes, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch, Anne Hartline, Chairman, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee to the President of MOAA national.

Planning for the Future: A Priceless Gift for Your Family **By** **Anne Hartline, Chairman, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Planning for the future includes having financial affairs in order, sharing your personal affairs with your family, and keeping important documents together in an accessible place. Discussing information about handling business after your death is one of life's most difficult tasks. However, making preparations and sharing with your spouse, children or the executor of your estate is a priceless gift. Frequently spouses have the perspective that sharing this information would burden their loved one. However, avoiding these preparations creates a cruel weight which can cause much anxiety at a most difficult time.

MOAA has available several helpful publications that can be completed and shared with your family. "Personal Affairs Action Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind" is a workbook for servicemembers with space to list details essential for smooth transitions for survivors. "Survivor's Planning Guide", also designed for filling in the blanks, was created for surviving spouses. These guides are available on the MOAA website under publications. Life Members and Premium Members can order hard copies from MOAA. One of the benefits of membership in MOAA is the availability of its many publications.

In addition to income, other financial information is critical knowledge to provide for survivors. Some considerations include determining how much income will be required for your spouse to maintain your current lifestyle. Your spouse will not inherit any VA disability benefits you are receiving. If you have elected to purchase the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), your surviving spouse will receive a maximum 55% of your retired pay. Consider your spouse's personal sources of income and the penalties for being single including possible increases in health insurance and a greater tax rate on Social Security. Examine life insurance policies for beneficiaries. Determine if you have named a charity or another inheritor when in reality your spouse might need that money to pay bills. Step up! Plan and share information as a priceless gift to your spouse and family!

Honor your veteran

Alabama Veterans Memorial Park is an enduring tribute to all veterans, living or past.

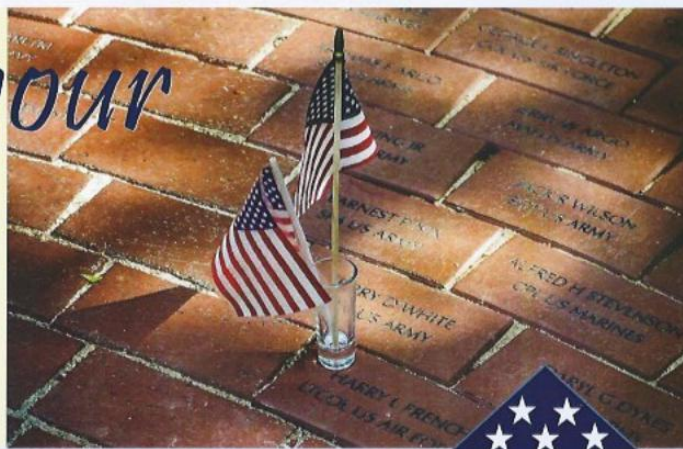
You can honor veterans in your life by purchasing a StepStone, a paver engraved with the veteran's name, rank, and branch of service, which is permanently displayed at the park. StepStones are dedicated twice a year at the park.

StepStones purchased by April 6, 2018, will be dedicated Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 2 pm.

StepStones are available for a \$100 (tax-deductible) donation. To honor your veteran with a StepStone, contact us or visit our website:

Alabama Veterans Memorial Park
205.305.6749 • avstepstone@gmail.com
www.alabamaveterans.org

The Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, was incorporated in 1988 for the purpose of creating and maintaining the 22-acre Alabama Veterans Memorial Park located off I-459 and Liberty Parkway Exit 23 in Birmingham. The Park was dedicated in 2001 and remains open during daylight hours each day. No admission charge.



★ please join us for a ★ Patriotic Tribute to Veterans

Sunday, May 20, 2018

1 pm – 3:30 pm

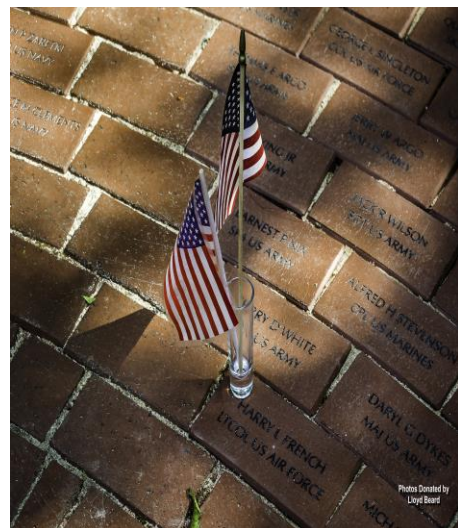
at Alabama Veterans Memorial Park

★ 2 pm – StepStone Dedication Ceremony

★ I-459 at Liberty Parkway Exit 23 in Birmingham



Color Guard
by Lynn M-H Andrews



Stepstones by Lloyd
Beard

[CLICK HERE FOR STEPSTONES APPLICATION FORM](#)



From Aimee, our speaker at the Ladies Luncheon.

Anne –

Thank you so much for inviting me to be a speaker at your March MOAA Ladies Luncheon. I am honored to be able to share some of my passion in connecting women and families to their money. My goal is for every person I meet to feel confident in their Financial Picture, and to know how the assets can be put to the best use – planning for retirement, caring for loved ones, giving to a favorite charity. Everyone's legacy wish is different. As you know, with a little planning, one can achieve some amazing results, and live a fuller, more confident life.

I wanted to follow up with the ladies who attended. Do you think they would be interested in learning more about "The Journey of Caregiving"? It's an article (and set of resources we have) to help clients navigate thru caregiving, having conversations with their families, and having the correct documents available and in place. In my talk, I focused on Estate Planning, but after speaking with some of your members, I realized this could have been more of a focus.

Here is a link to the article: <https://www.ml.com/financial-goals-and-priorities/caregiver-benefits-challenges.html?pageurl=bluestein-eggers-wealth-management-group>

Aimee Barnes, CLU®, ChFC®, CFP® Financial Advisor

Bluestein Eggers Wealth Management Group

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F: 205.409.0339 | aimee.barnes@ml.com

Armed Forces Officers Wives Club

Please join us April 11, 2019

At

**Vulcan Park and Museum
1701 Valley View Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209**

At 11:30 am

Speaker

Darlene Negrotto
President and CEO

The Bicentennial – the history of Vulcan, his creation,
his decay and ultimate restoration

To make reservations, please contact
Jane Galik before April 5, 2019
ladyg8r74@gmail.com
205-664-8163

The purpose of this organization is to foster
friendship among the wives of active, retired alive
and deceased officers of the Armed Forces, and
female officers to promote cultural and educational
needs and provide group fellowship.

*Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month
from September through May at various locations.*

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

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.

Personalized MOAA Nametags

MOAA nametags are available for \$8.50 each through J.D. Crawford.

The nametags are black lettering on white, and they are approximately business card size with magnetic backs.

Mail your name, rank and branch of service (or other information as applicable, i.e. surviving spouse, etc.) along with \$8.50 for each nametag ordered to James D. Crawford, 3076 Brookhill Drive, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Make checks payable to James D. Crawford.



<https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Birmingham-MOAA-Chapter-161367134657315/>





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- Concierge & Valet Parking Services

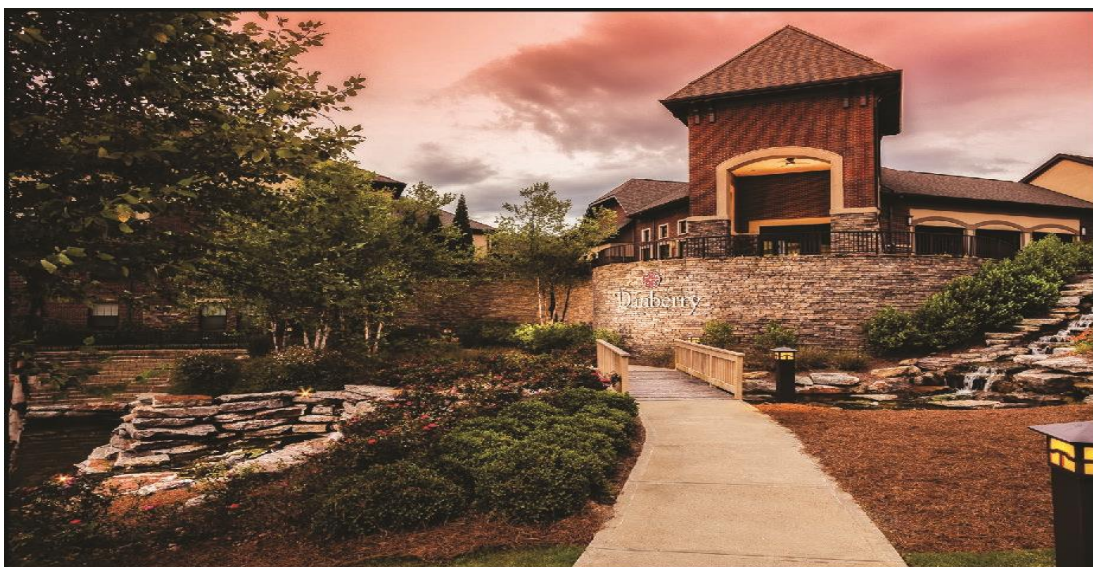
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- Creative arts studio



1981.

A lawyer, a tax accountant
and a financial advisor
walk into a bar. Seriously.
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well-coordinated plan
that's still paying off in
2018.

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Our upcoming dinner meetings will be 4 April 2019 and 02 May 2019