



**Lunch was fun!**

We had another good turnout of 25 members for our July luncheon and we all enjoyed the conversation and food. Just a reminder though, if you RSVP for lunch and do not show up, the chapter still must pay for your lunch. So please try to honor the RSVP or let us know that you cannot make it so we will not be charged. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Our new members especially may not know that we have a membership directory available only to members, on our website. And better yet, it has photos so you can remember who's who much better! Many have not submitted a selfie photo to include in the directory, so we are going to make a concerted effort to do that. Each meeting, there will be someone going around taking photo headshots of members. Or better yet, send your favorite selfie to Donna Martin at [donnamaemartin@aol.com](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com). Thank you very much; the more photos we have, the better the directory will be.

Everyone enjoy the rest of your summer, take care and we look forward to seeing you at a chapter meeting soon!

Respectfully,  
*Don & Patricia*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**LADIES LUNCHEON  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**



# Officers' Call

- President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)*
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)*
- Secretary Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)*
- Treasurer Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)*
- Past Pres. Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)*
- Director J.D. Crawford, Col, USA (Ret)*
- Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)*
- Director Bob Barefield, Col USA (Ret)*
- Director Richard McKinley, CPT USAF (Ret)*
- Chaplain Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)*
- 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](mailto:newsletter@moaabirmingham.org).

## AUGUST MEETING/SPEAKER

August 4 meeting will be an informal lunch meeting at 11:30 am at Danberry with no speaker. Menu TBD. Reservations must be made by noon Monday, July 31, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - [dgmarkham3143@gmail.com](mailto:dgmarkham3143@gmail.com),

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

If you've ever hosted an event at your house—a Super Bowl party, a holiday meal, a book club meeting—you know that there are a hundred little details that need to be taken care of before the guests arrive. And one or two details could make the difference between a great event and a hosting nightmare. So, it takes a certain spiritual gift and an inner fortitude to be a good host. Not everyone is cut out for this job.

Here are examples of some of the worst dinner party experiences. One woman related how the candles on her patio table fell over and set the whole table on fire.

Another had 50 guests coming over for brunch when the city water department cut off her water. Another tried to make a new chicken recipe that turned out so bad that she threw the whole thing away and ordered pizza instead.

Every time I read Luke 10:38-42, I wonder how Martha had the energy and skill to host a large group of people on short notice. It begins, "*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.*" As she rushed around making preparations, she noticed that Mary, her sister, wasn't helping her. *Where was she?* She was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him teach.

Verse 40 reads, "*But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.*" The word used here for "distracted" literally means "to drag all around." Have you ever experienced this? You feel like you are dragging around others' demands on your time and energy. You are dragging around others' expectations and standards. You are dragging around other people's priorities. Of course, Martha was stressed out! So, she brought her fear and her stress to Jesus.

**In this life, our time is limited, but our demands are endless.** Most of us live in a permanent state of distraction and anxiety because we have a limited amount of time and energy to deal with an unlimited number of options. This was not God's design for human beings.

In Genesis chapter 2, verse 2, God **rested** from His Work of creating the universe. At some point, if we want to live the life God made us for, we must lay down our burdens to take up the **rest** that God offers us. **Jesus shows us how to live with no regrets.**

Make a shift: from a life spent trying not to neglect anything, to one spent proactively and consciously choosing *what to neglect*, in favor of *what matters most*.

I think God would agree with this idea that we need to proactively and consciously choose what to neglect in favor of what matters most. We can't do it all. We can't have it all. In fact, the "all" we are looking for cannot be attained by our striving. The "all" we so desperately need for peace and fulfillment and happiness can only be found in knowing God. Jesus knew that, and he focused his time and energy accordingly. Mary understood that, so she neglected her hosting duties to sit at Jesus' feet and enjoy her time with him.

**You will never have time for everything, SO, focus your time on the most important thing.** In verses 41-42 of this passage, Jesus says, "*Martha, Martha,*" the Lord answered, "*you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*" The point is: Be sure to take time to "rest" in some conversation with God (reading Scripture, praying for strength and guidance, using opportunities to reflect on God's Will for little ol' you.)

Blessings on your time!

Chaplain Dan Phifer

## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### The GBC MOAA 2022 Recruiting Season Continues

#### Continuing

Most Greater Birmingham Chapter members are already aware that they can upgrade their National MOAA membership from BASIC. For more information, refer to the [National MOAA Membership Upgrade from BASIC to Premium or Life](#).

#### Upcoming

A return to regular Danberry meetings – please take note that this positive development is an opportunity to invite new members, and RSVP a guest.

#### Recruit-A-Member Challenge

This year's challenge starts to everyone begins August 15<sup>th</sup> to submit at least one new prospect to join the Greater Birmingham Chapter before the end of the year. Your contributions and good report matter immensely. If everyone were to acquire one new chapter member, we would double the size of the chapter. If you think of anyone, you can also have them write me about joining the chapter.

### 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



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

### PACT Act Update: Sweeping Toxic Exposure Reforms Back on the Move in Congress by MOAA Staff

After an unexpected delay caused by a procedural issue, a MOAA-backed bill set to provide health benefits to millions of toxic-exposed veterans has been put on course for quick passage. By a 342-88 vote, the House on July 13 overwhelmingly passed a bill including the text of the Senate-passed Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act – bipartisan legislation expanding toxic exposure benefits and supporting the VA as it provides those benefits. The PACT Act will benefit 3.5 million veterans who currently do not have access to VA care and do not have their toxic-exposure related illness recognized by the VA. While this bill does a lot for burn pit-exposed veterans, this is a multi-generational bill helping veterans dating back decades, including those exposed to Agent Orange and other toxins. This comprehensive bill is backed by over 60 groups supporting our veterans and is a compilation of the needs these groups shared with Congress. [Call](#) or [write](#) your senators today and ask them to fast-track this legislation and get it to the President's desk.

### ID Card Update: New Deadline for Some Military Retirees/Dependents by Travis Tritten originally appeared on Military.com

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it is convenient -- as long as it is done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department. There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026. The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians. Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and [Medal of Honor](#) recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards.

### Congress Can Save Billions in DOD Spending Just by Doing Its Job by Kevin Lilley

The 2023 fiscal year arrives in about 80 days and barring a sudden course correction in the halls of Congress, it will come without a fully funded government. MOAA and other advocacy groups have outlined the many problems caused by the regular use of continuing resolutions to keep the government's doors open as budget talks charge past the Oct. 1 deadline – not just in recent months, but frequently as the problem repeats itself. Estimates vary, but they are not cheap; one report put the cost of a potential yearlong FY 2022 continuing resolution at \$76 billion before the eventual full-year funding came to pass ... about halfway through the fiscal year. One might think the high cost of failing to meet the budget deadline may motivate lawmakers to push authorization bills through both chambers, especially in a midterm election year. These reports rarely make a dent in the national media, with other topics taking over the airwaves. That's why MOAA relies on its members to use their power as constituents to focus the attention of their lawmakers – send [a letter today](#) and make clear you are tired of this cycle of waste.



### Get Involved in MOAA's Advocacy Efforts

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

This spring, MOAA members contacted all 535 members of Congress during the association's annual Advocacy in Action event, conducting more than 235 meetings and sending over 7,500 letters. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of security on Capitol Hill, MOAA members met with their elected officials either in face-to-face or virtual meetings.

MOAA's three legislative priorities were supporting the Major Richard Star Act, supporting the Stop Copay Overpay Act; and ensuring a competitive military pay raise.

Why get involved with Advocacy in Action? Volunteers are well trained to understand the process of setting up meetings and communicating with elected officials as well as having a better understanding of legislation. In addition, participation cultivates relationships with staffers and members of Congress from your district and state. The experience you gain is beneficial to help support other legislation as a constituent or with a group to help improve survivor benefits.

Military survivors are the stakeholders to the legislation at large. Congress continuously adjusts military survivor benefits. It is important surviving spouse members exercise their rights to educate staffers and members of Congress and remain vigilant to protect and improve survivor benefits. MOAA headquarters' staff does an outstanding job educating members so they can participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

Here are some ways to contribute and keep MOAA's priorities on Congress' radar:

- Send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill using MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).
- Call elected officials using MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 1-866-272-6622.
- Engage with congressional members via social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Stay current with MOAA's legislative efforts and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*. Check your MOAA's newsletter subscription preferences [at this link](#).
- Customize your letters and conversations with elected officials; embed a personal story.

Congress will act only if they are inspired by their voters. Join MOAA's effort to help improve benefits for military, veterans, retirees, family, and survivors.

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Steve Coleman	7
Paul Pocopanni	8
Tracy Mullins	9
Sam Sparks	12
Jack Natter	14
Lynn Hendricks	17
David Burford	18
Rose Marie Ritz	20
George Meighen	20
Laurie Berenotto	25
Ginger Branson	26
Sam Killian	28
Tony Berenotto	29

### 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](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com).



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USN Ret CDR Life  
205-408-7721 (h)  
205-903-6638 (c)  
BD: 8/28  
BD: 11/10



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Spouse: *Patricia A. Lehman*  
[islandmomma1@gmail.com](mailto:islandmomma1@gmail.com)

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



### ID CARDS

#### **DoD: No Further Extensions Planned for Expired ID Cards!**

Many of us have had our ID cards automatically extended due to the COVID. However, that indefinite extension is now ending on January 31, 2022. If your ID card has an expiration date that is past or expires this month, you will need to renew it ASAP. There are several locations that you can do that here in the Birmingham area, just google "military ID card renewal near me" and a bunch of them will come up. Some may require an appointment and be sure that you have the needed documentation when you go; they can tell you what you need when you call.

Don Lehman

### 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](mailto: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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## Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

### Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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[AlabamaMarine.org](http://AlabamaMarine.org)  
[VVA.org](http://VVA.org) - [DAV.org](http://DAV.org)

Cell: (404) 441-3882  
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### Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

*Veteran Owned and Operated*



July 7 meeting will be an informal lunch meeting at 11:30 am at Danberry with no speaker.