



### Hot Bama!

Yes, it is getting hot down here and us Yankees are suffering! Love it or leave it I guess, so here we are. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and getting out and about now that we are “almost” post COVID. There are still way too many positive tests though, so be sure to get your booster shots and stay safe. Still no guarantee that you are 100% immune, but if you do get it, the symptoms and hospitalization rate will be much lower.

We had 23 members at our June chapter luncheon meeting, and all had a good time. We will gather again at 11:30 on July 7<sup>th</sup>, at Danberry, so please come and enjoy.

A big shout out to our members that helped with some of the many Memorial Day observances. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July will be a celebration of our freedom, which we often take for granted. The war in Ukraine certainly makes us all think just how fortunate that we are. So enjoy the holiday and remember what it’s all about.

Take care and we look forward to seeing you all at a chapter meeting soon!

Respectfully,  
*Don & Patricia*



# Officers’ Call

- President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)*
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (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](mailto:newsletter@moaabirmingham.org).

## JULY MEETING/SPEAKER

July 7 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, May 30, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - [dgmarkham3143@gmail.com](mailto:dgmarkham3143@gmail.com),

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I have an important question for you in this month when we celebrate our nation's Independence: what is something that is essential for human life, is highly contagious, yet most of us take it for granted? Any ideas? *It's kindness.* You might think I'm exaggerating when I say it's essential for human life and highly contagious, but I believe I can back that up.

A student once asked anthropologist Margaret Mead what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a society. What separates an uncivilized collection of people from a true civilization? Mead could have mentioned the first signs of tools, like grinding stones or clay pots for holding food and water. She could have mentioned art, like cave paintings or carved statues. Instead, Mead said the first sign of civilization in her opinion was when an ancient skeleton was found with a healed thighbone. Why is that a sign of civilization?

It was Mead's estimation that in a competitive, primitive culture where people had to hunt and escape predators to survive each day, the fact that someone set aside their own work in order to care for another's injury was *a sign of civilization.*

As Mead said, *"A broken femur that is healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts."*

That's good, isn't it? *"Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts."* That's a great thought for today. One of Jesus' most famous stories is the *Story of the Good Samaritan*. Refresh your memory by reading it in Luke 10:25-37.

Research on kindness shows that when we experience or witness acts of kindness, we are much more likely to offer kindness to others. This is the contagious aspect of kindness.

Blessings in this Birthday Month for the USA.

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-R) U.S. Army

## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### The GBC MOAA 2022 Recruiting Season Continues

#### Continuing

As you know, there are three national MOAA membership levels – Basic, Premium, and Life. Each level has its own set of unique benefits with Life membership is the highest level possible. All “Non-lifers” can upgrade at any time. For further information, refer to [National MOAA Life membership](#)

Veterans helping veterans is not for everybody, but it is what GBC MOAA is all about.

Last year several members of GBC upgraded their National MOAA membership level and there are already a large proportion of national MOAA Life members in our chapter. The Greater Birmingham Chapter attains recognition for each and every National MOAA membership upgrade.

#### Upcoming

Summer Luncheon meetings at Danberry (July and August).

The Greater Birmingham Chapter makes it as easy as possible for eligible individuals to join.

Individuals can join or renew in seconds with GBC electronically. If you know of anyone who qualifies to belong, our chapter’s membership page is [GBC MOAA Website](#). Please email this hyperlink or ask a prospective GBC member to visit our chapter’s website.

#### **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>)

### VA Breast Cancer Screening Bills Signed into Law by Rene' Campos

Congress recognized the need to provide veterans (women and men) with the necessary preventative services to address breast cancer in the ranks by passing the [Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options \(MAMMO\) for Veterans Act](#). On June 7, President Joe Biden signed the measure into law along with eight other [bills](#) that will honor and improve care for veterans. The bipartisan legislation expands veteran's access to high-quality breast cancer screenings and lifesaving cancer care. This bill will:

- Launch a pilot program providing tele mammography to veterans in states where the department does not offer mammograms or where access to the tests is limited.
- Upgrade VA breast imaging facilities to use digital breast tomosynthesis – better known as 3-D breast imaging – within two years.
- Compile a series of reports and studies on multiple topics, including the feasibility of studying genetic testing for the breast cancer gene among veterans, access to mammography services for paralyzed and disabled veterans, and an overall report on veterans' access to, and quality of, VA mammography screenings.

### Total Team Effort: Toxic Exposure Reform Bill Passes Senate, Heads Back to House by Kevin Lilley

On June 16, the Senate voted 84-14 to pass the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, sending the bill back to the House for consideration. The House previously passed a version of the omnibus toxic exposure reform legislation 256-174. While the bill is expected to clear the chamber again, MOAA is asking its members and others to reach out to their representatives and secure their support for expanding VA care to more than 3.5 million veterans, adding 23 ailments to the list of those connected to toxic exposure, funding dozens of new VA facilities in 19 states, and improving toxic exposure-related screening, research, and claims processing. MOAA has supported multiple attempts at much-needed comprehensive toxic exposure reform, with efforts picking up in recent years. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated the House-passed version would cost \$322 billion, [per a Military Times report](#) -- \$43 billion more than the CBO score for the Senate version. Savings would come from delays to some benefit implementation and the use of community care programs to cover some testing and examination requirements, according to the report.

### NDAA Update: House Tackles Pay Raise, End Strength, Medical Billets, and More By MOAA Government Relations Staff

The House Armed Services subcommittees have completed their work on the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – annual legislation addressing all manner of defense-related topics, including several of [MOAA's legislative priorities](#). Work on the bill continues in the Senate, and reconciliation in full committees of the House and Senate is pending. The subcommittee markups and hearings are good indicators of what the final NDAA likely will include. Some of the items being addressed by the NDAA are end strength, pay raises, military health care, military housing, spouse employment, childcare, military hunger prevention, suicide prevention, and barracks privatization.



### Surviving Spouse Corner: 4 Resources for Older Adults

By: Renée Brunelle

The community of military spouses, encompassing all past and present, is a resilient group of individuals. The ability to change plans in a moment's notice is a skill acquired over years of experience. The other amazing characteristic of military spouses is that we support each other and share tools, benefits, and resources no matter how long we have known each other.

Here are four such resources to consider:

**VA Aid and Attendance:** Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. Financial and physical considerations need to be investigated. Local veteran services organizations are a great place to get neutral information and support. Learn more through the [VA Aid and Attendance](#):

**Geriatric Care Managers:** Hiring these professionals can be an unmatched option of support for seniors who do not have family members close. They are social workers for hire who can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

**Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney:** Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that "what you don't know will hurt you." A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise. Learn more through the [National Elder Law Foundation](#).

**Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES):** This designation for Realtors means that they have done advanced education for working with home buyers over the age of 50. Often, they have a network of additional businesses and services that will assist in making the real estate transaction as smooth as possible. Learn more through the [SRES Council](#).

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mac Chandler 1  
Don Lehman 10  
Dan Phifer 11  
Mary Jensen 12  
James Oliver 15  
Dale Murray 16  
Ann Munson 16  
Jeff Bast 17  
Jerri Barnhill 23  
Nell Douthit 25  
AL Goodwin 27  
Donna Martin 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).



**Killian, III, Sam P.**  
4545 Magnolia Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Email: [spkiii@bellsouth.net](mailto:spkiii@bellsouth.net)  
Spouse: *Martha T. Killian*  
[marthak36@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com)  
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.



WILLIAM C. McDONALD III

*Shadow Tiger Press*

billy@shadowtiger.org

1401 Blenheim Place  
Birmingham AL 35213

(205) 790-7575

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

205-879-3401 [RidoutsValleyChapel.com](http://RidoutsValleyChapel.com)

## Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

### Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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

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

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**Jerry Ingram**  
General Manager

165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, AL 35242

O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-218-9772  
[jingram@pgatss.com](mailto:jingram@pgatss.com) / [pgatss.com](mailto:pgatss.com)



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

**Joe Stephens**  
Assistant General Manager

165-A Inverness Plaza | Birmingham, Alabama 35242  
O: 205-440-4200 | C: 205-209-1138  
[jstephens1@pgatss.com](mailto:jstephens1@pgatss.com)



## PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

**Tony Marino**  
Tournament & Events Marketing Manager

C: 205-296-2271  
[amarino@pgatss.com](mailto:amarino@pgatss.com)

## 145 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Alabaster, Alabama



### Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

*Veteran Owned and Operated*



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