



As most of you know, there was a life changing event for Patricia and I earlier this month. Patricia was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer. She is undergoing treatment and we are optimistic on the results. With that said, we are so fortunate to have the love and support from so much family, friends and the MOAA support while we deal with all of this. Thanks for all the thoughts, prayers and concern.

The attendance of our May 4th meeting with National MOAA representative Gail Joyce was a resounding success with 44 members and guest in attendance. I understand Gail's' presentation was very interesting and engaging. We will take a break this summer from evening meetings and have informal gatherings for lunch only, beginning with our June 2nd meeting. A big thanks to all who have supported MOAA during the long, painful COVID shutdown. Our chapter has not only survived during the pandemic crisis but is thriving.

There are/were many important veteran events taking place during the month of May, Memorial Day of course being the most important. I trust everyone will have a great holiday weekend and a great start to their summer. Continue to have Patricia in your thoughts and prayers and we look forward to seeing you at a chapter meeting soon.

Respectfully,
Don & Patricia



Officers' Call

- President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)*
- 1st VP Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)*
- 2nd 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.

JUNE MEETING/SPEAKER

June 2nd 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

Picture below from May meeting,



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Can you remember the last major misunderstanding you had with someone? You said one thing, they heard something different, and the result was a mess. It may turn out to be really funny when you look back on it years later. But not at that moment. In that moment, it was frustrating.

A man named Norm Williams shared a misunderstanding he had at his local library when he requested copies of two books by author Deborah Tannen. She is in "communication research". One of her most popular books is titled *That's Not What I Meant*. Another is titled *You Just Don't Understand*. Williams went to the library and asked the clerk to check the availability of these two books.

"What's the first book?" the librarian asked.

"That's Not What I Meant," he said.

"Well, what did you mean?" she asked.

"That's the title of the book," he replied.

"Okay, and the other book?" she asked.

"You Just Don't Understand," he replied.

"Excuse me?" said the confused librarian.

It took a while, but Williams finally got his books.

Misunderstandings can be frustrating. They waste our time and energy.

God calls us to be patient and understanding. Sometimes our patience is short and that causes our lack of understanding. Between spouses, friends, relatives and co-workers a little more patience will help.

Colossians 4:4 reads: "Pray, then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear." Enjoy your day!

Chaplain Dan Phifer

RECRUITER'S CORNER

The GBC MOAA 2022 Recruiting Season Continues

Completed

Hoover Day
Monthly Dinner Meetings at Danberry

Upcoming

EZ Join concept
Luncheons at Danberry (June, July, August)

For the Summertime luncheons, go ahead and invite someone!

GBC emphasizes the “EZ Join” concept. We’ve made it almost instantaneous for eligible persons to join GBC MOAA, particularly so at the [GBC MOAA Website](#). For all others, if you know of anyone interested in joining, all that is needed is a phone number or email to start the application process.

The convenience of GBC’s electronic EZ Join **or renew** feature tends to make the chapter ever more attractive to current and prospective members.

Thanks again to everyone for their support in encouraging eligible applicants to consider joining our chapter.
Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret), USA
2VP/Membership GBC MOAA
zxywalk@gmail.com

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>)

Many Veterans/Survivors Now Eligible for Free or Discounted Internet by By Jim Absher originally appeared on Military.com

An updated program from the federal government offers free or discounted internet to many Americans, including many active duty families, veterans and their survivors. The [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP), administered by the FCC, replaces the [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#). Those eligible for the ACP include those receiving other federal benefits, such as:

- A [VA Veterans Pension](#)
- A [VA Survivors Pension \(also known as Death Pension\)](#)
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), or food stamps
- WIC (Women, infants and children) assistance
- Medicaid
- Free or discounted school lunch or breakfast
- Pell grants
- Supplemental security income (SSI) from Social Security

Those with an income that is at twice the [federal poverty guideline](#) or lower are also eligible. That includes a family of four earning no more than \$55,500; a family of two earning no more than \$36,620 or a single person who earns no more than \$27,180. There are higher limits in Alaska and Hawaii. Persons who have a Lifeline phone can also apply for the program. Others may be eligible as well; for more information, see the [ACP website](#). Even if you aren't eligible under these existing stipulations, you may be eligible for the program if you are eligible for discounted internet from your service provider. The ACP program will pay up to \$30 monthly (\$75 for those residing on tribal lands) directly to the internet provider. That means if you have a discounted program like [Internet Essentials from Comcast](#), the nation's largest internet service provider, it may cost you nothing as a participant in the ACP program.

Bill to Support the Families of Deceased, Defrauded Veterans By Kevin Lilley

A bipartisan bill introduced in the Senate on April 5 would ensure families of defrauded veterans receive the benefits owed if the veteran passes away before their case with the VA is resolved. The Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act would add language to existing law that would require the VA Secretary to pay out fraud claims to a veteran's estate, a fiduciary who had served the veteran, or the next inheritor. The claims stem from misuse of benefits by a veteran's fiduciary where the secretary is found to have committed "negligent failure" to "investigate and monitor a fiduciary," according to current law. There were about 12,000 allegations of such fraud from January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, according to a VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report. The OIG found no systemic issues with the VA Fiduciary Program, it did find instances of significant wait times, including one veteran owed more than \$20,000 in misused funds who had to wait more than 19 months after the ruling to receive his money.

MOAA-Backed Bill Would Expand Credit Monitoring to More Service Members By Mark Belinsky

A new House bill would expand existing free credit-monitoring services beyond those on active duty, making all in uniform eligible for the benefit. The Servicemembers' Credit Monitoring Enhancement Act expands benefits to include Guard, Reserve, commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA, ensuring all uniformed servicemembers have equal access to financial resources as the active component.

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Celebrating military spouses was the focus of our May chapter meeting. Mac Chandler expressed appreciation by reading the essay "Military Wife" which was presented in bookmark form to all spouses as they introduced themselves. The Spouse Excellence Award was presented to Anne Hartline for her service to our chapter. This award was well deserved.

Gail Joyce, a MOAA Board Member, Chair of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) and Co-chair of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC 02), was the guest speaker. "Preparing for the Future", which she has presented across the United States, included many important details for planning. Her handout was a check list including the following:

- Gather in one place all important documents: DD214, wills, durable power of attorney, marriage/birth/death certificates, etc.
- Make sure utilities, etc. are in BOTH names
- Spouses need a credit card in their names
- List all passwords in one place and make sure someone else knows where they are located
- Make certain that death certificates state the actual cause of death

Ms. Joyce stressed the importance of having conversations with your spouse, your children or whomever will be the executor of your estate, regarding your finances, other business details and your wishes.

Several publications were provided which can assist with planning for the future.

Left: Gail Joyce and Anne Hartline. Right: Gail Joyce's presentation.



GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Chad Richmond
Sandy Vitalis
JD Crawford
Helen Green
Pat Singletary
George Lord
Sam Faires
David Hicks
Harb Moore
Bud Jensen
GT Merriam
Tim McGraw

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)



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. Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.



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government-issued marker, presidential certificate and much more. We are also able to offer a FREE Veterans Planning Guide that includes worksheets and valuable information.

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

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

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don.lehman1@gmail.com

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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



Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 PM at Danberry. Please note the change in date!