



**We're back to Danberry!**

**Come one, come all!** We had a great turnout of 30 members for our April meeting, where we heard an excellent talk by Niki Sepsas on pandemics and how they have helped shape world history. Due to schedule conflicts, our next meeting **will be on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Danberry.** A special thanks to Danberry for having us back after a two-year hiatus. Especially to Bobbi Collier, the Director of Resident Services, who handled all of the logistics for our catered, Full Moon BBQ meal. Like many other food service establishments, Danberry is short of dining service help, so our meals will be catered and a buffet for the indefinite future. I did not hear any complaints though last month, and we appreciate everyone's understanding until things get back to normal.

There is a lot going on in the month of May. The brick dedication at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park, which we will be providing volunteers for again this year, will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 to 2:00 PM. And of course, there will be multiple observances of Memorial Day on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Mike Walker will be manning a MOAA tent at the annual Hoover Day celebration on April 30<sup>th</sup>, at Veteran's Park on Valleydale Road, 11:00 to 3:00 PM. So please come on out and join in the fun.

It looks like we are on the backside of the COVID pandemic, so be safe and stay well. Hope to see you at Danberry!

Respectfully,  
*Don*



# 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)*
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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).

## MAY MEETING/SPEAKER

**Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Danberry. Please note the change in date!**

Gail Joyce, National MOAA representative to speak to us. She will provide a perspective from MOAA headquarters and speak about surviving spouse issues and topics. It should be very informative, so don't miss it. Military spousal recognition is also observed during the month of May, so be sure to attend and be honored.

Menu TBD. Reservations must be made by noon Monday, May 2, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - [dgmarkham3143@gmail.com](mailto:dgmarkham3143@gmail.com)



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The month of May holds three special days which we hold dear in our hearts. May 8<sup>th</sup> will bring another celebration of **Mother's Day**. I hope it is a happy day for each of us as we remember and celebrate the love our mother showered on us as we grew up. *May God bless all those who help build the young ones today in faith and dedication. Amen.*

**Armed Forces Day** is Saturday, May 21. Members of the military understand authority and responsibility. A great story in Luke 7:1-10 tells of the centurion who cared for his servant and the Jewish people. As the ranking soldier in Capernaum, he knew authority. He gave commands, and they were obeyed. This centurion also knew that Jesus spoke with authority. *"Say the word, and let my servant be healed."* The servant was healed. Armed Forces Day is the culmination of a week of recognition for all who currently serve in all branches of the U.S. military. Servicemen and women are under the authority of the commander in chief. Romans 13:1 says, *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* Military or not, we are all under the authority of God. He commands, and we obey because we trust Him. A prayer: *Lord, thank you for all who serve in the military. Protect them and help us to trust You. Amen.*

May 30 is **Memorial Day**. By putting flags at the gravesites of members of the military, we honor those who lost their lives serving our country. We recall their sacrifices for our freedoms. Joshua 4:1-10 tells the story of Joshua crossing the Jordan River and building two memorials. One was in the river where the priests stood with the ark of the covenant. Over time, those stones reminded people of Christ's death which Christians share in Baptism.

The other memorial was made with 12 stones taken from the Jordan and then stood up at Gilgal, where the Israelites first camped in the Promised Land. These stones told of the miraculous crossing on dry ground. A prayer: *Lord, on this day we especially thank You for those who gave their lives for the freedoms of our country. Remind us also of our victory over death. Amen*

Blessings,

Chaplain Dan Phifer

## RECRUITER'S CORNER

### The GBC MOAA 2022 Recruiting Season Begins

#### **Hoover Day Celebration (Saturday, April 30, 2022, 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 of Valleydale Road, you'll 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's an opportunity to invite GBC prospects who may be interested in joining. The event helps serve our chapter's greater community public exposure initiative.

Even better, eligible individuals who prefer to do so can join GBC electronically. If you know of anyone who qualifies to belong to our organization, 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's continue to make our chapter better with a convenient option for interested and eligible applicants to join.

Michael A. Walker  
LTC(Ret), USA  
Membership Chair  
[zxywalk@gmail.com](mailto: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



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Senators Want TRICARE to Cover Eating Disorders for Retiree Families by Rebecca Kheel originally appeared on Military.com**

A bipartisan group of senators wants the military's health insurance to extend coverage for binge eating, anorexia, bulimia and other eating disorders to retirees and their families. The senators also called on defense health officials to ensure the implementation of a provision in last year's defense policy bill expanding [Tricare](#)'s coverage of eating disorders for active-duty service members and their families. Previously, Tricare covered only partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient treatment for eating disorders for dependents up to age 20. Under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), those restrictions for dependents will be gone, and dependents of any age will be able to have inpatient and outpatient care covered. The new coverage is supposed to take effect October 1. The NDAA did not extend eating disorder coverage to military retirees and their families. The senators argue that the defense health officials have the authority to extend the coverage themselves.

### **Military Compensation: What Is Wrong, and What Works by Dan Merry**

MOAA wants to ensure members of all eight uniformed services are adequately compensated for their personal sacrifices through their years of service. What is wrong? MOAA and other advocates must combat the supposition, by reputable researchers, that servicemembers are paid too much, and that these personnel costs prevent officials from equipping troops with modern equipment and needed supplies. Additionally, there are fewer veterans in Congress, and the President (from 2014-2016) used his authority to reduce the military pay raise based on serious economic conditions increasing the pay gap. Overcoming the gap has been difficult over the past few years due to competing priorities in Congress and other fiscal challenges. These factors identify a diminished familiarization with what servicemembers do, how they live, and the challenges they and their families face in service to our nation. MOAA continues to educate those on the Hill who lack the experience of uniformed service, with stories and concerns of those serving today, and to hold all legislators accountable for taking care of the all-volunteer force.

### **Red Flags Raised by President's Budget Request by Mark Belinsky**

The President's FY 2023 budget, submitted to Congress on March 28, seeks \$773 billion for DoD – \$30 billion more than last year. It also includes a 4.6% pay raise for servicemembers and federal workers, but it does not keep up with inflation, prompting cuts to troop strength to fund modernization. The budget request, planned prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, included the following active duty personnel authorizations for FY 2023 – all reductions from the previous year:

- Army: 473,000, down from 485,000.
- Navy: 346,300, down from 346,920.
- Air Force: 323,400, down from 329,220.
- Marine Corps: 177,000, down from 178,500.

A senior defense official cited recruiting challenges and a reduced propensity to serve as contributing factors to reinvest personnel savings in other areas. The reductions are even more of an issue given the increased threats in Eastern Europe and the straits of Taiwan. The moves directly conflict with DoD's own budget briefing materials, which described the department's people as "key to U.S. deterrence across domains, theaters and the spectrum of conflict."

## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



### **Celebrating Military Spouses**

#### **May 4, 2022, MOAA GBC meeting**

This is a special invitation to military spouses, both Surviving Spouses and Spouses of Living Members, to attend the May 4, 2022, meeting where you will be honored. This meeting will be dedicated to showing appreciation and recognizing sacrifices that you have made to support your service member.

Many military spouses move every two to three years picking up their lives and their children to start over in a new location. They keep the home fires burning through deployments, trainings, and TDYs. Then with retirement comes many transitions: new places, new faces and new experiences.

We are fortunate to have Ms. Gail Joyce, MOAA Board Member, Chair of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council to the president of MOAA, and Vice-Chairman of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, to speak on issues pertaining to planning for the future. Ms. Joyce is in great demand to speak to MOAA chapters across the United States and to facilitate workshops for military spouses. She resides in Granbury, Texas. Both her son, who was killed in Somalia, and her husband are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Musgrove	3
Lois Faires	3
Peter Poerschke	6
Paul Gonthier	17
Dick Ritz	22
Larry Houck	24
Susan Hamel	28
Tom Fickling	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.



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

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LtCol USMCR (retired)

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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 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Danberry. Please note the change in date!**