



Summer is almost over

Back to school, still hot, but hopefully some relief is on the way soon! We had another nice turnout of 25 members for our August luncheon meeting. Your participation and support for MOAA is welcomed and appreciated. We have an exciting program scheduled for our September 1st meeting, with Jim Langley, one of our members, will be speaking on “Wilson's Raid through Alabama: the last cavalry charge of the Civil War”. It should be interesting, so please come and join us. See more about Jim and his talk herein.

We still are not certain when we may start having Danberry provide our meals; so, in the meantime, we will continue to have a catered buffet as our venue. It seems to be working OK as I have not heard many complaints. One of the problems though that we do have, is that we have had some no shows for lunch; members that RSVP and then do not attend the luncheon. This causes a problem since the Chapter has to absorb the meal cost for these members. So please try to make the meeting if you have RSVP'd. If you cannot, please let us know as soon as you can, so we can in turn notify the caterer of the change. Thanks, and your cooperation is appreciated!

For now, I believe we must assume that our meals will be catered unless we notify the membership otherwise. An RSVP email will be sent out closer to the meeting date with details. We will do our best try to at least pin down the maximum cost per meal at that time. Our **meeting date is Thursday, September 1st** and it will be in the evening, **social at 6:00 and dinner/program at 6:30.**

(Continued on page 3)

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.

SEPTEMBER MEETING/SPEAKER

A little about our fellow MOAA member and September speaker –

Jimmy W. Langley: Writer, Artist, StoryTeller

Mr. Langley, originally from Vernon in Lamar Co., AL, is now a resident of the Inverness section of Hoover. He is married to the former Ann Whitehead of Nashville, TN. Jim graduated from Jacksonville State University with a degree in Political Science and from the University of Oklahoma with a Master's in Public Administration. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate receiving an Army commission in 1971, and served active duty tours in Alaska, Fort Sill OK, and Korea, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves. He was the Freedom Award winner for Hoover in 2021.

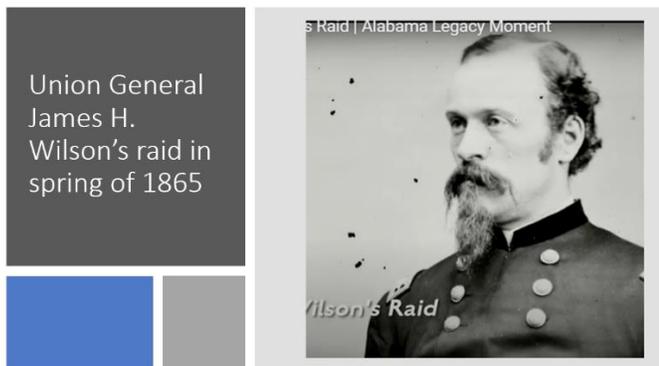
During his civilian career, Mr. Langley spent 15 years with BellSouth Communications and had shorter professional associations with Dowzer Electric, SITEL, DES and AIDS Alabama. In retirement, Langley has become a prolific writer, artist and storyteller. He is well known for his book on Southern Sayings Delmont's Slang Blade: 1000 of the Best Saying in the Great State of Alabama and a book about Oak Hill, the oldest cemetery in Birmingham (plus he conducts walking tours of the cemetery). He has also led many trips and tours for the Hoover Historical Society and Hoover Seniors the last few years including local history tours in Birmingham and Hoover, tours of important places in our local Civil Rights history, and tours of Red Mountain Park. He is a immediate past President of the Hoover Historical Society.

For more information, visit www.Langley.Rocks or read the article recently published about Langley in the Hoover Sun newspaper.

[HOOVER SUN ARTICLE ON JIM LANGLEY](http://www.Langley.Rocks)

<http://hooversun.com/peopleplaces/author-shares-family-wit-local-legends1125/>

Again his topic will be: Wilson's Raid through Alabama: the last cavalry charge of the Civil War



Jim Langley

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, August 29, 2022, with Doug Markham via phone - 205-420-2631 or email - dqmarkham3143@gmail.com,

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I think most of us love holidays. Most of these times bring joy into our lives and memories of family and friends gathering for food and fellowship. September brings with it on that first Monday each year "Labor Day." It is a day when we thank God for providing us with meaningful work as well as set times of rest. We ask God to rejuvenate our spirit so we might approach our work and daily lives refreshed and ready to serve.

And then there is another "holiday" in September which is much less celebrative but more contemplative. "Patriot Day" is a time of "Remembering 9/11" and the tragic attack on our nation by terrorists. Our memory brings much hurting to those who lost loved ones and friends. As we remember the many lives lost that day, we also remember the heroic efforts of the first responders. We are all humbled by the brevity of life. In our prayers on "September 11" we shall ask God to preserve our nation from future attacks and guard our hearts from the attacks of the evil one.

May we live this day and every day in the light of eternity. Amen

Dan Phifer

RECRUITER'S CORNER

September is already upon us. Feel free to go ahead and renew your chapter dues for 2023 or beyond. There are three chapter renewal options. All dues should be paid up before the end of the year to continue in good standing. Next month, we will develop a call list for those coming due but not yet paid. **The goal is 100% renewal of current members.** You can mail payment to the physical address (see below), or conveniently renew online at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

Michael A. Walker
LTC(Ret), USA
Membership Chair
xywalk@gmail.com

President's comments continued from page 1: It is with great pleasure that I announce that our Chapter has once again been awarded National MOAA's Level of Excellence five-star award for 2021. This is a great credit to the time and effort that several our members contribute to make this happen. I am grateful to all, and it is certainly a team effort.

And don't forget the Ladies luncheon on September 21st! Invitations have already been sent out. Donna does a great job with the lunch and program, so please plan to attend.

So much for now...a little long winded this month. Everyone enjoy the rest of your summer, take care and we look forward to seeing you at our September meeting!

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>)

President Signs Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation by Kipp Hanley

A signing ceremony at the White House on August 10, 2022, marked the end of a long legislative road to comprehensive toxic exposure reform, with the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 set to expand health care coverage to millions of veterans. The bill's passage came as part of a combined effort from MOAA and more than 60 other veterans service organizations, alongside veterans and their families, other advocates and advocacy groups, and a bipartisan group of legislators from both chambers. The bill adds nearly two dozen conditions to a list of ailments presumed connected to toxic exposure by the VA; while the legislation includes a timetable for this change, President Joe Biden announced at the signing the VA will move to make these changes immediately. The bill also expands VA research into burn pit-related illnesses and improves VA's screening process for those illnesses.

MOAA Urges Lawmakers to Pass Key Veterans Health Care Legislation by René Campos

On August 3, 2022, MOAA priorities were shared at a roundtable hosted by Sen Jon Tester (D-Mont), Chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Many of the veteran service organizations in attendance had similar priorities and focus. MOAA's priorities, as shared with the roundtable are:

1. [Securing VA appropriations](#) before the start of the new fiscal year.
2. Prioritizing and accelerating access to [caregiving, long-term, and extended care programs](#).
3. [Stabilizing and modernizing the VA workforce](#) to address increased workloads as a result of increased mission requirements and significant staffing shortages.
4. Passing provisions to [improve access to mental health and suicide prevention services](#), including reducing copayments for behavioral health visits.
5. Expanding access to [dental care to veterans](#).

While the VA and Congress continue to make progress on many of these priorities, MOAA urged the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to remain focused on ensuring the department gets the resources and funding it needs to accomplish mission requirements. Without requisite funding to meet these requirements, the VA is not able to deliver the benefits and health care veterans need. Each year, federal budgets are at risk of operating under stopgap funding – for months on end in many cases. Continuing resolutions (CRs) have become more the norm rather than the exception. With the recent signing of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the VA needs timely and predictable funding to implement this historic legislation. CRs impede VA's ability to implement this law and other critical legislation passed in recent years — legislation allowing the VA to modernize its health care and benefits system to deliver the life-saving services and benefits veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and survivors depend on.

Some Senators Still Not Supporting Concurrent Receipt Legislation by Mark Belinsky

The Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282/S.344) supports over 50,300 combat-injured with concurrent receipt of service-earned retired pay for longevity and VA disability who are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. To reduce DOD retirement pay for earned years of service because of a VA disability rating is an injustice and MOAA continues to build support for the Star Act. The Alabama Senators Shelby and Tuberville have not signed onto the Star Act. Calls and messages are needed to influence them to co-sponsor S.344. Use MOAA's Capital Hotline (866) 272-MOAA (6622) – toll free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard - to connect with their office

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Ladies Luncheon

Surviving Spouses

Female Officers

Spouses of Living Members

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

10:30 am

Hoover Country Club

3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226

"Enhance Life with Home Safety"

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Team

"MOAA Legislative Updates on Benefits"

Your check will be your reservation.

Make check payable to: MOAA GBC

Mail to: Donna Martin

140 Courtside Drive

Birmingham, AL 35242

205-876-6274

donnaemartin@aol.com

Cost: \$20 Reservation deadline: September 14, 2022

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jerry Ingram	1
Beth Smith	2
Eless Brown	3
Len Mueninghoff	8
Leo Deason	9
Ron Bradstreet	11
Jim Langley	16
James Wilson	17
Mike Walker	21
Susan Bradshaw	23
Bob Barefield	24
Cynthia Cox	24
Gene Cushman	24

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 gave 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)



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.

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Eligibility: Honorably serving, former, or retired Warrants, Chief Warrants, or commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard) as well as current, former, or retired USCG, NOAA, and USPHS commissioned officers are eligible to join MOAA. If you know of anyone who may qualify to belong to the chapter, have them contact us or better yet, invite them to an upcoming dinner meeting.

Dues: Until it changes, 1-Year dues are still only \$20 (2 Years = \$35). The 3-Year chapter renewal option is the best bargain at \$50.

Complete application in newsletter or complete at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>



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Shadow Tiger Press

billy@shadowtiger.org

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Birmingham AL 35213

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HOMWOOD

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

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:
MOAABirmingham.org
AlabamaMarine.org
VVA.org - DAV.org

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

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Jerry Ingram
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PGA TOUR SUPERSTORE

Tony Marino
Tournament & Events Marketing Manager

C: 205-296-2271
amarino@pgatss.com

145 1st 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



September 1 meeting will have a social time at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and speaker Jim Langley