



Welcome to our new President, Harold Coghlan, and thanks to outgoing President, Don Lehman, for your outstanding service. Read Harold's Biography on page 6, Pics page 7. Editor



I hope that, first of all, everyone had as safe and healthy a Holiday period as could be had. I realize the Christmas and New Year's period can be a stressful and trying time, since it is not unusual to have family illnesses or funerals around this time (we had to bury Trish's Mom right after New Year's), but still, I am hoping it was a good celebration time for you.

As I begin my time as president of our dear MOAA Chapter, let me first start by thanking Don and Patricia Lehman for their tremendous work these last few years in leading our chapter, and helping make the Birmingham MOAA Chapter a place where all of our fellow Officers and spouses feel welcome, and can share comradeship and fellowship.

I hope to continue growing our chapter and making us proud to be part of something bigger than each of us as individuals, an organization such as the Military Officers Association of America, which strives to support and defend our hard earned benefits, such as Tricare for Life (TFL) and Veteran's benefits. Feel free to reach out with any ideas and suggested Speakers, topics of interest, or simply things that matter to you.

Thanks for being a member of our Birmingham MOAA Chapter!

Harold A. Coghlan
CW4, U.S. Army (Ret)

Volume 125 Issue 2 February 2025

Officers' Call

President: Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)
1st VP: vacant
2nd VP: Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)
Secretary: Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)
Treasurer: Donna Martin
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Director: Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)
Director: Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (Ret)
Director: Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)
Director: James Oliver LTC, USA (Ret)
Chaplain: Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)
Legislative
Affairs: Mark Rubino, LDCR, USN (Ret)
Personal
Affairs: Anne Hartline
Surviving
Spouse
Liaison: Lynn Phifer
Newsletter: Jimmy Langlely, 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.



February 6, 2025 MEETING

Danberry at Inverness
235 Inverness Center Drive
Birmingham, Al 35242
205-443-9500
Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

MENU

Meat Loaf
Whipped Potatoes w/gravy
Country style Green Beans
Rolls
Apple Cobbler

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.

Reservations must be made by noon Monday, February 3rd, 2025.

Preferred method:

RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:

(AND NOW YOU DO NOT PAY ANY CREDIT CARD FEES!)

<https://february-6-2025-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com/>

or alternate method:

Email / call Donna Martin at contact@moaabirmingham.org or 205-876-6274.

Speaker **CAPT Joseph S. (Sam) Honea:** The Incident Command System (ICS) is a way to organize and manage emergency responses. It helps different agencies work together smoothly by providing a clear structure and defined roles. ICS is flexible and can be used for any size of emergency, from small local incidents to large national disasters. It ensures that everyone knows who is in charge, what their responsibilities are, and how to communicate effectively. This system improves coordination, resource management, and overall response efforts.

CAPT Joseph S. (Sam) Honea, USCGR (ret.), retired from the Hoover Fire Department in May 2009, concluding a thirty-three-year career that began as a Firefighter-Recruit and culminated as the Hoover Chief Fire Marshal. He retired to accept his eighth set of orders and returned to active duty with the Coast Guard in New Orleans, completing 32 years of military service. In New Orleans, he served as the Deputy Branch Chief in Planning and Force Readiness, managing mobilizations and demobilizations of Coast Guard forces. He also served as an Eighth District Watch Commander, overseeing an area from the southern border with Mexico to the northern border with Canada. Lastly, he was selected as the Incident Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT), involved in crisis action operations.

His twilight tour fulfilled the phrase, "May you live in interesting times." He served as a Deputy Area Commander at Area Command Roberts, Louisiana, providing oversight to Houma, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; and Tallahassee, Florida. These Incident Command Posts (ICPs) managed tactical operations for land, sea, and air in response to the catastrophic BP Gulf Oil Spill. In July 2012, he deployed to Boston, Massachusetts, to provide safety and security for a Marine Event of National Significance (MENS), which included Navy Fleet Week - Boston Harbor, the War of 1812 Bicentennial Remembrance, Tall Ships - Parade of Sail, USS Constitution Turnaround Cruise, and Independence Day Celebration in Boston. Later, in October 2012, he mobilized his IMAT to New York to support the response to Hurricane Sandy.

As his tour ended, he returned to his USCG Reserve duty and assumed the role of Senior Reserve Officer for Western Rivers, retiring in October 2013. In January 2013, he was sought, recruited, and accepted a position as a Senior Consultant for The Response Group (TRG), a civilian response company that prepares, trains, supports, documents, and responds to accidents, catastrophes, and natural and man-made disasters. His success has been lovingly supported by his wife of thirty-eight years, Dr. Cindy (Earley) Honea, and their two children, Cayman Leigh and Jonathan Lake. Currently, he serves as a Senior Advisor to TRG's Exercise, Response, and Training Department. The Honea family resides in the Virginia Mines of Hueytown community on their Yellowhammer Farms.

RECRUITER'S CORNER

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, USPHS commissioned officers and surviving spouses from all branches 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 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.

To join or renew, please complete the application below or join/renew online at:

<https://www.moabirmingham.org/membership/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much, with so few words wrote this: ENJOY!

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army

MOAA speakers for 2025 :

Feb CAPT Joseph S. (Sam) Honea, USCGR (ret.)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

MOAA Named a Top Lobbyist in 2024

For the 18th year running, MOAA has been named a top lobbyist on Capitol Hill. This distinction, which is shared by other top tier organizations such as AARP, VFW, and American Cancer Society, shines a light on the level and quality of effort of both MOAA's representatives in Washington D.C. along with the MOAA members across the nation who serve as our foot soldiers in advocacy.

MOAA took a leading advocacy role for several critical issues in 2024. In partnership with Disabled American Veterans (DAV), MOAA published guidance for how the VA should reform its process for claiming toxic exposure titled *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans*. MOAA leveraged its role within The Military Coalition (TMC) to advocate for TRICARE reform issues including reversing reimbursement cuts to children's hospitals and updating Alzheimer's disease coverage.

More than 150 MOAA members from across the country traveled to Capitol Hill in April 2024 as part of MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action event—meeting with lawmakers and staffers to advance our priorities. In addition, the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#) flexed its muscle last year as more than 26,000 registered advocates sent 129,000 letters through the web portal.

MOAA's Priorities for the 119th Congress

To build upon last years' successful advocacy efforts, MOAA will connect with new and returning lawmakers in the first quarter of 2025 by hosting a welcome reception. This event is the foundation for building and sustaining MOAA's advocacy efforts over the course of the next two years. Since Congress operates in an environment where partisan politics can often delay or sideline even the most critical and sensible legislation, MOAA must remain diligent in maintaining (in basketball terms) a full court press to ensure our advocacy heard and our priorities heeded.

MOAA's key advocacy topics for 2025 include, but are not limited to, passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act, improving caregiving support for veterans' families, enhancing the accountability and stability of the Military Health System, and advancing the report *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans*.

MOAA believes it is imperative that we emphasize how such cuts such as these would damage the all-volunteer force in ways that far outweigh any potential savings. Add your voice to this effort by joining the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#) and reaching out to your lawmakers.

LCDR Mark Rubino, USN (Ret)

Legislative Action Center

Four ways to get there:

Direct link: MOAA.quorum.us

Text "MOAA" to 1-855-547-6921

Go to: MOAA.org > Advocacy > Legislative Action Center

Or scan the QR code to the left with your phone:



MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



The following article may be helpful to both those who are caregivers and those who may be caregivers in the future.

Dole Act Becomes Law: What It Means To Veterans and Caregivers

(By Rene Campos, MOAA National Newsletter, Jan 6, 2025)

The president signed the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act into law Jan. 2, after years of arduous advocacy by MOAA and more than 40 other veterans' organizations. This landmark bipartisan bill, representing more than 90 pieces of legislation developed throughout the 118th Congress, provides significant relief to veterans and their families by expanding benefits, enhancing services, and improving long-term care solutions.

The act honors former Sen. Elizabeth Dole, a lifelong advocate and champion for veterans and their caregivers. It advances her efforts and addresses some of the most critical issues facing veterans, their caregivers.

Some key benefits of the legislation:

- **Full Coverage for Home Nursing Care:** Increases the VA's share of home nursing care costs from 65% to 100%, expanding access to these essential services.
- **Mental Health Grants for Caregivers:** Provides grants and contracts to mental health service providers for family caregivers.
- **Streamlined Application Processes:** Reduces bureaucratic hurdles for caregivers seeking benefits.
- **Expanded Support Programs:** Offers training, financial aid, and mental health resources for caregivers not eligible for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.
- **Home Health Aides Pilot Program:** Launches a pilot program to hire nursing assistants for in-home care in underserved regions.

Cynthia Cox
Military Spouse
GBCMOAA



LADIES LUNCHEON
Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Ladies Luncheon
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 beginning at 10:30
Hoover Country Club

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nancy Barefield	7
Joel Cornett	13
Tami Picantine	13
Victor Bey	15
Woody Cox	16
Carol Beall	18

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.

	<p>Killian, III, Sam P. 4545 Magnolia Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: spkiii@bellsouth.net Spouse: <i>Martha T. Killian</i> marthak36@gmail.com</p>	<p>USN Ret CDR Life 205-408-7721 (h) 205-903-6638 (c) BD: 8/28 BD: 11/10</p>	
	<p>Lehman, Donald D. (Don) 1204 Greystone Parc Drive Birmingham, AL 35242 Email: don.lehman1@gmail.com Spouse: <i>Patricia A. Lehman</i> islandmamma1@gmail.com</p>	<p>USMC Ret LTCOL Life 404-441-3882 (c) BD: 7/10 BD: 11/20 404-725-7152 (c)</p>	

My name is Harold A. Coghlan, and I proudly served in the U.S. Army for 40 years, including both active duty and the Army Reserve, all in Aviation. I retired as a CW4 in 2017. Throughout my military career, I had the opportunity to fly an extensive range of Army helicopters and airplanes, including the UH-1, OH-58, AH-1, AH-6, U-8, U-21, RU-21, C-12, RC-12, C-23, C-21, and UC-35. I also served on an exchange tour with the U.S. Air Force, where I became qualified in fighter jets such as the A-37B and F-5E.

During my time in the Army, I served in various units, including Cavalry, Attack, Medevac, Test Flight, Special Operations, Aerial Reconnaissance, VIP, and Flight Inspection. I also had the privilege of teaching at the Schoolhouse at Fort Rucker, as well as at the only Spanish-speaking Military Pilot School located there.

After spending around 10 years on Active Duty, I transitioned to the Army National Guard and Reserves while flying commercially in jets like the Boeing 737 and 707. During times of industry layoffs or downsizing, I would return to active duty for short 6-18 month tours or take on other aviation roles, such as corporate pilot, or Army Civil Service DAC Pilot and Instructor.

Over the course of my career, I deployed multiple times to support four wars: in El Salvador during the 1980s, Gulf War I in the 1990s, and in Iraq and Afghanistan during "Gulf War II," totaling seven deployments and 9 years in combat. I accumulated over 2,500 hours of combat flying. I was honored to receive several awards, including the Legion of Merit (LOM) and Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), but my greatest pride lies in safely bringing my crew home after every mission, as well as achieving over 22,500 flight hours without incident.

My family has always been a great source of support throughout my career. I married my wife, Patricia K. Clopton Coghlan, in 1984 when she was a 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps serving in a MASH hospital. Over the years, we've traveled the world together, both for military assignments and personal vacations. We have two children, Andrew (33) and Gabby (25). I currently continue my aviation career as an Airline Captain, with plans to retire in a few years once I reach the mandatory retirement age. I also volunteer as a UH-1 Huey pilot with an Army Historical demonstration organization. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had a long and fulfilling flying career, to have served my country, and to be supported by a wonderful family.





APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

First Name (Preferred name) MI Last Name Rank / Grade Spouse

Member of National MOAA? Yes No Mem # (if known) _____

Branch of Service		Status	
<input type="checkbox"/> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse

Postal Address City State Zip Code Home Phone #:

Date of Birth Cell phone # Email Address

Member: _____

Spouse _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Local Membership (Greater Birmingham Chapter) runs by calendar year.

The remainder of your first calendar membership year is complimentary.

Following yearly membership dues: \$20/year \$35/2 years \$50/3 years)

Mail to:
Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253

Thank you for your support!

