



Women's History Month

I hope that first of all, everyone had as safe a month as could be had. We have had the typical Alabama Winter period, with days going from 17 F to 72 F and back to freezing, so it's a good time to catch a cold, the flu, or pneumonia! Please protect yourself.

During our march meeting, we will host the JROTC program and hope to see and enjoy meeting our future leaders and hopefully, future military leaders. Let's make them feel welcome! Thanks to everyone in our chapter for 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! Stay safe out there!

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

March 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins ☉

The clocks spring forward, bringing longer daylight hours!

Officers' Call

- President:* Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)
- 1st VP:* vacant
- 2nd VP:* vacant
- Secretary:* Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)
- Treasurer:* Donna Martin
- Membership*
- Past Pres:* Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
- 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* Lynn Phifer
- Liaison*
- Newsletter:* Jimmy Langley, 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@moabirmingham.org.



March 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

Chicken Pot Pie
Broccoli Casserole
Tomato and Cucumber Salad
Rolls
Chocolate Cake

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.
Reservations must be made by noon Monday, March 3rd, 2025.

Preferred method:
RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:
(AND NOW YOU DO NOT PAY ANY CREDIT CARD FEES!)

<https://march-6-2025-reservation-and-payment-43997.cheddarup.com/>

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

Speaker: Lt Col Joseph Johnson
AFROTC Commander/Professor of Aerospace Studies – Samford University and UAH



Lt Col Johnson is the Commander, Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 012 at Samford University and 012A at University of Alabama in Huntsville. As the Professor of Aerospace Studies he leads a cadre of instructors and support staff that are responsible for the recruitment, training, development and commissioning of high-quality cadets to develop into leaders for tomorrow's Air and Space forces.

Lt Col Johnson graduated from the University of Memphis in 2004 and received his commission through AFROTC. After commissioning Lt Col Johnson attended Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training (JSUNT) at Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL. Upon graduation of JSUNT as a Weapon Systems Officer Lt Col Johnson was selected to fly B-1Bs. Between two B-1B operational flying tours, Lt Col Johnson was assigned to the 548th Combat Training Squadron, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA where he was responsible for developing and executing situational training exercises for GREEN FLAG EAST that trained Terminal Air Control Parties and operational flying squadrons from across the world. After his second tour with the 7th Bomb Wing Lt Col Johnson was chosen to join HQ AFROTC staff at Maxwell AFB, AL where he was the Operations Support Branch Chief followed by Director of Staff.

Lt Col Johnson is a Master Navigator with 2,290 hours, which includes 1,130 combat hours. He has flown operational missions in support of Joint Interagency Task Force South, deployed three times to Southwest Asia and once to the USINDOPACOM region supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, INHERENT RESOLVE, DELIBERATE RESOLVE as well as drug interdiction operations and Bomber Assurance and Deterrence missions.

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.moaabirmingham.org/membership/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

God has given each of us time, talents and treasures. May we use them to HIS glory.

March is a month that has a few significant dates; Ash Wednesday is the 5th; the Ides of March is the 15th; St Patrick's Day is the 17th and the first day of Spring is the 20th.

Ash Wednesday (March 5) is the first day of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer before the celebration of Easter morning on April 20th.

The Ides of March is the day that Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Mark 12:17 reads, "So Jesus said, "Pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay to God what belongs to God." Wow! That one Bible verse sums up what we should do with our gifts from God!

On the 17th we recall the life of St. Patrick. He was a missionary and bishop in Ireland in the 5th century. He is considered the patron saint of Ireland and is credited with spreading Christianity throughout the region. He was born in Britain, and his birth name was Maewyn Succat. After a six-year enslavement, which he called, "God's test of faith", where he was in constant prayer, he became a Christian figure in the Catholic faith. St. Patrick died in 461 AD on March 17th which is referred to as his "Feast Day". This day is celebrated annually throughout the Christian world.

The first day of spring is centered around the Spring equinox. This is the exact moment when the earth's axis and its orbit line up so that both the northern and southern hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight.

Ecclesiastes 3:2, reads, there "is a time for planting". We plant our flowers and vegetables in the Spring. Psalm 1:1-3 (paraphrased), Happy are those who obey God's laws. They will grow like a tree along the streams of water. They succeed in everything they do.

A little prayer for this time:

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for your forgiveness and your gift of eternal life. Amen

Blessings,

Dan Phifer

Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

MOAA Calls for Resumption of Recently Halted Servicemember Financial Protection Service

MOAA has joined more than a dozen leading military and veteran services organizations in calling on the acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Russell Vought to allow the bureau's Office of Servicemember affairs to return to work and resume protecting servicemembers. Vought, who is also the head of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), took action on Feb. 10, 2025 to cease all operations of the CFPB on the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) gained control of the agency's systems on Feb. 7, 2025.

According to MOAA, the CFPB is a financial watchdog that works to protect "consumers from unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices and take action against companies that break the law." All of us who have supervised servicemembers of the armed forces know firsthand the level of threat posed by predatory lenders and the broad effects of financial instability within the ranks. To illustrate the level of urgency, a recent survey by Blue Star Families showed that only 64% of junior enlisted families feel unstable financially.

The supervisory examinations enabled by the Military Lending Act—which was passed by Congress with bipartisan support—has resulted in more than \$183 million of restitution on behalf of servicemembers. The CFPB also has aided in policing Servicemember Civil Relief Act (SCRA) violations, providing \$481 million in monetary relief for 147,000 servicemembers.

Take action by urging your lawmakers to resume CFPB operations for servicemembers by visiting the MOAA Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/110757/>

To read the complete Blue Star Families report "Military Family Lifestyle Survey," visit this webpage: https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BSF_MFLS24_Comp_Report_Full-v2.pdf

Protect Surviving Spouses' Right to Remarry

Surviving military spouses who lose their loved ones due to combat, service-related illnesses, or suicide often face a difficult choice: remarry and lose their earned benefits or remain single for financial stability.

The Love Lives On Act (H.R. 1004/S. 410) ensures surviving spouses can remarry at any age without losing their benefits. This bill would remove restrictions on when a surviving spouse could remarry and retain their benefits, to include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Current law prevents spouses who remarry before age 55 from receiving this benefit, as well as access to educational assistance and other programs. What's worse, this arbitrary timeline is not imposed on most surviving spouses of other federal employees.

Take action by urging your legislators to support this crucial legislation for surviving spouses by visiting the MOAA Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/47966/>

LCDR Mark Rubino, USN (Ret)

Legislative Action



Four ways to get there:

Direct link: [MOAA.quorum.us](https://moaa.quorum.us)

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

Go to: [MOAA.org](https://moaa.org) > Advocacy > Legislative Action Center

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

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



March 8 - International Women's Day 🌐

A global day celebrating the achievements of women and advocating for gender equality.



**Greater Birmingham Chapter of
Military Officers Association of America**
Ladies Luncheon
for
Surviving Spouses
Female Officers
Spouses of Living Members

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025
10:30 am
Hoover Country Club
3140 Club Drive, Hoover, AL 35226**

**"Meeting Future Needs
Susan Hackney
United Way Area Agency on Aging**

"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
hartline.anne@gmail.com
Anne Hartline - 205-4222-8885**

Cost: \$25 Reservation deadline: March 12, 2025

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Deb Parker	9
Glenn Nivens	15
Nancy Todd	21
Chris Phillips	23
Ruth Walker	25
Wally Womack	25
Richard McKinley	26
Mary Lou Matthews	28
Josephine Lassiter	29
Walt Sasser	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.

 <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> islandmomma1@gmail.com</p>	<p>USMC Ret LTCOL Life 404-441-3882 (c) BD: 7/10 BD: 11/20 404-725-7152 (c)</p>	

MOAA program & speakers for remainder of 2025:

Also available on our website at <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/meeting-dates/>

- March 6 - LtCol John Johnson, USAF - Topic, Samford Univ ROTC program update
- April 3 - TBD
- May 1 - Annual spouses appreciation meeting. Speaker/topic TBD
- June 5 - Annual chapter picnic, Veterans Park on Valleydale Rd
- July 10 - Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 7 - Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 22-24 - MOAA Alabama Council of Chapters State meeting, Birmingham, hosted by GBC Birmingham
- September 4 - No meeting in September
- October 2 - Speaker/topic TBD
- November 6 - Speaker/topic TBD
- December 4 - Speaker/topic TBD



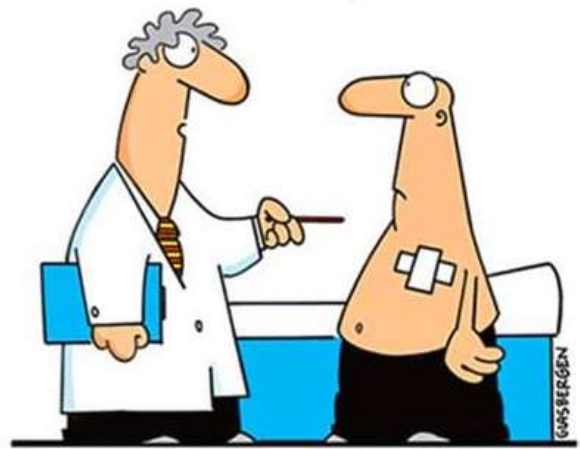
Guest speaker -
Sam Honea

President-
Sam Honea -
Past President

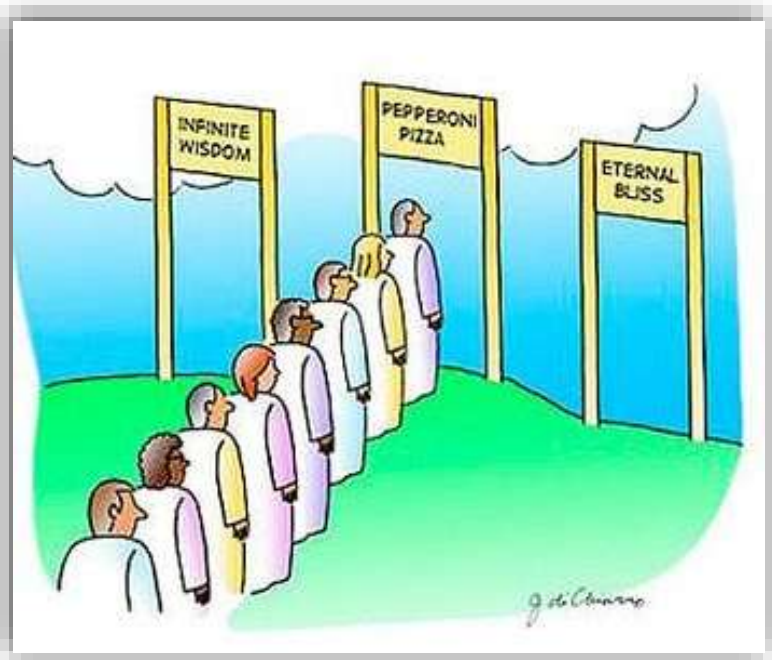




"And, if you fall behind on payments, it drives itself back to the dealership."



"It's a pacemaker for your heart. Plus, you can download apps for your liver, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas!"





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!



Meeting March 6, 2025