



America at 250: Honoring Service, Citizenship, and the Promise of Liberty

On July 4, 2026, the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—a milestone often called the Semiquincentennial. For members of MOAA, this anniversary is more than a look back at 1776. It is an opportunity to reflect on the generations of Americans who have defended the ideals of liberty, representative government, and service to country. From the first citizen-soldiers of the Revolution to today's active duty, Guard, Reserve, retired, and former members of the uniformed services, America's story has been shaped by those willing to accept responsibility beyond themselves. MOAA's mission to advocate, lead, educate, and serve fits naturally within this national commemoration. Our motto, "Never Stop Serving," reminds us that service does not end when the uniform is hung up; it continues in our communities, in civic life, and in our support for fellow servicemembers, veterans, surviving spouses, and military families.

Alabama will play its own part in the national celebration through America250AL and "Sweet Home 250," with events and educational efforts leading up to July 4, 2026. Our chapter members can contribute by attending local events, encouraging students and families to explore our history, displaying the flag proudly, and continuing the volunteer service that strengthens our communities.

The 250th anniversary should also be a moment of gratitude. We remember the founders who risked everything to declare independence, the patriots who carried that cause forward, and the millions who have worn the nation's cloth in war and peace. We also recognize the families who served alongside them, the communities that supported them, and the citizens who continue working to form a more perfect union.

As America approaches this historic birthday, let us celebrate with pride, humility, and renewed commitment. May we honor the past by serving in the present and preparing the next generation to understand both the blessings and responsibilities of freedom. The United States at 250 is not only a commemoration of where we began; it is a call to continue the work of citizenship, service, and unity for the years ahead.

Officers' Call

Volume 130 Issue 7 July 2026

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President: Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)
1st VP: vacant
2nd VP: vacant
Secretary: Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)
Treasurer: Donna Martin
Membership: Trish Coghlan, 1LT, USA (Ret)
Past Pres: Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
Director: Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)
Director: Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)
Director: James Oliver LTC, USA (Ret)
Chaplain: Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (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@moaabirmingham.org.



Get together
July 9th, 2026

Location -
First Watch on Hwy 280

11:00
Lunch at your own expense

Reservations deadline is noon Monday, July 6
We need headcount for the restaurant but you will pay at the restaurant

<https://july-2026-lunch-reservation.cheddarup.com/>

alternate method:

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



The new chapter challenge coins are here and look great! Thank you and much appreciation to all of those who contributed to the fund raiser helping to pay for them. If you wish to purchase one, they are \$15 each.

RECRUITER'S CORNER

2026-chapter renewal notifications have been sent out via email and letter!

Your continued support is much appreciated and allows us to support veteran initiatives and issues at the local, state, and national levels. You may pay your GBC chapter dues via debit/credit card at: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/moaa-gbc-renewal/items?cart> with NO credit card fees!

If you have any questions about your dues renewal or membership, please email us at contact@moaabirmingham.org. Please note, chapter dues are separate from national MOAA dues! GBC Chapter dues are: 1-Year \$20, 2-Years \$35, 3-Years \$50

MOAA eligibility: All honorably serving, former, or retired warrant/commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard), as well as USCG, Space Force, NOAA, and USPHS. Surviving spouses are also eligible to join MOAA and our chapter. If you know of someone interested in MOAA and our chapter, have them contact us at contact@moaabirmingham.org or better yet, invite or bring them to a meeting. Note, you must be a National MOAA member, at least the FREE Basic membership, to belong to the local chapter.

To join or renew your MOAA membership, you may also print, complete, and return the paper application below to the address on the form. You may also join/renew online at: <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/membership/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In case you have been asleep for a while a super celebration is about to happen in our Great Land, the USA! America's 250th Birthday takes place on July 4th, 2026. This marks 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Nationwide festivities are underway to celebrate this historic milestone!

The "Giving 4th" movement was launched to promote charitable giving and "America Gives" to encourage volunteer service.

Keep your eyes open for super celebrations of our country's 250th Birthday!

Yes, Alabama will be celebrating in all kinds of ways. We are a very patriotic group here in our state. We love our country and pray for its continued wonderful witness to the world of our "God directed service" to our people. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to join in the celebrations.

A prayer: *Holy Father, we thank you for the blessing we have of living in a free nation guided by your Hands. We need your continued guidance as a nation and as former members of the military. Thank you for your guidance and protection. Continue to bless our nation with Your Hand of presence and support. Amen*

In His Service,
Dan Phifer
Chaplain (LTC-R)
U.S. Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

The [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) is marking America's 250th birthday in 2026 by honoring military history and the sacrifices of the all-volunteer force. Their initiatives include special advocacy efforts, historical recognition, and an association-wide patriotic photo contest. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

The association's observance of the nation's milestone features several key programs: [[1](#)]

- **Patriotic Photo Contest:** Open to all MOAA members and their spouses, this contest celebrates America's 250th birthday by recognizing patriotism through photography. [[1](#)]
- **Advocacy and History:** MOAA leaders continue to champion veterans' benefits on Capitol Hill, citing the historic and ongoing legacy of the military as the country celebrates the semiquincentennial. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Military 250 Support:** MOAA supports the broader [America250](#) commemoration efforts, honoring the contributions of the uniformed services dating back to the American Revolution. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Further Exploration

Explore these related resources to see how other organizations and the MOAA community are observing the 250th anniversary:

- Review presidential remarks and the historical context on [MOAA](#).
- Visit [Military 250](#) to view historical milestones for the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.
- Explore national events and ways to participate at America250. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

Are you a MOAA member or surviving spouse looking for ways to participate in your local chapter's 250th-anniversary events, or would you like help finding resources to support veterans?

Legislative Action



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

MOAA Spouses Corner July 2026



This being my second time to write about the Northwestern corner of Alabama, I'm sure you realize this is a special place for both Wes and I. In fact, we spent several hours at college parties along the Natchez Trace!

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a scenic 444-mile byway that winds along the lush landscapes of Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. This two-lane road connects Natchez, Miss, with Nashville, Tenn. Large trucks are prohibited.... yes PROHIBITED! And the speed limit is a maximum of 50 miles per hour. There are many parks and pull offs, great places for breaks and picnic lunches.

The parkway was a corridor for travelers, and its early use was primarily native Americans: Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Natchez. Later, settlers, boatmen, soldiers, traders of enslaved people and future presidents travelled the Natchez Trace. Some nearby battlefields worth visiting are Shiloh, Vicksburg, Brice's Cross Roads, Tupelo, and Franklin.

The main visitor center for the Natchez Trace is in Tupelo, Miss.

If you drive the Natchez Trace you will be traveling along one of the oldest routes in North America.

By Col. Patrick J. Chaisson,
USA (Ret), a writer and historian
In Scotia, NY
Taken from MOAA April 26

Cynthia Cox
Military Spouse

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

JULY BIRTHDAYS

NameM	BirthDay
Mac Chandler	1
Don Lehman	10
Dan Phifer	11
Jim Oliver	15
Dale Murray	16
Jerri Barnhill	23
Arren Goodwin	27
Donna Martin	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.

 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 islandmamma1@gmail.com	USMC Ret LTCOL Life 404-441-3882 (c) BD: 7/10 BD: 11/20 404-725-7152 (c)	

2026 mtg dates, speakers & topic:

- Jul 9 - Lunch mtg at First Watch on Hwy 280 BYO.
- Aug 6 - Lunch mtg at First Watch on Hwy 280 BYO.





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	
☐ Army	☐ Marines	☐ Active Duty	☐ National Guard
☐ Air Force	☐ Navy	☐ Retired	☐ Former Member
☐ Coast Guard	☐ Other	☐ Reserve	☐ 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!



PO Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253-0153