



**Finally, some great weather!**

Best time of the year; enjoy it before the hot, humid Alabama summer is upon us soon! We had another great presentation by Niki Sepsas in April on identifying the men who raised the historic flag on Iwo Jima. This was his 9<sup>th</sup> time speaking to us and we will plan on having him back again next year. He will be easier to book because he is retiring in July after **41 years** and **371 cruises** as a lecturer and tour guide!

May 2<sup>nd</sup> is our annual spouse appreciation meeting and Margie Argo has been selected as the MOAA spouse of the year. Congratulations Margie! And a big shoutout to all our spouses for putting up with us cantankerous old soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. We will have a celebration for all the spouses and a remote Zoom/Webex presentation by Eloise Whritenour from Everplans; see below for more details. It should be interesting and worthwhile for you to watch.

May is a busy month for us all, with Mother’s Day, graduations and Memorial Day. Patricia and I only have four graduations this year, 2 HS and 2 college (yes, we have 15 grandchildren!). Really looking forward to my oldest grandson Mark’s graduating from West Point, where I will have the great honor of reading the commissioning oath to him and swearing him in as a new Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. It is fitting, because the Marine Captain that commissioned me in 1969 was a West Point graduate!

Our summer meeting schedule will be much more informal; June 6<sup>th</sup> being our annual picnic at Veterans Park; our July 3<sup>rd</sup> (note date change, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday is the 4<sup>th</sup>) and August 1<sup>st</sup> meetings will be luncheons with no speakers, at a convenient location (TBD).

We will be utilizing our new on-line dinner reservation and payment system again this month for our meeting, where payment can be made by credit or debit card. We have changed to using “Cheddar Up” as our payment processor who many of us are familiar with from the Metro Dinner Club. We encourage all to please use the new system, it makes it easier for everyone. You can always pay by check or cash at the door too, so no worries. Please check it out and I hope that you choose to use it. The link is <https://moaa-gbc-dinner-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com>

I trust all are having a great start to the summer and we look forward to seeing you all at a meeting soon.

Respectfully,  
*Don & Patricia*



Volume 124 Issue 5 May 2024

# 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: Donna Martin*
- Past Pres: Wes Cox, Col, USA (Ret)*
- Director: Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)*
- Director: Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (Ret)*
- Director: Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)*
- Chaplain: Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)*
- Legislative Affairs: Vacant*
- Personal Affairs: Anne Hartline*
- Surviving Spouse Liaison: Lynn Phifer*
- 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 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

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

Menu:  
Catered from TAZIKI'S  
\$25.00

**Reservations are due by NOON Monday, Apr 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Preferred method:**

RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:

<https://moaa-gbc-dinner-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com>

### **or alternate method:**

Call/email Donna at 205-876-6274 or [donnamaemartin@aol.com](mailto:donnamaemartin@aol.com)

## **SPOUSE APPRECIATION**

**Speaker:** Eloise Whritenour, Topic: Everplans

Introducing Everplans, a meaningful tool to leave a lasting gift for your survivors. Discover how this application can empower you to organize and share critical information providing peace of mind to your loved ones when they need it most. Join us to explore how Everplans can be the ultimate gift for you and your family helping to secure your legacy. This application is endorsed by MOAA

Zoom presentation by Eloise Whritenour

## 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. Note: the MOAA National online join/renew computer system is being upgraded and will be unavailable until sometime in May.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Danny Cox told an interesting story in his book, *Seize the Day*. He and his wife took a hot air balloon trip early one morning in Africa. As the balloon rose gracefully, they saw a herd of wildebeest running frantically below their balloon. The herd stopped suddenly and began looking around confused. Danny asked their pilot why the herd stopped so suddenly and began looking around as if they were confused. He asked why and what they were looking for.

The pilot told them that the wildebeest, which migrate across the grassy African plains, are not good learners. An entire herd will take flight at the slightest indication of danger. They will run wildly for a short time and then stop, forgetting why they began running in the first place.

Meanwhile, lions, which are good learners, simply follow the stampeding wildebeest herd at a leisurely pace and wait for them to stop. When the wildebeest forget why they are running, it's dinner time for the lions. The guide said that the wildebeest are so memory challenged that they will even walk up to a sleeping lion and sniff at it. The lion wakes up and has breakfast in bed.

Poor stupid wildebeest. Imagine running and running and then forgetting WHY you are running. Come to think of it - I know people like that. They are so frantically running here and there that they forget what it is they are running after. Remember **Who you are and Whose you are --- a child of God.**

**Chaplain Dan Phifer**  
**U.S. Army Retired**

### MOAA speakers for 2024:

- **June 6** – Annual picnic, no speaker – Veteran's Park on Valleydale Rd.
- **July, August** – Lunch meetings, BYO, no speaker. Locations TBD.
- **September 5** – TBD
- **October 3** – TBD
- **November 7** – TBD. Possible National MOAA site visit.
- **December 5** – TBD. Holiday program. Tentative, Ray Reach, vocalist/pianist.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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

No report this month

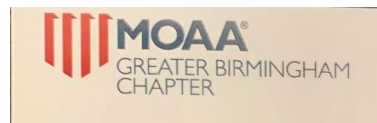
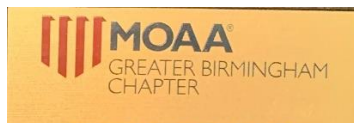


“I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove okay?”



**MOAA Nametag order soon:**

We will be putting in a nametag order soon. The cost will be about \$16 each. If you would like one, please email me at [don.lehman1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lehman1@gmail.com). Life member tags are gold colored, non-life members white. Don



**Legislative Action Center**



Four ways to get there:

**Direct link:** [MOAA.quorum.us](http://MOAA.quorum.us)

**Text** “MOAA” to 1-855-547-6921

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

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

## MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

I recently read the Surviving Spouse Corner in the April 2024 National MOAA newsletter and the article, "We Need Your Voice on Legislative Issues" really hit home. It started with a quote from Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Let that sink in a minute. We need to work together as a team to get issues solved. Yet the following process is done by us as individuals. And we can get things done! The article is so well written that I have chosen to share it with you in quotation rather than write my own summary.

"This sums up the vital importance of each of us taking time to contact our members of Congress to share our testimony and our personal stories on the current issues relating to surviving spouses as well as other veterans' and military family issues. National MOAA advocates on the Hill monthly, once a year, council and chapter leaders come to Washington, D. C., for Advocacy in Action, focusing on several key issues. What can you do to be part of this excitement of advocacy? You can get involved very easily, from the comfort of your own home. Often due to where we live, our physical limitations, and our work and family schedule, it's nearly impossible to travel to Washington, D. C., to meet with lawmakers. The good news is MOAA has a valuable resource to make it easier for us to advocate throughout the year: the Legislative Action Center.

In the action center, MOAA posts top issues with a description of each. You can pick and choose what affects you the most, or you can select all the issues that are listed. Once you register for the Legislative Action Center, you can send a pre-formatted letter to your representative and senators on the issue. All you need to do is either add your personal story or just add your signature. Once it's completed, hit the send button, and the letter is automatically sent to your lawmakers.

Try it out today- it only takes five minutes. Every call, every email, and every visit to Congress helps to bring to the forefront issues affecting surviving spouses, veterans, and military families. The more our voices are heard, we CAN make a difference!"

Sincerely,  
Lynn M. Phifer  
Surviving Spouses Liaison

## GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Musgrove	3
Peter Poerschke	6
Kris Crawford	9
Trish Coghlan	18
Dick Ritz	22
Susan Hamel	28
Tom Fickling	29

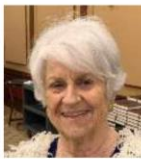
### MOAA on-line photo directory

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)



### **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.

### ID CARDS

If your ID card has an expiration date that is past or expires this month, you need to renew it ASAP. There are several locations in the Birmingham area, just google "military ID card renewal near me." 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.



APRIL MEETING SPEAKER  
NIKI SEPSAS





APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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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

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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!**



