



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



## Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: [mtcmoaa.org](http://mtcmoaa.org)

March 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Monthly Luncheon

Next Luncheon Meeting  
28 March 2017; 11:15 AM

#### *"My Hostage Experience During the Gulf War"*

Mrs. Lynne Smith

Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive  
Franklin, TN 37069

Everyone has a story to tell. Some are more sobering than others. Lynne Smith's story began in the 1980s when her husband was offered a chance to move to Kuwait and run the international department of a Kuwaiti bank in 1986. Life was grand; Lynne didn't have to work, their home was provided for them, and their income was tax-free.

"In 1988 I discovered that I was pregnant, and my daughter, Claudia, was born Sept. 19, 1988 in an Arabic hospital. Everything was fabulous and they took really good care of us."

"In 1989 we started getting leaflets coming down from the sky on what to do in the event of a gas attack."

"In March of 1990 my husband, who spoke fluent German (he had lived in Germany when he was younger) came home and asked if he could book a flight to Berlin so he could help bring down some of the Berlin wall. Of course I told him I didn't mind at all. So he booked his flight for Aug. 1, 1990."

"I remember that Claudia was just nearly two years — I had just potty trained her. The Iraqi troops had started to approach the border of Kuwait at that time and, before my husband left for Germany, he said 'I don't like to leave you and Claudia with 50,000 Iraqi troops on the border.' The last thing I said to him was 'It's alright darling, don't worry. They won't invade.'"

"I got a phone call on Aug. 2 from one of my best friends," Lynne explained. I could hear gunfire in the background and she was screaming 'They're here, they're here!' 'Who's here,' I asked. She said 'Oh my God, they're killing people in the streets.' I said 'What's going on?' She said 'They're here!' and the phone went dead."

"A couple of hours later Iraqi soldiers burst into my home and they put a gun to my head and told me I had two minutes to pack a bag and go. They had come for us."

Come join us to hear the very personal perspective of this often overlooked piece of the first Gulf War.

### Officers

#### President

CAPT (R) Larry Cotton, USN

#### 1st Vice President

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

#### 2nd Vice President

LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

#### Secretary

COL (R) Doug Minton, USA

#### Treasurer

Capt. Hal Sauer, USAF

#### Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (R) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

Lt.Col. (R) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF

COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA

#### Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

### Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

**Middle TN Chapter, MOAA**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

Website:

<http://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Email: [info@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

### MOAA Resources

Transitioning off active duty? Looking for Employment Assistance? Trying hard to stay up to date with VA and TriCare issues? Or just wanting to Network with other veterans who are at a similar point in their lives? MOAA National has a wealth of digital and online options for achieving these goals and more.

Their blogs offer thoughts, ideas, and opinions on wide ranging subjects of interest on military family affairs, military benefits and items of general military interest. Their social media is available across several platforms, to include Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook. And of course they offer both print and electronic versions (format availability depends on your national membership status) of all of their many publications.

There are numerous ways to access any of the above options, but the most direct one is to visit the MOAA National website and then take a look at the Publications and Media pages.  
[\(http://www.moaa.org/Pubs/\)](http://www.moaa.org/Pubs/).

### President's Letter

Boy, do we have a ton of action going on this spring! Here's a quick run down:

I have presented one JROTC award and we have 8 of the 13 schools already scheduled. If you haven't represented our chapter in presenting one of these awards, you should—it's such a rewarding experience and sometimes you get a free meal out of it! I have JROTC presentations starting in mid-April available; if anyone is interested please get in touch with me at [cotton@aol.com](mailto:cotton@aol.com) or (615) 973-1976. Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett already has 2 of the 3 ROTC presentations scheduled for the local universities as well.

On the legislative front, COL Kent Crossley has been extremely busy locally. Two bills have been submitted to increase the property tax relief from its current \$100k to \$175k for low-income property owners over 65 or 100% totally and permanently disabled veterans regardless of war-time service. Since these bills were passed out of committee with a "neutral" vote, it is important that your voice is heard—Please contact your state legislators about SB0023/HB0020 and SB0021/HB0023.

We are now in the process of collecting local chapter membership dues and have made good progress, (65% so far) but we have a ways to go. These can be paid by return email from the letter we sent to each of you last month or at the MOAA national site, [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Remember that our low chapter dues are separate from your national dues! These dues allow us to contribute to veteran and their family-oriented charities, like USO, Matthew 25, and Operation Stand Down locally, and the MOAA Military Family Initiative nationally (we will address this one more at the next meeting).

If you missed the February meeting—and many of you did—you missed a great Personal Affairs program with lots of information about how to get help in figuring out how to "right-size" your homes and how to avoid problems when obtaining in-home assistance. Thanks to Past President Wanda Bruce-Graham for finding these speakers!

I hope to see you on March 28<sup>th</sup>!

L. S. Cotton, Jr.  
CAPT, U. S. Navy (Ret.), President, MTC

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER  
Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 50252  
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Happy 102nd Birthday  
U.S. Navy Reserve  
3 March 1915

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

23-26 March 2017

#### ***"National Guard Association of Tennessee 88th Annual General Conference"***

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center  
Murfreesboro, TN

-

28 March 2017; 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### ***"My Hostage Experience During the Gulf War"***

Mrs. Lynne Smith

-

4 April 2017; 7:00-8:00 AM

#### ***MTC Monthly Board Meeting***

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN

-

25 April 2017; 11:15 AM—1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### ***"Drugs, Thugs, Immigrants and Factories: Understanding the U.S. – Mexico Relation- ship, Past and Present"***

Capt. Aileen Teague, USMC

PHD Candidate (History) - Vanderbilt University

-

23 May 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### ***"Sea Stories; A Memoir of a Naval Officer"***

Lt. Gary Slaughter, USN

-

27 June 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### ***"My Enemy, My Friend"***

Brigadier General (Ret.) Dan Cherry, USAF

-

#### **2017 MTC MOAA Meeting Dates**

**(that are not shown above):**

25 July, 2017

22 August, 2017

26 September, 2017

24 October, 2017

28 November, 2017

No Meeting December 2017

### Legislative Update

Federal. Dr. David Shulkin was nominated and selected on February 13<sup>th</sup> as the VA Secretary. He previously held the position of VA undersecretary. The Secretary and new administration promises to reform areas in the VA system needing critical attention. For example, several months ago, the Vet Center, a branch of the VA, significantly diverged from past policy and now provides no cost mental health care counseling to all veterans regardless of era of service or discharge status. There are five Vet Center locations in TN typically located in professional office locations. Some Vet Centers have mobile outreach locations open one or more days a week to better serve less populated areas. <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

State. The effort to pass state senate and house bills supporting veterans continues in this session. On February 8th, the MTCMOAA participated with other veteran organizations in a "Day on the Hill" promoting veteran support. Monday, 6 March MTCMOAA members, other TN state MOAA chapters and veteran organizations in the state attended a subcommittee hearing discussing two of Senator Mark Green's sponsored bill:

SB0023/HB0020 – Sen Green & Rep. Pitts

SB0021/HB0023 – Sen. Green & Rep. Hill

These bills increase the property tax relief from its current \$100k to \$175k. A very informative presentation on the history of the property tax relief program and these bills potential impact on the budget was presented. It is important to remember that property tax relief can be awarded either for any low-income property owner over 65 years of age or 100% totally and permanently disabled veterans regardless of war time service. MTCMOAA is currently assisting a chapter member receive this benefit who appears to meet these requirements. Any potential challenges to these bills may come from the significant increase in service related claims for tax relief since 2006. All bills were passed on with neutral support to the committee for a full vote.

And one last point, no matter how many times your MOAA Chapter comes before any of our elected representatives, the impact does not match you as a constituent contacting YOUR representative to support an issue. We must have grass-roots support by voters for these issues, so please let your representative know how you feel about them!

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ COL Kent Crossley, USA Retired  
Board Member, Legislative Affairs Liaison