



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

December 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

December Reminder:

Our Middle TN Chapter does not meet in December in order for our members to have more time with their families during the holiday season.

**Merry Christmas,
and Happy New Year!**

Officers

President

CAPT (R) Larry Cotton, USN

1st Vice President

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. (Ret.) Arlie Haddix, USAF

President's Letter

This December 7th marks the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which launched the United States into World War II. As we remember our fallen comrades and ship-mates, let us also remember those who remain with us. We celebrate their lives of "continuing to serve" whether through organizations such as MOAA or simply by being good citizens in communities throughout America and around the world. The freedoms and prosperity we enjoy—and much of the world enjoys—is owed to their determination and sacrifice. Thank you, every one of you!

Also, thanks to your generosity and the innovative efforts of Dana McClendon and Mike Patenaude, we can augment our annual scholarships initiatives (locally at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities and through MOAA national) with an endowed scholarship at Lipscomb. Renamed the "Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America Endowed Veterans Scholarship", the original endowment had failed to progress and was made available to our chapter to continue to support, taking advantage of funds already invested. This scholarship is separate from the one we normally grant each year and will be committed to a deserving 100% disabled veteran student at Lipscomb who was wounded in military action with demonstrated financial need. Of course, we will continue the support each of our local scholarships and MOAA's scholarship program for dependents while this endowment fund grows. Thanks to Dana and Mike for finding this opportunity!

Also, during this season of giving, don't forget about the "Wreaths across America campaign". Please consider participating in the actual wreath-laying on Saturday, 16 December, at 11:30 am at the McCrory Lane State Veterans Cemetery. It has been well supported in the recent past and several of our members are planning to attend—join us!

Finally, thank you to The Honorable Beth Harwell, Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, who provided a very informative update to her "Report on TN State Government" that she presented last year. We don't have a luncheon this month, so please enjoy visiting with family and friends and let's get the New Year started with enthusiasm! And a final 2017 reminder that our January and February luncheons will be at the Martin Center, 960 Heritage Way, Brentwood, TN (very near the Brentwood Library).

I look forward to seeing you in 2018! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

January / February Reminder:

Old Natchez Country Club is beginning an extensive renovation in December 2017 that will not be finished until early March 2018.

So, we have made arrangements to meet at the **Martin Center located at 960 Heritage Way , Brentwood, TN for the January and February 2018 meetings.** The Martin Center is located just off of the Concord Road Exit on I65 South and is very easy to reach. The location and a caterer are the only changes that we anticipate, so please join as at our alternative location for the January and February meetings! If you need driving directions, please go to our web site under the General Chapter Info tab to Martin Center Directions.

Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

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

Website:

<http://www.mtcmooa.org>

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

Contact Email:

info@mtcmooa.org

2017 MOAA Levels of Excellence Award

We have been very fortunate that MOAA National has recognized our Chapter as one of the best in the nation for the past five years with the MOAA 5 STAR LOE Award. This is recognition is the result of both the efforts of your elected Board, and the individual level of involvement by our members in support of a large number of veteran's initiatives across the Middle TN area.

It is time to begin building our 2018 submission, so we are asking each of you to please take a second to identify your efforts in support of veterans in this area during 2017, and then submit those activities to our Board using the email address shown in the middle of this page. We know that we have an embarrassment of riches in this regard, but if we do not hear from you then your efforts cannot be considered for inclusion in our submission. Each year we try to highlight different organizational involvement so please help us show how we "Continue to Serve"!

Legislative Update

TRICARE. DoD has announced plans to increase TRICARE costs. Even though current beneficiaries are grandfathered from increased fees, DoD is changing the rules to upcoming TRICARE programs. As of 1 Jan 2018, other than TRICARE for Life beneficiaries will see cost-share changes in the new TRICARE Select option to a fixed amount. This fixed amount allows the head of the Defense Health Agency to change these fees. This most likely will affect costs in all areas of care. This effort ignores the intent of the FY 2017 NDAA grandfathering.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT. The VA announced an advisory committee which will focus on the needs of military families and caregivers. Former Senator Elizabeth Dole is leading this committee which will help those disabled veterans. The great news is although post 9/11 veterans have been eligible for these services there is an effort to expand these services to pre-9/11 veterans who are entering a period of their life requiring care in greater amounts.

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

16 December 2017; 11:30 PM
"Wreaths Across America"

McCroy Lane State Veterans Cemetery
-

28 December 2017; 6:00 PM

"TN All Academy /ROTC Christmas Ball"

Gaylord Opryland Springhouse
18 Springhouse Lane, Nashville, TN
-

2 January 2018; 7:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN
-

23 January 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Middle TN Chapter Annual Report"

(NOTE Temporary LOCATION CHANGE)

Martin Center, 960 Heritage Way , Brentwood, TN
-

6 February 2017; 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN
-

27 February 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

"Cyber Security"

Richard Littlehale

TBI Agent in Charge, Technical Services Unit

(NOTE Temporary LOCATION CHANGE)

Martin Center, 960 Heritage Way , Brentwood, TN
-

6 March 2017; 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN
-

27 March 2018; 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Secret Squirrel Ops"

CDR (Ret.) Dave Winters, USN

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

Legislative Action Center Update

MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) has recently gone through a significant redesign. This is in response to upgrades to the system used to connect members with their elected representatives so they can exercise their influence as a voter and citizen. (Note the appearance and configuration will vary depending on which browser you're using and whether you access the information on a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or phone.)

The *Issues* menu, found on the right-hand side of the Legislative Action Center's blue menu bar, highlights topics of particular importance facing the military community. This is where you can find background information, as well as MOAA's official position, on each issue. These pages can be used as fact sheets when meeting with elected officials.

Further down on the page, you can confirm your elected officials by typing in your ZIP code. When you enter the ZIP code of the address where you are registered to vote, the system will populate your legislators' information automatically.

From an elected official's page, you can access their biographical information, committee involvement, and local office location.

As you scroll further down the main page of the Legislative Action Center you will find a red bar titled "Contact Your Representatives." All of MOAA's Take Action alerts have been collected in this area with suggested messages for you to send to your representatives. To send a message, simply click on the Take Action alert that you would like to send. From there, fill out the necessary contact information. If you check the "Remember Me" box at the bottom of the form, your contact information will be saved automatically for future uses. (Note: Security settings on certain web browsers can prevent the Remember Me function from saving your information.) As you scroll further down the main page of the Legislative Action Center you will find a red bar titled "Contact Your Representatives." In this area, we've collected all of MOAA's Take Action alerts with suggested messages for you to send to your representatives.

Our individual use of this functionality to contact our elected officials is a key component of MOAA's ability to influence an outcome when tackling military issues in Washington, so it behooves each of us to become familiar with this new functionality and put it to use in support of the initiatives that MOAA has identified.