



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2017 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



## Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

March 2019

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Luncheon Meeting

26 March 2019; 11:30 AM

**"Made in the USA;  
Authentically American!"**

CPT Dean Wegner, USA  
CEO, Authentically American

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

Dean Wegner is a West Point Graduate who served seven years in the U. S. Army as a helicopter pilot and Army Ranger. He is a recent new member of the Middle TN Chapter.

Dean is the Founder & CEO of Authentically American®. He is leading the journey for Authentically American to become an iconic American brand that is truly American made. Authentically American is a company that celebrates patriotism and honors our American heroes. Its mission is to create American jobs by supporting "Made in USA" manufacturing.

Prior to launching Authentically American, Dean served as the President, CEO, and Owner of Omega Apparel for 5 years, a leading supplier of dress uniforms for the United States Military. While in the Army, Dean earned his MBA in Finance from Cal State and launched his business career with Big 5 firm KPMG Consulting as a Project Manager. Most of his business career was spent in the CPG industry at Procter & Gamble and Mars Inc. in business development, sales, marketing, and strategy.

Dean is a servant leader with a proven track record of breakthrough results. As a former Division I ice hockey player, he is highly competitive and possesses a tireless work ethic. His primary focus is on growth, building a highly engaged team, and creating a winning culture.

Dean is happily married to his bride Kelly of 24 years. They have 4 children, the most recent adopted from Ethiopia. Dean is also active in his church and the local community. He has served on the board for several for profit and non-profit companies and organizations.

Please join us to hear this fascinating story of American entrepreneurship .

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LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

### Chapter Contact Information

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### Take Action!

In your March 2019 Military Officer magazine there are pre-printed letters on the SBP/DIC Offset issue to send to the Speaker and minority leader in the House as well as to the majority and minority leaders in the Senate.

Please take a minute to read the letter, and then make a personal note expressing your thoughts on the how Congress has ignored the issue. We have learned that a personal note on the form letter significantly increases its impact with the recipient's office and will be recorded differently from just a signed letter.

And then the most important act, seal the letter, put a stamp on it and stick it in the mail!

And of course you can also go the MOAA web site and respond there as well.

**Get involved today!**

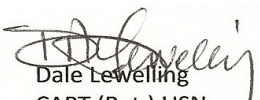
### President's Letter

We had a great meeting in February with 51 attendees, an outstanding speaker and excellent lunch. If you miss the meetings you miss a lot, so mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. If you know of someone who is an active duty officer, retiree or former service member invite them to a meeting. You are our best recruiting tool for new members. Thanks to your efforts we have 11 new members in 2018. Keep up the good work and we will keep providing interesting programs.

The response to our dues letter has been strong with 63% of our members sending in their payment. If you have sent your \$20.00 check in already, thank you. If you haven't please drop it in the mail or bring it to the next meeting.

This month's letter is primarily dedicated to highlighting the issue related to surviving spouses financial support. Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows tax. For approximately 67,000 military survivors, the widows tax makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting. This is an issue that many of you are familiar with already but in case you don't know the history it is an issue that has been recognized at the Congressional level since 2007. Although it has been recognized, Congress has failed to take corrective action to fix this inequity. This year there is strong momentum to fix this inequity. There are two bills, H.R.553 and S.622, up for consideration with strong sponsorship backing to repeal Title 10, United States Code, and eliminate the offset required if a widow is receiving DIC. This is promising but we need strong support from the constituency to make this a hot button issue when the members vote. In the past the proposed bills have had many sponsors but when it came time to vote they failed to vote for the bill. As members of MOAA we have a strong voice on the hill, and we need to be heard. You can also reach out to your respective elected officials and call the Capitol Switchboard at **1-866-272-6622** and voice your support for the measures. The repeal of this injustice is long overdue so let's make sure we do all we can do the effect the repeal.

This month we welcome Dean Wegner as our guest speaker. Dean has great entrepreneurial story to tell about his professional life from West Point to CEO of Authentically American. Mark your calendar for the 26<sup>th</sup>. Look forward to seeing everyone.

  
Dale Lewelling  
CAPT (Ret.) USN  
President

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



Happy 104th Birthday to the US Navy  
Reserves—Founded 3 March 1915

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

(Program Change—LTC Wainwright came down on orders to attend the Air Assault School in March and will be rescheduled)

**26 March 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Made in the USA; Authentically American”**

CPT Dean Wegner, USA

CEO, Authentically American

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**29-30 March 2019**

**“TN National Guard 90th Annual Conference”**

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN

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**2 April 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM**

**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**10 April 2019**

**“MOAA Storms the Hill”**

Washington, DC

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**23 April 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Elder Law” and a “Personal Affairs Update”**

Attorney Barbara Moss

LTC (Ret.) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

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**12 April 2019; 5:45 PM**

A Soldier's Child 10th Annual Dinner Banquet

**“A Life Worth Celebrating”**

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN

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**7 May 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM**

**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**18 May 2019**

**“Fort Campbell Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) “**

Ft. Campbell, KY

### **2019 Meeting Dates:**

26 May 2019, 25 June 2019, 23 July 2019

27 August 2019, 24 September 2019

22 October 2019, **19 November 2019**

### MOAA Legislative Update

There are multiple Veteran Bills; this is a sample of some of the more important ones. Remember bills introduced in one branch of the Legislature must be introduced in the other. These have been introduced in both Houses of the Legislature but may be in different stages.

**HB0200 by Cepicky /SB0245 by Hensley--** As introduced, reduces, from 25 to 23, the age required for a person to receive an initial school bus endorsement if the person is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces, a member of the national guard or reserves, or a licensed teacher employed by an LEA. Placed on House Regular Calendar for 3/7/2019. This is a significant issue for young service members coming off active duty or members of the Guard and Reserve.

**HB1187 by Chism /SB0844 by Gilmore--** As enacted, eliminates the fee for interment of an eligible veteran's spouse in a state veterans' cemetery. Placed on Departments & Agencies Subcommittee for 3/6/2019.

**HB1465 by Windle/SB1485 by Bailey--** As introduced, enacts the "Veterans Property Tax Relief Act of 2019"; requires that market value cap for real property eligible for disabled veteran property tax relief be adjusted every two years to reflect percentage change in consumer price index. Placed on Property & Planning Subcommittee for 3/6/2019. Continuation of Property Tax relief for disabled veterans.

**HB0205 by Hodges/SB0242 by Kurita--** As introduced, requires public postsecondary institutions to classify the spouse or dependent child of an active member of the United States armed forces transferred out of state on military orders as an in-state student for tuition purposes. Rec. for pass; ref to Calendar & Rules Committee.

**HB0822 by Johnson C /SB0678 by Lundberg--** As introduced, authorizes the Tennessee state veterans' homes board to name, subject to the governor's approval, the campus, buildings, facilities, and grounds of any state veterans' home; authorizes the administrator of each veterans' home to name any portion of the state veterans' home. Taken off notice for cal. in Naming, Designating, & Private Acts Committee. A contentious bill that continues to struggle to get support.

Doug Gilbert

LTC, US Army Retired

Board Member & Legislative Affairs Liaison