



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2017 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

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

May 2019

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

28 May 2019; 11:30 AM

**"My Experiences with the
Legislative Process"**

**State Rep. / COL (Ret.) Sam Whitson,
USA**

State Representative for TN House
District 65, and MTC Member

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

Colonel Sam Whitson is a native Tennessean, his family having first arrived in middle Tennessee in 1807. He graduated from Glenclyff High School and attended Middle TN State University on an Army ROTC Scholarship, where he received both an A.A. and a B.S. degree. Following graduation in 1976 he was commissioned a second lieutenant as a Regular Army officer.

Sam has commanded at company, battalion and brigade level units. He had the opportunity to witness significant historical events while stationed in Germany from 1989 to 1992, including the fall of the Berlin Wall, collapse of the WARSAW PACT, and deployment of U.S. combat forces from Germany to the Middle East. He had wartime service in Iraq with the U.S. Army's VII Corps during Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm. He retired in 2002 at the rank of colonel after serving for 26 years.

Following retirement, he was employed as a defense contractor and regional manager providing training support and personnel for the Department of the Army at college and university level ROTC programs from 2002 to 2011.

When Sam returned to Tennessee, he stayed very busy in the Williamson County area, volunteering extensively and becoming involved in the local community. His sense of community service eventually led him to become dissatisfied with local state politics and in 2017 he put his beliefs in action and ran against a heavily favored incumbent for the position of Representative for House District 65. He won and took office in the 110th General Assembly and was re-elected in 2018 to the same position in the 111th General Assembly.

Sam is devoted to his community, neighbors, friends, family, all dogs and especially his two sons, two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and Pam, his high school sweetheart and wife of 45-years.

Please join us for this meeting as there is so much more of this story to tell, and it will provide you with an opportunity to meet a man who truly embodies the MOAA slogan of "Never Stop Serving!".

Officers

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CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

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

Legislative Liaison

LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chapter Contact Information

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TVHS VFAC

In July 2017, the VA's Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) established the Veteran and Family Advisory Council (VFAC), which includes Veterans, family members, caregivers, and employee Veterans who receive their care at the VA Hospital.

The mission of the Council:

1. To partner with health care staff to improve communication among Veterans, families and staff.
2. To assist in improving safety, satisfaction, and quality of care.
3. To allow staff to listen to and honor Veteran and family choices.

CAPT (Ret.) Steve Arends, USN and MTC member is a founding and current member of the Council. He will hopefully be joined soon by COL (Ret.) Kent Crossley, USA who has applied for a position on the Council.

The Council is now recruiting new membership. Let your voice be heard! Please speak with Steve Arends srarends1@gmail.com or Kent Crossley Kent.Crossley1@comcast.net about the submittal process and program.

President's Letter

Thanks to LTC Wanda Graham for setting up the outstanding personal affairs meeting last month. Like most people I thought I was doing all the right things but Barbara Moss, the founder and lead attorney at Elder Law, highlighted many of the legal considerations we should address as we age.

One of the benefits of membership at the national level is the services that are provided. If you attended last month's meeting you heard about the many challenges that we all face with the legal aspects of aging families. One the services offered by MOAA for premium and Life members are free planning guides for Personal Affairs, Investors, Financial Planning and Estate Planning. Other publications available include Military Benefits guides, Transition guides and Survivor Issues guides. You can find them at [MOAA Publications](#).


We appreciate each of you who have paid their dues for 2019. To date we have 75% of the membership that have accomplished this task for 2019. **If you have not paid your dues for this year please mail them to MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205-0252.**

Also, if you have not yet joined MOAA National please take a few minutes to go to [Join MOAA](#) to sign up for the Basic membership. It does not cost you anything and it helps you keep informed on all the issues at the national level. Equally important is that our chapter benefits from your national membership when we compete for the 5 Star Chapter award.

I want to thank all the members who have taken time to present the MOAA Medal to our ROTC and JROTC units in the middle Tennessee area. During the spring recognition events at 13 local High Schools and 2 local Universities we make our annual presentations to outstanding young cadets who have demonstrated leadership potential. My personal thanks to Lt.Col. (Ret.) Karon Uzzell-Baggett and CAPT (Ret.) Larry Cotton for all their work in the coordination of the event presenters.

I want to invite you to attend our Chapter Memorial Ceremony on May 25th at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at 1000 hours. We will be conducting a ceremony to honor those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice. We will convene at the flagpole in the northern section of the cemetery. Uniform or civilian attire are appropriate.

This month we will be welcoming chapter member Representative Sam Whitson as he shares some of his experiences as State Representative. Mark your calendar for the Tuesday after Memorial Day, May 28th. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.


Dale Lewelling
CAPT (Ret.) USN
President

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



Saturday, 18 May 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

18 May 2019

"Fort Campbell Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) "
Ft. Campbell, KY

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25 May 2019: 10:00 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Program"
McCrary Lane State Veteran's Cemetery
Pegram, TN

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28 May 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"My Experiences with the Legislative Process"
State Rep. / COL (Ret.) Sam Whitson, USA
State Representative for TN House District 65
and MTC Member

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4 June 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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6 June 2019

"75th Anniversary of D-Day"

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25 June 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Experiences as a WWII Bomber Pilot"
Captain Jerry Neal, USA
MTC Member
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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2 July 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

23 July 2019; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Bass Military Scholars Program"
Nick Zeppos
Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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MOAA Legislative Update

Update on State Legislation:

The legislative session has ended, and it ended with a rather chaotic bang; with House Doors locked at the request of the Speaker, a woman screaming from the Gallery, and an altercation between a Security Guard and a House member. And unfortunately, none of the important bills supported by the TVET coalition were enacted; primarily as a result of funding constraints.

Update on Federal legislation of interest:

H.R. 553 -*The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act* co-sponsorship is up to 280 as of 11 May 2019 and includes all Tennessee Representatives. If you have not reached out to your Congressional Representative to say thank you for supporting this Bill please do so! The sponsorship number is very important, as Speaker Pelosi has indicated that she will call for a vote on the Act when that number reaches 290.

S.622-*The Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act of 2019* co-sponsorship is up to 63, and includes both Tennessee Senators. Again, if you have not reached out to your Senator to thank them for their support please do so.

Surviving spouses continue work to garner more co-sponsorships, but they cannot accomplish this without our assistance. Their Change.org petition "*Stop denying earned benefits to military surviving spouses*" now has 177, 985 signatures as of 13 May, and it is continuing to grow.

The initiative to correct the injustice of the "Widow's Tax" may have the best opportunity to achieve its goal to date, BUT it can only do this if we continue to apply pressure at the Congressional level!

Doug Gilbert
LTC, US Army Retired
Board Member & Legislative Affairs Liaison