



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2017 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



## Military Officers Association of America

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

June 2019

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Luncheon Meeting

25 June 2019; 11:30 AM

*"My Experiences as a  
WWII Bomber Pilot"*

**Captain Jerry Neal, USA**  
MTC Member

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

Jerry Neal was born in Kansas City, MO in 1921, and like so many of his generation volunteered for military service following High School graduation. Unsure of which Branch of the service to go into, he reported to be tested to determine if he was qualified for some form of aviation training in the new U.S. Army Air Corps. His training was successful, and he was eventually commissioned as a Lieutenant/Pilot in the Army Air Corps, flying the B-17 Bomber.

During World War II he initially flew the B-17, but the majority of his 35 combat missions were flown in the B-24 Bomber. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his accumulated deep penetration flights into Germany. On 6 June 1944 he participated in the D-Day invasion but lost his plane and a number of his crew as they ran out of fuel while returning to their base in England. He has stories of other missions – planes limping home on a single engine, planes so damaged by flak that they were put in the scrap heap upon returning to their base, crewmembers killed inside their planes by enemy fire – yet the crews that survived continued their missions. He said no matter what, you just executed your professional training to the best of your ability to get your job done and your people back to base safely.

Following his return to the United States he requalified as an instructor pilot, but the needs of the Army Air Corps as it became the U. S. Air Force resulted in his being assigned an administrative position. He remained in the Air Force Reserve and retired after 20 years of service as a Captain.

His professional career included sales and marketing positions with Honeywell, and several individual commercial enterprises.

Capt. Neal is a longtime member of the Middle TN Chapter, and has a fascinating story to tell of both his individual experiences during World War II, and his experiences with a new branch of the service just coming into it's own during the war. Please join us for this meeting as continue the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day!

### Officers

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CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

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#### Transition Services Coordinator

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

#### Legislative Liaison

LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

### Chapter Contact Information

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### **Advance Notice on 2019 OSDTN "Heroes Breakfast"**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) "Heroes Breakfast" fundraiser will take place on **9 August 2019** at the Music City Center.

Our Chapter has traditionally hosted a member-pay table at the Breakfast and plans to do so again this year for this very worthy event. As a sign of its continued success, the OSDTN Breakfast keeps moving to larger venues, and as a sign of our member support our table continues to fill up rapidly.

The cost is \$100 for a seat at the 10-person table. We normally have a large number of our Chapter members at the event, many sitting at other veteran related tables. However; if you would be interested in sitting at the MTC MOAA table please let CAPT Dale Lewelling know by contacting him at [dale.lewelling@comcast.net](mailto:dale.lewelling@comcast.net).

### President's Letter

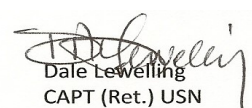
The Month of June is a significant time in our country's history and a monumental time in our military history. During the month of June two battles took place that probably impacted the course of modern history more than any other events. This month we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and recognize it as one of the most important military events in the preservation of the free world. D-Day was the beginning of the end for the Nazi empire. In the Pacific, June 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> marked the change in momentum of the Japanese offensive. The loss of their four aircraft carriers blunted their ability to be the attackers and passed the operational initiative to the Americans. As we celebrate this Memorial Day and the month of June, we need to thank any World War II veterans for their service. In 1994 there were 4 million WWII veterans alive, today we have less than 500,000. So, if you know a WWII veteran let him know how much you appreciate what their service means to you and to our country.

Along those lines our country has a debt to pay to the surviving spouses of our military family. Too long they have suffered financially because of an unfair reduction in benefits due to the offset of DIC payments to their SBP. Today, there is good momentum in both the House and Senate with sponsorship and voice support. We need to keep the pressure on with our Senators and Congressional representatives to ensure they know how important this issue is to ALL of us. We have had several years of sponsorship at the congressional level but when it came to a vote, too many have not followed through on their commitment. This year we need to get sponsors to follow through. If this initiative does not get included in the budget by the HASC and the SASC then we need a champion to move on the floor as an individual action. It only takes a few minutes to email or call them, so please continue to contact them on a regular basis to let them know how important this issue is to you and should be for them.

I want to thank all of you who attended the Memorial Ceremony on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. It was an outstanding event.

I also want to thank chapter member Representative Sam Whitson for taking the time to share some of his experiences as a State Representative. It was entertaining and very informative, and we look forward to a return engagement next year.

This month we get to hear from one of our surviving WWII veterans, US Army Air Corps Captain Jerry Neal. Mark your calendars for June the 25<sup>th</sup>. I am sure it will be a special meeting and one you don't want to miss.

  
Dale Lewelling  
CAPT (Ret.) USN  
President

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



Happy Birthday U.S. Army  
14 June 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Experiences as a WWII Bomber Pilot"**

**Captain Jerry Neal, USA**

WWII Veteran and 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

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**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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**30 July 2019\*; 7 - 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**(Please note date change)**

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**9 August 2019; Time TBD**

**"OSDTN Annual Heroes Breakfast"**

Music City Center, Nashville, TN

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**27 August 2019; 11:30 AM**

**"Lessons Learned as an Army Chaplain"**

**LTC Kevin Wainwright, USA**

Deputy Garrison Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY

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

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**3 September 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**24 September; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Weather"**

### MOAA Legislative Update

#### **STATE**

HB 1187/SB 0844 Veterans - As enacted, eliminates the fee for interment of an eligible veteran's most recent spouse in a state veterans' cemetery. - Amends TCA Title 46, Chapter 6. Transmitted to Governor for signature.

HB 1004/SB 1119 Veterans-- As enacted, extends a 50 percent discount on camping fees at state parks to veterans who have a 100-percent permanent total service-connected disability. - Amends TCA Title 11. Public Chapter 389.

#### **FEDERAL**

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a case challenging the Feres doctrine, which bars service members from filing medical malpractice suits against DOD medical personnel. "Unfortunate repercussions -- denial of relief to military personnel and distortions of other areas of law to compensate -- will continue to ripple through our jurisprudence as long as the Court refuses to reconsider (this issue)," wrote Justice Clarence Thomas in his dissent.

Some troops with permanent injuries or conditions that limit their ability to participate fully in the new Army Combat Fitness Test may be able to take an alternate assessment, said Michael McGurk of the Center for Initial Military Training.

The Army and Air Force are offering up to \$500 to spouses of active-duty, National Guard or Reserve troops to reimburse them for professional relicensing fees associated with relocating to a new station, according to policies issued this month. The Navy plans to issue its policy on reimbursements next month.

For the second time in less than a year, the House unanimously approved a bill Tuesday that would extend benefits to Vietnam War sailors who have fought for years to prove they were exposed to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange. The House voted 410-0 to advance the bill to the Senate, following a vote last year of 382-0. The Senate still has to vote on it.

US troops will remain at the US-Mexico border until it is secure, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan in a recent visit to the border town of McAllen, Texas. Shanahan said he had directed Army Gen. Ricky Waddell to devise a plan to strengthen the border so Homeland Security can take full charge before active-duty and National Guard troops are withdrawn. This comes as the National Guard struggles to find funding to offset the training funds which have been utilized to pay for these deployments.

The VA's Mission Act launched on 6 June, giving veterans more health care options in the private sector, but officials warned there might be a few glitches. The Mission system replaces the Choice program, which was the focus of many complaints by both veterans and private health care professionals.