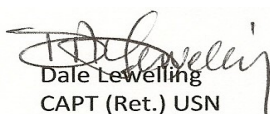




Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2018 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

<p>MOAA Luncheon Meeting</p> <p><i>"Happy Holidays!"</i></p> <p>No Meeting December 2019</p> <p>-</p> <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>28 January 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM</p> <p><i>" Middle TN Chapter Annual Report & 2020 Officer Installation"</i></p> <p><i>Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069</i></p>	<p><u>Officers</u></p> <p><u>President</u> CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN</p> <p><u>1st Vice President</u> LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA</p> <p><u>2nd Vice President</u> Lt.Col. (R) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> COL (R) Doug Minton, USA</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Capt. Hal Sauer, USAF</p> <p><u>Directors</u> Mrs. Patricia Bergquist CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN LTC (R) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA CAPT (R) Larry Cotton, USN COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA</p> <p><u>Surviving Spouse Liaison</u> Mrs. Patricia Bergquist</p> <p><u>Transition Services Coordinator</u> Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF</p> <p><u>Legislative Liaison</u> LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA</p>	<p><u>President's Letter</u></p> <p>I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and is well on their way to preparing for the Christmas holiday. This has been an eventful and interesting year for our chapter. We have welcomed several new members who are making our chapter better. My thanks to LTC Mike Patenaude for the outstanding job he did lining up an interesting and informative group of guest speakers for 2019. Also, my thanks to all the board members who have worked so hard to keep us on track for another 5 Star Chapter award.</p> <p>My personal and official thanks for the generosity of each of you that contributed to our MTC Scholarship drive. To date our contributions have totaled \$4874. That means that once again we will be able to donate \$1000 each to Belmont and Lipscomb, as well as to the MOAA National general scholarship fund, and that we will be able to grow the Middle Tennessee Chapter endowment fund at Lipscomb by an additional \$1874. Our contributions to both Belmont and Lipscomb are to veterans with the priority being to a disabled service veteran first. If none apply, then the grant is to a deserving veteran. Thank you again for your generous support.</p> <p>For the last several months we have been talking about membership at the national level. There is an on-going discussion with MOAA National about getting national membership at the Chapter level up to a 90 - 95% level. At present our chapter is at 76%. If you have questions about what MOAA can do for you, check out the benefits at MOAA.org. At a minimum take advantage of the Basic membership that is being offered for free. It will assist us in keeping our 5 Star Chapter recognition and provide you with information on what MOAA is attempting to accomplish in D.C. And as a reminder our 2020 Chapter dues solicitation letter will be mailed in February, with dues staying at the same level again this year.</p> <p>A small bit of good news for us military retirees and surviving spouses; we will see a COLA increase in January of 1.6% on retired pay and Social Security.</p> <p>We have several veteran and military events happening in the local area in the coming months so please go to our website at http://www.mtcmoaa.org/areaeventcalendar.html to keep up with everything that's happening.</p> <p>I hope most everyone enjoyed the 14 December Army Navy game. Beside the game there were some new advertisements for MOAA showcasing members. And for 2020, GO NAVY/BEAT ARMY.</p> <p>I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years in 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> Dale Lewelling CAPT (Ret.) USN President</p>
<p>Our January meeting provides an opportunity for our Board to provide a "state of the Chapter" report covering the variety of activities and initiatives in which we have invested both time and funds during 2019 calendar year. This meeting is significant in that it allows the membership to participate in a review of how our funds were allocated, how our scholarship initiative is progressing, and as an opportunity to provide input on programs for the upcoming year. We need your attendance and voice at this meeting in order to ensure that our Chapter is addressing the needs of our community.</p> <p>Hopefully we can also hear from you on how we can expand the reach of the chapter, from suggestions to support for organizations that we are not currently touching, to new ideas for reaching the current generation of officers that we hope to have join our ranks.</p> <p>And finally, this meeting will provide an opportunity to express our appreciation to CAPT Dale Lewelling for the outstanding job that he has done in presiding over the Chapter over the past two years, and then welcome our incoming President, LTC Mike Patenaude.</p> <p><i>Please Join Us for This Meeting!</i></p> <p>(The complete report will be posted on our website, and members who do not have access to the internet can procure a copy by contacting any of your Board members.)</p>	<p><u>Chapter Contact Information</u></p> <p>Mailing Address:</p> <p>Middle TN Chapter, MOAA P. O. Box 50252 Nashville, TN 37205-0252</p> <p>Website: https://www.mtcmoaa.org</p> <p>Contact Phone: (615) 415-6816</p> <p>Contact Email: info@mtcmoaa.org</p>	<p><u>Non Partisan Status</u></p> <p>The Middle TN Chapter Board and Membership has a mandate to always remain politically nonpartisan as an affiliate organization of MOAA National.</p> <p>MOAA National has recently reached out to all Chapters to remind them that in the upcoming election year this nonpartisan stance is more important than ever given that it directly affects our tax status as an affiliate of the National organization.</p> <p>So, while the Chapter cannot become actively involved in supporting any candidate, we whole heartedly support the individual involvement of our members on a personal basis.</p> <p>An informed and active electorate is important to the success of our state and nation; so it is up to each of us to become informed on the issues and to VOTE accordingly when the time comes, as well as encourage all that you know to also do so.</p>
<p><u>Congratulations to Martin Plumlee</u></p> <p>Martin pinned on his 05 (LTC) rank in July of this year during his current deployment to the Middle East. He is scheduled for redeployment in the 2nd quarter of 2020, and with luck will be available for an in-person congratulation soon after at a monthly Chapter meeting. He currently serves in the USAR.</p>		

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

No Meeting - December 2019

"Happy Holidays!"

7 January 2020; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

28 January 2020; 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"MTC Annual Report & Officer Installation"

CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, USN

Chapter President

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

4 February 2020; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

5 February 2020; Time TBA

"TN Veterans Day on the Hill"

Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

Sponsored by TVET; Registration at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOo6X1r3XcaiO4Bs54sFbKJaYUXDqU7vV7L8UGkqte-iPsDw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

25 February 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee Department of Veterans Services"

Lt.Col. (Ret) Courtney Rodgers, USAF

Commissioner, TN Department of Veterans Services

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

3 March 2020; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

24 March 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Military Women's History Month"

Brig. Gen. (Ret) Eden Murrie, USAF

CEO, OSDTN and MTC Chapter Member

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

Legislative Update

After months of deliberations between House and Senate lawmakers, the 2020 NDAA conference report was released on 10 December. The \$738 billion defense bill was passed by the House of Representatives on Dec. 11 by a vote of 377-48. It now awaits Senate authorization.

The 2020 NDAA Conference Report includes:

- Congress approved a 3.1% military pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2020. The raise matches the administration's request and is the largest pay increase for troops in 10 years.
- Congress approved no new fees or pharmacy increases in 2020. Previously agreed upon increases for medical and pharmacy copays will take effect in January 2020.
- MOAA's extensive efforts on the medical billet reduction issue paid off with a provision that addresses concerns regarding both medical readiness and beneficiary access to high quality care. The provision prohibits DoD and the services from reducing medical end strength authorizations until they complete a review of medical manpower requirements of each military department under all national defense strategy scenarios; conduct an analysis of affected billets together with mitigation plans to address potential gaps in health care services; create metrics to determine TRICARE network adequacy; and establish outreach plans for affected beneficiaries, including transition plans for continuity of health care services.
- After more than 40 years, Congress finally approved elimination of a financial penalty more than 65,000 military survivors face, known as the "widows tax." According to the conference report, the offset will be phased out over a three-year period.
- Members of the National Guard and Reserves have reasons to celebrate the bill's release, as well. Servicemembers serving on 12304B orders will now have this time count toward their active duty time to lower the age when they receive their retirement pay. Steps were initiated to standardize a service record for members of the reserve components; however, the legislation does not specify the DoD to use the DD214 yet.
- In the most comprehensive military housing reform since 1996, the bill includes a robust tenant bill of rights and responsibilities, ensures medical costs and relocation expenses are covered by landlords, formalizes a dispute resolution process, and ensures a proper work order system and complaint database are in place along with a number of other provisions correcting gaps and negligence in the MHPI system. © MOAA 2019

Not every need was addressed in the Conference Report, but it represents a significant step forward in the ongoing effort to generate positive change for military members and their families, surviving spouses and retirees. You can read more about what else was included in the report, as well as what failed to make the cut by going to the MOAA website.

Now our next task is to ensure that our Senators know that they need to support the passage of this act. Please go to the MOAA website and make your desires known to Senator Alexander and Senator Blackburn! This can be easily done by going to the following link:

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Senator to Vote for the NDAA](#)]

LTC Doug Gilbert, MTC Legislative Affairs