



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



Military Officers Association of America

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

March 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

24 March 2020; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

"Military Women's History Month"

Brig. Gen. (Ret) Eden Murrie, USAF
 COO, OSDTN and MTC Chapter Member

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

Eden Murrie is the Chief Operating Officer for Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN), a veterans' resource non-profit. Prior to assuming this position, Eden was a Director at the Partnership for Public Service, a Washington DC non-profit.

She served as Commander, 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall from June 2007—September 2009; and culminated a 29-year Air Force career as the Director of Air Force Services in Washington DC. She has senior executive experience including working on the National Security Staff for the White House, serving on the staff of a Member of Congress, developing and executing a \$2 billion portfolio of worldwide programs and leading multinational organizations. Additionally, a master navigator with over 2400 flying hours, her flying career included serving as an instructor in 3 different aircraft (KC-135A/R, the CT-43A and the EC-135N.)

Beyond business endeavors, Eden is a board member for The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Tennessee State Veterans' Homes, Centerstone Military Services and the Davidson County Veterans Court Foundation. Additionally, she is an adviser for the Nashville YWCA Dress for Success program.

Eden is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and has MA's in Political Science and National Security Strategy and an MBA from Vanderbilt's Owen School of Management.

Married to Jon Murrie for 30-plus years, they have one daughter

Please join us for what will be a very interesting presentation from one of our own members!

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LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

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TVET Day on the Hill

On 5 February hundreds of Veterans descended on the TN State Capitol in support of a number of important legislative initiatives. Many thanks to the Women Veterans of America Chapter in Clarksville for taking the lead on this event for 2020.

MOAA was very well represented at the event with five Chapters (Chattanooga Chapter, Fort Campbell Chapter, Memphis Chapter, Middle TN Chapter, and the Stones River Chapter) in attendance. MTC was represented by Lt. Col. Scott Findley, USAF; COL John Furgess, USA; LTC Doug Gilbert, USA; COL Doug Minton, USA; LTC Mike Patenaude, USA; Maj. Gen. Carl Schneider, USAF; Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF; LTC Thad Vann, USA; and of course COL Sam Whitson, USA who was in session as a State Representative. By all accounts it was a successful day.

President's Letter

Thanks to all of you who attended our meeting on February 25 where we received an excellent MOAA National update from Col. (Doctor) Don Thompson, USAF Retired. It was enlightening to hear his perspectives about MOAA National as well as his observations of the current news on diseases and public health.

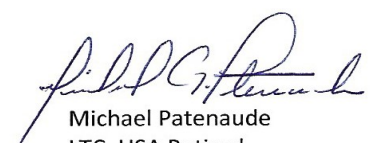
Col. Thompson also reminded us that MOAA national is now accepting applications for the Board of Directors. New board members will be voted in by the national membership and installed on November 2nd. Applicants must have their packages in by 31 March. If you are interested in applying refer to the requirements on page 65 of your February edition of the MOAA magazine.

Another item Col. Thompson presented, is that in terms of MOAA advocacy, the 2020 focus is primarily on thanking our legislators. If you haven't already, take the opportunity to reach out to your Tennessee representative and senators to thank them for their support of removing the "Widow's Tax". Mrs. Patricia Bergquist provided an excellent update for us on this achievement during our January meeting. It is far too easy to contact your representative and senator these days. Just type in www.theirlastname.house.gov or www.theirlastname.senate.gov and once you're on their website, just select the contact tab, fill in your info and write your message.

We are now in the ROTC and Junior ROTC award presentation season, so I want to put a plug in for support of these excellent programs. We support 3 College ROTC programs and 14 High School Junior ROTC programs by presenting a MOAA Medal and Ribbon to the unit's outstanding cadet or midshipman. Most of the presentations fall into the March – April time frame each year. Lt.Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett (ROTC) and CAPT Larry Cotton (JROTC) continue to do an outstanding job of ensuring that we have members to present medals at these awards ceremonies. If you are interested in attending or presenting at a ceremony this year, please contact Lt.Col. Uzzell-Baggett or CAPT Cotton, using the Chapter email address, and find out how you can get involved.

During our announcements portion of the February meeting, LCDR Dave Ford, USN announced a "dog tag" fundraising campaign by OSDTN (Operation Stand Down Tennessee). If you want more info, you can reach out to Dave (Chapter email address) or contact OSDTN directly.

Speaking of OSDTN, put the 24 March luncheon on your calendars as our presenter will be Brigadier General Eden Murrie, USAF Retired, and COO of OSDTN. Her primary topic will be Women in the Military, but I am sure she can address your OSDTN questions as well. I look forward to seeing you there.


 Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Military Women's History Month"

Brig. Gen. (Ret) Eden Murrie, USAF

COO, OSDTN and MTC Chapter Member

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

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7 April 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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15 April 2020; 11:00 AM—1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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28 April 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Annual Personal Affairs Program

"Tennessee Longterm Care Ombudsman Program"

Ms. Jane Ziesmer

Military Spouse and Ombudsman

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

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5 May 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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16 May 2020; 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

"Fort Campbell Retiree Appreciation Day"

272 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY

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23 May 2020; 10:00 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Ceremony"

McCrory Lane State Veterans Cemetery

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26 May 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

"God's Word for Warriors"

Dr. Tom Seals

Lipscomb University Chaplain and USMC Veteran

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

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2 June 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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23 June 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

"MOAA National Speaker?"

(Specific speaker not yet announced)

Legislative Update

STATE: BILLS OF INTEREST:

SB 0673/HB 0787 -As introduced, requires TVS (Veteran's Services) to provide training in mental health crisis management to the employees of the department who directly interact with veterans for the purposes of assisting veterans with mental health issues.

Status-Passed House, Passed Senate-Amended to authorize DVS to utilize resources from Veterans groups to provide training.

HJR 0831/HJR0835-Both are Resolutions to recognize women veterans by a resolution. HJR 0835 establishes the date as June 12.

Status-Both referred to Senate State and Local Government

HB1146/SB0852-As introduced, increases the number of free plates from one to two for the Purple Heart and disabled veteran license plates issued to veterans with disabilities.

Status-House-Returned to Clerks Desk. Senate—Deferred in Finance Ways and Means

HB2195/SB2557-As introduced, enacts the "Major Trevor Joseph Act," which requires the department to provide burial services for any person who died while on active duty with the armed forces and is being interred in a state veterans cemetery on any date requested by the family members of the person if the department is given notice of the burial at least 72 hours in advance of the burial.

Status-House—Assigned to sub-committee Departments and Agencies. Senate-Referred to State and Local Government.

FEDERAL: ITEMS OF INTEREST:

The Army requested \$178 billion in its fiscal year 2021 budget request, which represents a decrease from last year as the branch says it will focus on quickly adding capabilities and funding its staff. Estimates include a 300-member increase in the Army Reserves and a 500-member increase in the Army National Guard.

The **Defense Department** submitted a \$705.4 billion budget proposal to Congress today, seeking increased funding for nuclear weapons systems, technology research and the Space Force. The proposal is for the next fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., has introduced a bill that would create a three-digit hotline for veterans to help them learn about their benefits and link them with other services. "We must ensure veterans in Michigan and across the country can easily access the VA benefits they have earned," he said.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Army's new corps headquarters, the Fifth Corps, will be based at Fort Knox and will rotate Soldiers to a command post in Europe. Defense One reported that 100 Soldiers will be transferred to the Space Force in 2021

LTC Doug Gilbert, MTC Legislative Affairs