



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



**Military Officers Association of America**

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

April 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Luncheon Meeting**

**28 April 2020; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM**

***"Meeting Cancelled"***

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

We normally include a Personal Affairs Program on an annual basis for the benefit of all; however, our planned program, Ombudsman Program must be rescheduled for another time.

Program Notes: What is an Ombudsman? According to Disability Rights TN, "A Long-Term Care Ombudsman is an advocate that assists residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities and resident homes for the aged resolve problems within the facilities where they live. The primary responsibility of this program is to resolve complaints that impact the health, safety and welfare of residents of long-term care facilities, as well as educating residents of their rights. Ombudsmen are trained to resolve problems of all types." We look forward to hearing from Ms. Jane Ziesmer on this subject sometime in the future.

The Pandemic provides a very timely example of why we all should strive to keep our personal affairs in order at all times. MOAA knows how important it is to protect our loved ones, and there are many personal affairs resources your MOAA National membership gives you access to. It is another reason why you should be a MOAA National member. Most prior military members keep meticulous records in our professional lives but often leave inadequate and incomplete records of economic and personal affairs. It is recommended that we review our records annually. Effective recording keeping and maintaining up to date information are unselfish gifts to your loved ones. You can prevent your family from suffering the consequences of being unprepared by keeping your personal affairs up to date now. MOAA members are encouraged to use the many tools available to them via the MOAA website: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). There you have access to information ranging from "Help Your Survivors Now", "Estate Planning Guide", "Guide to Military Burials", "Financial Planning", "Survivors Planning Guide", "Survivors Checklist", and numerous others.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
 Best Regards,  
 LTC Wanda Bruce Graham, USA Retired  
 MTC MOAA Personal Affairs Officer and  
 Past Chapter President  
[wanda.bruce.graham@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.bruce.graham@gmail.com)

**Officers**

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**Chapter Contact Information**

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**MOAA Member Service Center**

If you need to contact MOAA, call (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 for help with any question or action: MOAA membership support (join, renew, upgrade), change of address, legislative action, benefits information, magazine subscriptions, or for general assistance. You also may contact any staff member through those phone numbers. They routinely advise MOAA members on the full range of military and federal benefits - TRICARE, Medicare and TRICARE For Life, Social Security, VA benefits, and the Survivor Benefit Program, to name a few. MOAA Member Service Center representatives are ready to assist you Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time. You may also email: [misc@moaa.org](mailto:misc@moaa.org) for assistance with any question or issue, as listed above. Use this e-mail address also to contact any MOAA staff member or board director. Additionally, MOAA Member Service Center representatives provide a wide range of assistance with personal concerns.

**President's Letter**

I'm writing to you all this month with a prayerful heart. Because of our military service, I realize we are all better prepared to navigate these challenging times with the COVID19 pandemic. Whether we served in uniform or served as a spouse; we all experienced extreme levels of training, planning, and in many cases combat operations. Our shared experience helps us to place this pandemic in perspective. I further realize that our ability to remain calm and focus on priorities, is serving as a blessing within our families and our relationships beyond family.

Operation Stand Down (OSDTN) is keeping its doors open to provide essential services to veterans in need. If you know of a veteran in need, have them call 615-248-1981 or email to [info@osdtm.org](mailto:info@osdtm.org). And if you desire to donate to OSDTN veteran relief for this COVID19 crisis or the recent tornado damage, you can donate online at <https://www.osdtm.org/> or contact Penny Anderson at 615-248-1981 ext. 106

I look forward to the time when we can resume our meetings. In addition to our March meeting, our April meeting has been cancelled as well. Chapter First Vice President Lt.Col. (Ret.) Karon Uzzell-Baggett has coordinated a great and informative speaker list for our 2020 luncheons, and we will try to resume our scheduled programs as soon as possible.

We have Military Reserve birthdays this month: 14 April for the Air Force Reserve and 23 April for the Army Reserve. Although citizen-soldier contributions existed since our country began, the Army Reserve became official with the 1916 National Defense Act. And I would also like to belatedly recognize last month's birthday of the Navy Reserve on 3 March; formed in 1915 as the Federal Navy Reserve. I'm grateful when I reflect on how our reserve forces filled such large roles in our country's conflicts and disasters.

I close this letter by inviting each of you to remember in your prayers; all of our country's leaders, those who are suffering from exhaustion while delivering medical care, those who are fearful, and those working hard in our country to sustain production, transportation and delivery of food, equipment, services and supplies. And I leave you with this prayer by Rabbi Joseph Meszler, which is for use during the 20 seconds it takes to wash our hands:

*Dearest Lord, As I take up my hands to wash them and reassure my heart, I pray for healing and wholeness for the whole world. I remember that every life is unique and of infinite value: from those living on the most remote parts of the globe, to those in our cities, to our neighbors and family members. Let me use my hands for good to help bring love and compassion to others.*

*"Let us lift up our hearts and hands to the Eternal."* (Lam 3:41)

  
 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

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

Annual Personal Affairs Program

***"Meeting Cancelled"***

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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***"Fort Campbell Retiree Appreciation Day"***

***"Cancelled, will be rescheduled for September"***

272 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY

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**23 May 2020; 10:00 AM**

***"MTC Memorial Day Ceremony"***

McCrorry Lane State Veterans Cemetery

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"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**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"MOAA Council & Chapters"***

(Specific speaker not yet announced)

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

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**7 July 2020; 7- 8:00 AM**

***"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"***

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**15 July 2020; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

***"TN MOAA Council of Chapters Meeting"***

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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**28 July 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"Reboot Recovery"***

Brian Flanery, Engagement Coordinator

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

### Legislative Update

#### STATE:

- The "Women Veterans Recognition Resolution" was passed and now awaits action by the Governor.
- Bill Requiring Training of TDVS Employees in Suicide Prevention—Public Chapter 531, was passed and now awaits action by the Governor.
- Governor Bill Lee says he is continuing to watch the data but has not made a decision on whether or not his "Stay-at-Home" order will be extended. The order is in effect until April 14 at midnight, although most models indicate the virus may not reach its peak in Tennessee for another week or two.
- As of 4/9/2020, 550 TN National Guard members from across the state have deployed to assist with the spread of the coronavirus to 35 counties in TN. Their goal is to assist local health officials in running testing sites. This number does not include Air National Guard members flying scheduled missions that provide Covid-19 support.

#### FEDERAL:

- Reacting to concerns that National Guard troops fighting COVID-19 under Title 32 orders were being denied Tricare and increased housing benefits, President Donald Trump on 4/7/2020 signed an executive order extending those activations by one day. Authorizing National Guard units to be activated under Title 32 for increments of up to 31 days — instead of the previous 30 — allows those troops to receive Tricare medical coverage and increased Basic Allowance for Housing payments. Those benefits only kicked after 30 days.
- Thomas Modly's resignation as acting secretary of the Navy came less than one day after he told sailors aboard the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt that their recently-fired commanding officer was either "too naïve or too stupid" to command. The former acting Navy secretary flew to Guam to offer sailors an explanation for his hasty dismissal of Capt. Brett Crozier. The former commanding officer of the Roosevelt was fired following the leak of a letter he wrote, which was obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle, pleading for U.S. intervention to stifle a COVID-19 outbreak on the 4,800-person ship.
- On 4/8/2020 the Pentagon reported its largest 24-hour jump in new confirmed cases of COVID-19 among service members, bringing the force-wide total to nearly 2,000, a number that has doubled in the past week. Officials reported 178 new cases Wednesday, bringing the total to 1,975 among service members. The infection rate among active duty and reserve component troops now stands at 940 -per-million, for the first time starting to close the gap with the general U.S. population, which sits at 1,144-per-million — or just over 1 percent of all residents, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

LTC Doug Gilbert, MTC Legislative Affairs