



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



**Military Officers Association of America**

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

May 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Luncheon Meeting**

**26 May 2020; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM**

**"Meeting Cancelled"**

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

***In explanation....***

Our newsletter is quite late this month as a result of the untimely crash of our Newsletter Editor's PC that occurred during the power outages that came with the storms in early May. Unfortunately the storms and the failure of a battery back-up resulted in quite a bit of system corruption and it has taken a while to rebuild and recapture the formatting and software used by the newsletter. Sorry for the delay and hope you find value in this edition!

***Congratulations are in order....***

For Chapter member CPT Dean Wegner, USA Founder & CEO of "Authentically American" who just ended Authentically American's first public fundraising campaign in fine fashion. Many of you will remember Dean's presentation on his company at the March 2019 meeting, and his passion for America made goods. The Fundraising was done using a NextSeed Campaign ([LINK](#)) and resulted in raising \$500K in less than one month. Truly a success story that keeps on moving forward. You can learn more about Dean's efforts and his brand at their website (<https://www.authenticallyamericanbrand.us/>). Use the code 'FOUNDER' for 25% off their new 4<sup>th</sup> of July Collection if you want to sample some of their Made in USA apparel and merchandise.

***And on Memorial Day....***

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders fields.

"In Flanders Field"  
 By Lt. Col. John McCrae (1919)

**Officers**

**President**

LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

**1st Vice President**

Lt.Col. (R) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF

**2nd Vice President**

COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA

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CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF

**Legislative Liaison**

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

**Chapter Contact Information**

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**"MOAA 2020 Virtual Storming the Hill"**

While the ongoing pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person events connected to Storming the Hill 2020, MOAA will continue its advocacy mission with a Virtual Storm highlighting the need to protect the military health care benefit earned by millions of servicemembers, past and present.

Check this website for Virtual Storm news, resources, and updates. You can download materials below, as well as find links to send critical messages to your legislators. <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/storming-the-hill/storming-the-hill-2020/>

**Ask your members of Congress to join the fight to halt billet reductions and end military treatment facility downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty.**

[Send a letter to your lawmaker](#)

**President's Letter**

I need to begin by ensuring the word gets out that both our May membership luncheon, and our annual Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at McCrory Lane Veterans Cemetery are cancelled due to COVID19. We are working to reschedule our Memorial Day Ceremony for June 14, Flag Day, and I will keep you posted as that situation develops. I ask you to remind any of your MOAA brothers and sisters of these cancellations to help ensure the word gets out.

Memorial Day is a solemn occasion of special remembrance and although our ceremony is postponed, the cemetery remains open to visitors. If anyone would like to visit the cemetery on Memorial Day, I have confirmed that the Tennessee State Veteran Cemeteries are open for visitors, just not ceremonies at this time.

May is Military Appreciation Month. And May is also the Month of the Military Caregiver, to pay tribute to the people who care for more than two million veterans, an important part of supporting our troops and military families. And while most military-related events are not happening this month, we can take time to pause in reflection and prayer for those we would otherwise be recognizing at these events.

On behalf of your Middle Tennessee Chapter board and myself, we are looking forward to the day we can reconvene in person. With everyone staying at home and social distancing it is pretty easy to forget that your Chapter dues were due in February, so if you have not yet paid, submission of your dues would be appreciated.

I want you to know that your Middle TN Chapter board has not ceased work despite COVID19, we have held virtual board meetings during April and May. Our Secretary, COL Doug Minton spearheaded the coordination, completion and submission of our 2019 Chapter LOE Award packet, and our First Vice President Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, has been rescheduling our presenters to keep our luncheon meetings ready to launch as soon as we are able. I am grateful to Doug, Karon and the rest of our board members for their continued efforts.

In closing, I want to recognize that for many of us and our families, this can be a trying time. Whether someone is struggling with loss of employment, health struggles for themselves and their family, or in danger of losing their business, these events can test our resilience and faith. For those of us who are fortunate enough not to be facing these challenges, it is a time of tremendous gratitude.

I thank you all for your continued contributions to our chapter and I look forward to that time when we are meeting once again.

  
 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

**2 June 2020; 7- 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**14 June 2020; 10:00 AM**

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

McCrary Lane State Veterans Cemetery

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

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

***"TN Longterm Care Ombudsman Program"***

Mrs. Jane Ziesmer

Military Spouse & TN Ombudsman

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

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**4 August 2020; 7- 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**7 August 2020 6-8:00 PM**

***"A Life Worth Celebrating"***

A Soldiers Child 11th Annual Dinner/Fundraiser

Tickets <https://asoldierschild.org/events>

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN

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**25 August 2020; 11:30AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"Lipscomb University Lifelong Learning Program"***

Ms. Amy Hamar and Ms. Laura Tywater

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

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### Legislative Update

**Congress: Evaluate Military Health System Reform against COVID-19 Lessons Learned.**

- Include a provision in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to **stop** DoD medical billet reductions and Military Treatment Facility (MTF) downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty.
- Ensure Military Health System (MHS) reform is not simply paused, but re-evaluated along with our national medical capabilities, and adapted to incorporate lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic.

MOAA has urged Congress to include legislation in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to stop all medical billet reductions and military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring. This is necessary to ensure lessons learned from this current pandemic inform the strategy for not only the Department of Defense (DoD) but for the whole of our government when it comes to a national response to a pandemic, natural or man-made disaster, or any other crisis.

Military health system (MHS) reform mandated by the FY 2017 NDAA is based on an analysis of medical readiness requirements and direct care system capabilities and capacities conducted years before the COVID-19 pandemic. Once the coronavirus emergency has passed, MHS reform strategy must be re-evaluated along with national medical capabilities such as the VA, USPHS, HHS, CDC, and others.

The proposed FY 2021 DoD budget would cut approximately 18,000 medical personnel, or nearly 20% of uniformed medical billets. MHS reform also includes restructuring the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, including the potential closure, or downsizing of 48 MTFs. These cuts have yet to take place, but even with existing medical personnel levels, there are indications that current MHS capacity is insufficient to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Only a handful of communities are receiving DoD medical assistance, and the Army has issued a voluntary recall of medical personnel to fill the roles of current uniformed providers normally assigned to installation MTFs who have been deployed elsewhere. So far, we have minimal insights on how COVID-19 medical personnel deployments will impact servicemember and beneficiary access to essential medical care at military hospitals and clinics.

This unprecedented situation demands an updated analysis of medical readiness requirements and optimal direct care system capacity, incorporating lessons learned from the COVID-19 response. We must ensure our military medical system can work in support of a national capacity to fulfill the crisis response mission without compromising access to essential medical care for the force and other military beneficiaries.

*(Additional information on first page.)*