



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



**Military Officers Association of America**

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

June 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Luncheon Meeting**

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

**"Meeting Cancelled"**

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

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
 PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, throughout all periods of history for both the State of Tennessee and the United States, women have served proudly as citizens and as public servants both unofficially and formally in their efforts to secure and preserve the freedom of all; and

WHEREAS, women have proudly served informally since the inception of the United States Military and most honorably for the State of Tennessee, notable dates include the Army Nurses Corps 1901; Women Armed Services Integration Act June 12, 1948; Combat jobs open to women December 3, 2015; and

WHEREAS, women have also served honorably and with valor, specifically from the time of the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, both World Wars, the Vietnam and Korean Wars and in more modern times Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and through this year are still participating in current worldwide conflicts; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of women have served this country, topping over 350,000 during World War II serving in all functional areas of war. Some became captured and held as POWs, while others made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, women continued throughout the mid-1990s to fight for the right to serve their country, and the State of Tennessee recognizes and respects the contributions that they have made through centuries of faithful service; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has over 40,000 women veterans who have served this Country and State with courageous, honorable military service and continue to serve their communities, schools, businesses, and religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud of and appreciates the service of all women veterans by designating June 12, 2020, as **"Women Veterans Appreciation Day"** to highlight the growing presence of women in the entire Armed Forces and recognize the service and sacrifice of Women Veterans who have served valiantly on behalf of the State of Tennessee and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2020 as **"Women Veterans Appreciation Day"** in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

*Signed by Governor Bill Lee. On the thirteenth of January 2020.*

**Officers**

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LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

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LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

**Chapter Contact Information**

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Contact Email:

**info@mtcmoaa.org**

Your membership in MOAA and our local Middle TN Chapter, MOAA is as important now as it ever was. We may be socially distancing, but we can still belong!

If you are not yet a member of MOAA National, or if your membership has expired you are eligible to join as a Basic member which provides you a free electronic membership and adds your name to the more than 350,000 currently serving, former, or retired officers that belong to MOAA. The more voices MOAA has, the more that they will be heard!

And if you are a current or expired member of the Middle TN Chapter and have not submitted your 2020 Chapter dues it is not too late to do so. We value your continued participation and want you to help keep our Chapter strong and active.

You can gain Basic membership by going online to the MOAA website and completing the necessary forms, or you can notify the Chapter at our email address above and we will get you submitted. And if you had forgotten about paying Chapter dues, they are \$20 for officers and \$5 for surviving spouses and can be submitted to the P. O. Box listed above.

**Thank you for Belonging!**

**President's Letter**

Tennessee has over 40,000 women veterans, and Governor Bill Lee proclaimed this year that June 12 will be designated as Women Veterans Appreciation Day. He did this to recognize the growing presence of women in the Armed forces and recognize those who served valiantly on behalf of Tennessee and the United States of America. The date of June 12 was chosen because on this date in 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act became law, enabling women to serve as permanent, regular members of the armed forces in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the recently formed Air Force. Prior to that act, women only served in times of war. You can read the actual proclamation in this newsletter.

Women Veterans Appreciation Day adds to the significance of June for honoring our military services. June 6 was the anniversary of the WWII allied invasion in Normandy, and June 14 is the Army Birthday and Flag Day.

We are celebrating our previously postponed Memorial Day remembrance ceremony this Saturday June 13, at the McCrory Lane Veterans Cemetery. Because Davidson County remains in Phase II Reopening, we are honoring the mayor's guidelines for this ceremony. We will be observing the six-foot spacing, asking attendees to wear masks, and seating for the ceremony will be limited to twenty chairs. The inclement weather location will be the pavilion. I remind any who feel they are in an at-risk population for COVID 19, have a fever or symptoms, or who may have been exposed to the disease to remain at home. If anyone is unsure whether to attend, I urge you to err on the side of caution.

I am proud to announce that MOAA National is providing COVID 19 relief grants to veterans, caregivers of veterans, and active duty service members who have experienced a financial setback resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. Our Middle TN Chapter has asked Operation Stand Down TN and Matthew 25 to reach out to those in need to complete applications for these grants. The grants will be awarded until available relief funds are consumed. If any of you know someone in need who fits the above criteria, let me know and I will forward you an application for them to complete and return to me. My email for these applications is [patenaudemg@gmail.com](mailto:patenaudemg@gmail.com). I would need you to verify their status as a veteran or currently serving.

The Old Natchez Country Club feels the earliest they could host our monthly luncheon will be July, **so the June meeting is cancelled**. It would be great if we are able to hold a July meeting, but with things changing on a weekly basis, we will need to wait until we are closer to that date to decide.

I look forward to the day we can safely reconnect in person. In the meantime, my thoughts and prayers are with you as we navigate this pandemic.

Michael Patenaude  
 LTC, USA Retired  
 President

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



Happy 245th  
Birthday - U. S. Army

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

13 June 2020; 10:00 AM

**Rescheduled "MTC Remembrance Ceremony"**

McCrary Lane State Veterans Cemetery

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

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

**"MEETING CANCELED"**

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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28 August 2020

**"OSDTN Annual Heroes Breakfast"**

Music City Center

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2020 Meeting Dates (not shown above):

22 September 2020,

27 October 2020 and 17 November 2020

### **Update on the MOAA 2020 Virtual Storming the Hill**

One of the positive byproducts of the pandemic constraints was MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill. With an army of stormers previously primed to lead the signature event in March, MOAA was in a good position to recall those forces and revector them to an alternative method of storming. While health care was the center of the planned storm in March, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a re-look at the topic to ensure it remained relevant.

As the pandemic unfolded, MOAA learned DoD was pausing its congressionally mandated reform to the military health system (MHS) – a reform that consisted of reducing or closing nearly 50 medical treatment facilities. DoD also acknowledged a pause in their plan, initiated last year, to cut nearly 18,000 military medical billets to help fund an increase in warfighting specialties.

The Virtual Stormers urged Congress to direct DoD to not only pause, but to halt and fully reassess plans to reform and reduce medical capacity. MOAA believes it is imperative to take the lessons learned from this pandemic and assess how the whole of government can be stronger and better prepared as a result.

Leveraging the grassroots advocates in our councils and chapters network, MOAA set a course for 100% congressional contact within the month of May; and by all accounts they delivered on that goal and then some.

MOAA members have been exceptionally busy over this Virtual Storm. In May, members:

- Sent over 19,000 letters to 435 districts and 50 states – covering 100% of Congress.

- Held 253 storming meeting appointments via virtual meeting platforms.

- Shared [a MOAA educational video](#) garnering nearly 18,000 views on Facebook.

Further, their efforts gained traction within the House of Representatives – Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) circulated a congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee leadership to ensure the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity. Others have shown an interest in halting these reductions until Congress and DoD can assess lessons learned.

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