



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2019 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

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

September 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

22 September 2020; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

"TN Veterans Services Update"

Deputy Commissioner Tilman Goins
 Marine Corps and Army Veteran
 TN Department of Veterans Services

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

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President's Letter

I am happy to announce that our 22 September monthly meeting will be in-person! Yes, you read that correctly, "in-person"! After suspending meetings since February, we will finally be in-person for our September meeting at the Old Natchez Country Club (ONCC). Our speaker will be Deputy Commissioner Tilman Goins of the Tennessee State Department of Veteran Services. So, mark your calendar for the 22nd of September and I hope to see you there.

By now you should have received our request for contributions to the MTC MOAA Veterans Scholarship program. To date, we have funded three endowed MOAA national scholarships for \$25,000 each and are contributing to a fourth. We also contribute to Lipscomb and Belmont Universities to help fund education for disabled veterans at \$1,000 dollars annually to each school. Three years ago, because of our strong relationship with Lipscomb, we inherited a dormant endowment scholarship and started funding it under the Middle Tennessee MOAA moniker. This endowment fund is in addition to the annual grant that we provide.

Our tradition is to ask every member to make a minimum \$25.00 tax-deductible contribution to support this initiative. Historically we have had some members want to contribute directly to MOAA national. If you do so, please annotate your check for your donation to be credited to the Middle Tennessee Chapter. A self-addressed envelope was included with the mailing, or you can drop off your check at the front desk at our next meeting. Many of you already mailed in your contributions so we are off to a nice start on this scholarship drive. If you have not yet contributed, I ask you to consider doing so. **A special thanks to all who already contributed and thank you in advance for those who will also support this worthy program.**

If you have not read your September Military Officer magazine, Phil Ponder from Nashville is highlighted on page 104 and separately, there is a truly relevant article on page 18 talking about duty status (pay) reform for reservists. Those who have served in the reserves will recognize the issues that exist and how this is moving its way into legislation.

As a reminder of the OSDTN Heroes Breakfast on 12 November, there will be an in-person and a virtual option. If you wish to join us for either option, please bring your check for \$100 to the September meeting made out to OSDTN Heroes Breakfast and tell us if you wish to attend in person or virtually.

In an attempt to provide ONCC with an estimate of how many attendees to prepare for on the 22nd, we ask that you reply by email (info@mtcmooa.org) NLT 15 September if you are planning to attend.

Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

As we gather for our first, in-person meeting since February 2020, we reflect on all the events that have taken place and issues that have occurred since we last met. It is only fitting that we have an update on the state of veterans affairs and issues here in Tennessee to determine where we are now and what lies ahead.

For our September luncheon, we will be joined by Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Tilman Goins. Commissioner Goins is a former United States Army and Marine Corps servicemember. In addition, he served as Hamblen County Commissioner before being elected to serve as a State Representative from Morristown beginning in 2012 and ending in 2018.

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Services serves veterans and their family members with dignity and compassion as an entrusted advocate. It serves as a conduit to connect veterans of all eras with services and resources to improve their quality of life, access to education, business resources and high-quality jobs. Please join us with your masks and be ready for an informative luncheon.

Covid 19 Precautions for our luncheon.

Mike Patenaude and Deryl Bauman met with ONCC management in August, and they assured us that they will be taking all appropriate measures in response to the latest COVID19 guidance. For those of you who feel comfortable attending, we ask everyone to wear a mask into the club and when you are not seated at your table. Tables will be properly spaced, and seating limited to 6 per table. In place of the buffet, our meals will be plated and brought to our tables.

Chapter Contact Information

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MOAA Guidance on 2020 Elections

As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliate Chapters must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA Chapters are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as it is done in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

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



Happy Birthday to the U. S. Air Force!
Officially recognized as a separate branch
of the Armed Services on 18 Sep 1947.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

22 September 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee Veterans Services Update"

Deputy Commissioner Tilman Goins

Marine Corps and Army Veteran

Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

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

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6 October 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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23 October 2020; 1:30 CST

"MOAA National Annual Meeting"

(Registration available on www.MOAA.org)

27 October 2020; 11:30 AM - 1 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting *

"Tennessee Valley Healthcare System"

Ms. Jennifer Vedral-Baron

Director, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System,

CAPT (Ret.) USN

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

* MTC Board Meeting will immediately follow this meeting so as to not have our Board meeting on Election Day.

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3 November 2020

"Election Day"

Please register and VOTE!

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12 November 2020

"OSDTN Annual Heroes Breakfast"

(If you desire to sit at the MTC MOAA table, please let Mike Patenaude know by our September meeting)

Music City Center, Nashville, TN

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17 November 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Sea Cadets and Wreaths Across America"

Ms. Sheryl Tannahill

CDR (Ret.) USN and Chapter Member

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

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No Meeting in December 2020

Legislative Update

STATE

In March, Governor Bill Lee authorized the activation of the Tennessee National Guard to assist with the fight against COVID-19. Since then, the Guard has been teaming up with the Department of Health and various other state and local agencies to combat COVID-19 in communities throughout the state. Establishing Remote Assessment Sites to test citizens and determine if they have been infected with COVID-19, over 1,900,000 tests have been administered at these locations, and the Tennessee National Guard is responsible for more than 280,000 of them.

"At Meharry we have a mission that says we serve our community through God," said Gray. "The guardsmen definitely align themselves with that train of thought as well. They are very willing to help their neighbors in this fight against COVID-19."

Initially, Gov. Lee requested 250 Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard to provide support in response to the pandemic. Since then, over 2,000 guardsmen have been activated in some capacity to serve their communities and many are still activated today.

Going forward, Meharry Medical College and the Tennessee National Guard will continue to test members of the community for the virus, helping limit the spread so we can conquer this enemy and get back to a sense of normalcy.

FEDERAL

Stars and Stripes reported that the 41st Field Artillery Brigade activated its second Multiple Launch Rocket System unit in Germany, providing additional long-range fires capabilities for U.S. Army Europe and EUCOM.

Military Times reported that 5,400 Louisiana National Guard members and more than 1,000 Texas National Guard members were activated for Hurricane Laura relief efforts.

A U.S. Navy destroyer passed near contested islands in the South China Sea again Thursday, the same day Defense Secretary Mark Esper emphasized the Pentagon's intent to continue challenging Beijing's territorial claims in the region.

Leaders from U.S. and Russian militaries are stepping up their war of words over a collision involving armored vehicles in Syria on Tuesday that injured seven U.S. service members. Following its "unauthorized incursion" into the area, the Russian convoy met a joint patrol of U.S. and Syrian Democratic Forces troops and proceeded to "aggressively and recklessly pursue" the coalition convoy, Urban said. The encounter included a "sideswipe" of a U.S. vehicle and an "extremely low level overflight" by a Russian helicopter.