



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

November 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

18 November 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court"

Judge Tom Taylor

General Sessions Division II

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Judge M.T. (Tom) Taylor, Jr. was originally elected Division II General Sessions Judge in 2014. Tom had practiced law for 36 years prior to his election and had been the City Court/General Sessions Court Judge in both Franklin and Fairview for 27 years. Since his election, Tom helped establish and preside over the Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court. It includes representatives from the Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, volunteer Veteran attorneys, Veteran Administrative Social Workers, local Mental Health Professionals, Anger Management Professionals and Veteran Mentors.

The Williamson County Veterans Treatment court was established to more effectively address the needs of United States veterans cycling through the criminal justice system. This court represents collaboration between the General Sessions Court of Williamson County, the District Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, the State or Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is made up of an extensive collaboration of dedicated partners, including criminal justice, federal veterans' agencies and local community veterans' organizations. The target population includes military veterans who have been charged with criminal offenses and who are identified with substance dependency, serious and persistent mental health issues and/or other issues which may be amenable to treatment.

The Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court Program aims to serve veterans and active duty service members who suffer from mental illness, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and substance use disorder due to military service, which was a contributing factor in their misdemeanor or felony criminal offense. The Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court aims to achieve positive veteran behavior by providing a holistic integrated set of support services.

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Chapter Contact Information

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Annual MTC Toys for Tots Collection

Our Chapter will once again collect toys for the USMCR Toys for Tots program at our 18 November 2025 meeting. The toy collection is in support of the Marines of Kilo Company 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment.

Please bring NEW, UNWRAPPED toys (NO bicycles please!) to the 18 November 2025 meeting. We will then collect the toys and deliver them to a local USMCR collection site!



President's Letter

As I write this, the government shutdown continues, and our servicemembers' monthly pay is caught up in the political fight in Congress despite a few attempts to pass special legislation to fund the pay accounts. MOAA remains focused on getting this resolved but has not stopped advocating for the Major Richard Star Act, Improving TRICARE Access for Families, and Supporting Military Spouse Employment. They also deserve your support.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center remains the easiest way to support the above and other military-related legislation. The LAC allows you to send pre-formed but editable letters to your Senators and Representatives for the above legislation and others online. You can log into the LAC at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. The site may require you to change your password if you have not logged in recently. MOAA National has notified all councils and chapters that it is able to track login and actions taken through the LAC and will use that data for the 2026 Level of Excellence Award. According to current data, MTC MOAA is leading TN chapters in logging into the LAC and taking action, so THANK YOU! Now we need to continue and even increase our activity for next year!

November is a big month for military remembrances. National Veterans and Military Family Month and National Family Caregivers Month are recognized in November. Our Marine brothers and sisters celebrate the Marine Corps' 250th Birthday on November 10th. Of course, November 11th is Veterans Day, and many events are held to recognize all who are serving and who have ever served. I hope you can take advantage of some of them.

Our chapter's annual scholarship campaign has done very well, and we will be able to provide three veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities with scholarships of \$1,500 each for 2026. We will send any remaining funds to MOAA's Education Assistance Program for loans and grants to dependent college students of military families of any branch or rank. We can still accept contributions in the addressed envelope that was sent to you in August or you can bring it to our next luncheon!

Importantly, please remember that **we are returning to Old Natchez Country Club for our last luncheon of 2025 and it's early in the month to avoid Thanksgiving week.** Last month, we had a highly informative presentation from Patrick Sheehan, Director about the "Tennessee Emergency Management Agency." This month, we will hear from Judge Tom Taylor about the "Williamson County Veterans Court." Again, **we will meet at Old Natchez Country Club at 11:30 am, Tuesday, November 18th.** See you there!

Larry Cotton
 CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
 President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

-
18 November 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court"

Judge Tom Taylor

General Sessions Division II

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

-
18 November 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

"MTC Toys for Tots Collection"

(At the 18 November Meeting)

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

-
4 December 2025; 7 - 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-
NO MTC Meeting in December

(Enjoy your time with the family!)

-
8 January 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-
21 January 2026; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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27 January 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Annual State of the Chapter Report"

MTC President & Board Members

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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28 January, 2026 Time TBD

TN Veterans (TNVET)

"TNVET Veterans Day on the Hill"

Cordell Hull State Office Bldg.

(Registration Details to be published)

-
2 February 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

OK, so I sat down to write for October just after the federal fiscal year had ended with concerns about a governmental shut down. I was assessing the risk about being proven altogether wrong by having the situation sorted out before you would read what I prepared.

WOW, was I all wrong! And I fully expected to be proven wrong – that what I was concerned about would become untrue by the time you would read it. I am writing again a month later, and nothing has been resolved. Now we have the concerns about whether uniformed people like us will get paid – but far more whether those serving now will get paid!

My first duty station was Naval Station Keflavik in Iceland. Our most junior enlisted people could not bring their families to Iceland until they made E-4 on the pay chart, and it was a major burden on them at the junior end of the pay scale to be separated from their spouses and children as their marriages were just beginning. Imagine that situation aggravated by having their pay stop!

And then there are the civilian workers. Carried to an extreme, there are thousands of people who are not "mission essential" plus families with children and DoD school teachers who were air evacuated from Guantanamo to Pensacola – maybe gone for a long time and without pay.

With those thoughts in mind, how often did you go to the MOAA Advocacy website and write to Washington? This is a time to stress the urgency of sorting out the simple business of a continuing resolution. This ought to be simple. Then comes the complex business of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which had long since passed and the federal budget, too. Urgency drives messaging and lobbying, and it is time to be active there.

Are YOU active?

Are you being heard?

Keeping it short and direct: For those of us in District TN-07, early voting will begin soon, and the general election goes 2 December. Don't be left out.

For all that budgetary chaos, Thanksgiving Day comes 27 November, and there is plenty to be thankful about in our world, so enjoy gathering with family and friends and be thankful. And Happy Birthday on 10 November to the Marine Corps and celebrating with our veterans on the 11th.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret.)

MTC Legislative Chair