



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



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

December 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Annual State of the Chapter
Report and Election”**

CAPT Larry Cotton

Chapter President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN
37069

Several years ago we noticed that our members found it increasingly difficult to attend a December meeting, given all of the competing holiday activities. As a result the Board chose to defer our December meeting, and clear up a free Tuesday on the fourth week of this month for our members.

But please note that the December bonus comes at a cost; we need you to attend the very important January meeting.

MTC Year in Review is exactly what it says; we review the year’s events, activities (to include the December OSDTN event where we distributed gift cards funded by a MOAA Grant) and finances to ensure that the Chapter is on a track that is acceptable to our members.

This year we will consider a potential dues increase, necessitated by the fact that the price of everything has risen.

We are an organization of Leaders, and in January we will elect the next officers to lead our Chapter, as well as say “Thank-You” to CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (Ret) who will have served in the role of President for two terms (four years). Fortunately we have had an officer step up to fill the Presidential office, and one willing to consider a VP position. That is two volunteers for leadership roles out of 200 + members. While we are particularly pleased with the volunteers, it makes you wonder why more of our members are not willing to step up and assume leadership roles in the Chapter?

We need your input at this meeting so please plan on attending!

Basic & Annual MOAA Members Upgrade to MOAA Premium Now

MOAA has a holiday offer to upgrade your membership to the PREMIUM level and save 10% plus get a special gift. This is an excellent way to take your support of MOAA to the next level and increase your advocacy power. If you are interested, please use the code MOAAHOLIDAY at [join-process-login](#) or call (866) 739-7108. A \$10 gift card will also be mailed to you 3-4 weeks after your upgrade.

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret.)

1st Vice President

Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (ret.)

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

CDR John Ohlinger, USN (ret.)

LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired

CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (ret.)

LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired

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

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret).

Chapter Contact Information

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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We have a large number of troops from all branches deployed to situations around the globe this year, as well as all those troops and their families in the process of changing station or seeking housing for PCS moves as well as natural disasters. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we move through this holiday season.

President’s Letter

As the holiday season enters its most intense period, I want to wish you as much peace and warmth as you can find. This part of the year can be hectic (I haven’t finished my Christmas shopping yet!) and sometimes sad when you miss loved ones who have passed on, but it should also be joyous. I hope you can re-engage with friends and family as you wish them all the best.

The most recent government shutdown has ended, but the work of making the government work for the people and nation it serves must continue. Military members and other uniformed service members, like the Public Health Service and NOAA, continue to do their duty but under increased stress as they are caught in partisan political struggles. They deserve all our support.

MOAA continues to advocate for legislation across the board that supports military members, retirees, and their families. The Major Richard Star Act, Improving TRICARE Access for Families, and Supporting Military Spouse Employment remain the focus for 2025 and will remain high on the list for 2026 until passed. Each of these bills deserve your support, and MOAA’s Legislative Action Center (LAC) remains the easiest way to support them and other military-related legislation.

You can log into the LAC at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> (it may require you to change your password if you have not logged in recently).

December is a big month for military celebrations and remembrances, from the oldest to the newest. December 1st is the Civil Air Patrol’s birthday. We remember Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th—84 years ago this month. December 13th recognizes the founding of the National Guard and is also when Wreaths Across America place wreaths on the graves of veterans at cemeteries across the nation. Finally, December 20th is the birthday of our newest military branch: the US Space Force!

Our chapter’s annual scholarship campaign has a banner year! We have funded \$1,500 scholarships for three veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities for 2026. Remaining funds will go to MOAA’s Education Assistance Program for loans and grants to dependent college students of military families of any branch or rank. We have four fully endowed scholarships at the national level!

Importantly, please remember that **we are not meeting in December!** Again, **we will not meet at Old Natchez Country Club on December 18th**, but mark you calendars for our annual “Report to Members” on January 27th at the Old Natchez Country Club. See you there!

Merry Christmas!

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

-
NO MTC Meeting in December
(Enjoy your time with the family!)

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8 January 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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

"TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

-
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

-
28 January, 2026 Time TBD

TN Veterans (TNVET)

"TNVET Veterans Day on the Hill"

Cordell Hull State Office Bldg.

(Registration Details to be published)

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5 February 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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24 February 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tennessee Veterans (TNVET)

Capt. Bill Summers

TNVET Founder and Executive Board Member

(emeritus)

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

-
12 - 14 February, 2026

***National Guard Assoc. of Tennessee (NGATN)
Annual General Conference***

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center,
1200 Conference Center Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Legislative Update

Well, the long special congressional election is now completed, and LTC Van Epps, USA Retired will soon be seated in the House of Representatives for District 7. Joining Congress in the middle of a term involves the steep learning curve of catching up on matters already underway. For us in the MOAA community and particularly in the Middle Tennessee Chapter, the circumstances call on us to be especially active in Advocacy.

The matters that MOAA promotes for uniformed servicemembers and their families and for veterans and retirees as well were not addressed at all in the campaign. This time in history calls on us to get especially active to bring the new representative up to speed. The 2025 three primary MOAA Advocacy Initiative remain current, and after 2026 begins the new issues will be announced. I will write about them here as soon as I learn of them.

There are three things for us all to do right away.

- 1 = To express our support, especially as we have an uniformed officer joining the House.
- 2 = To communicate through the MOAA Legislative Action Center about what MOAA members value and initiatives that MOAA supports.
- 3 = To communicate so often that he and his staff will become strongly aware of who we are and how MOAA supports legislation impacting the uniformed services community at both the national and chapter levels.

All these matters come and go annually, but the MOAA legislative advocacy is a constant. Legislative advocacy about matters for the uniformed community is a basic MOAA mission, so our role in it is basic for us. Looking into 2026, MOAA will begin tracking legislative support activity for individual chapters. One of the metrics for our 5-Star Chapter status will be how active we are in sending letters to our congressional members using their Legislative Action Center on the MOAA National Website.

It is a bit early for new year's resolutions, but my request of you is to sign into the Legislative Action Center often and send letters with it. There is no limit. Check into the moaa.org website, and there is a drop-down menu under the title Advocacy followed by groupings of letters to sign and send.

You can edit these letters and add your comments within the letters to make them different from common text. A good thing is to present a specific question or concern early in the letter to make it stand out from the rest. With a newbie in Congress is an especially important time to present our chapter as a large presence – even a massive one in the District.

And please remember, Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill will be on 28 January. Registration is open if you wish to attend.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret.)
MTC Legislative Chair