



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

## A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

### Military Officers Association of America



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

April 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

#### Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

**22 April 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting  
**“Conservatorship in Tennessee”**  
Ms. Amy Bryant  
Director, Office of Conservatorship  
Management Metro Nashville  
**OSDTN, 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203**

A consummate professional, attorney Amy Willoughby Bryant has a heart for public service and leadership. Amy’s work reflects her professionalism and passion during her many years of legal practice. Amy is excited to serve Metro Davidson County and Nashville’s community of individuals with a disability as the Office of Conservatorship Management (“OCM”), Director. She views this as a tremendous opportunity to combine her professional expertise with her passion for protecting Nashville’s vulnerable adults. As the Director for the OCM, she oversees the management of the office, staff, advisory committees, policy and procedure changes, education, training and litigation. She is well versed in the laws and the policies involved in conservatorships. She has successfully led the OCM office for the past six years.

Additionally, through her role at the OCM, Amy launched the first and only statewide online training for conservators in the state of Tennessee. This program has been shared with judges and clerks across the state and nationally.

She serves as an adjunct professor at Belmont University College of Law in Elder Law. She is currently the Board President for the Conservatorship Association of TN and President for the National Guardianship Association. As President and committee chair for the Conservatorship Association of Tennessee, she is working to create more training for those caring for the elderly and people with a disability. Through her role as the Public Education Chair for the Tennessee Bar Association, she is helping to lead an effort to provide Pro Bono legal services to the parents of young adults in public schools throughout Middle TN who need to gain a conservatorship for their child with a disability.

A Memphis native, she is a Tennessee State University alum with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance. Amy continued her education by obtaining her Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University School of Law.

Amy is married to Julian Bryant and is a mother of four. She lives by the motto that everything in life happens for a reason, embraces life as it comes, and meets every day with optimism!

#### Officers

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
- Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**  
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- Transition Services Coordinator**  
Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret.)

#### Chapter Contact Information

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

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

Contact Email: **info@mtcmoaa.org**

#### MOAA National Updates

MOAA has completed its Membership Module updates and is ready for members to log in <https://www.moaa.org> and verify/complete their PROFILE information. Please remember that your email address will be your new username, and when you first log in to the new application you may be asked to create a new password. If your first attempt at this update does not take, please try again. The Chapter cannot update your information for you, so now it is your turn to act/update.

The online dues payment portal is now fully functional and working well for our MTC members. You access it on the MOAA National website: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/>. After you reach this site, scroll down to Tennessee and the Middle TN Chapter, then follow the payment instructions from there.

#### President’s Letter

Well, the turmoil in Washington has continued, if not increased. While this is going on MOAA’s mission continues. MOAA’s Legislative team led this year’s Advocacy in Action 7-10 April and focused on important items for active-duty members, retirees, veterans and all their families. Hopefully, members of Congress and their staffs took time to learn about the issues and support MOAA’s recommended positions. As always, you can learn about and advocate as well through the MOAA Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. It remains the easiest way for you to support veteran-related legislative action at the national level.

The Tennessee Veterans (TENVET) organization has been very active on Nashville’s Capitol Hill, especially in supporting House Bill HB0436 and Senate Bill SB0651. These bills seek to restore property tax relief for 100% disabled veterans who have been negatively affected tax-wise by the rapid increase in market values of their homes. As of this week, there had been no action to fund the \$6 million needed to meet the requirements of the bill, but concerted efforts continue. Let’s hope these strong efforts reach a successful conclusion this year!

I want to thank all of you who have already paid their chapter dues for 2025! As previously noted, the Executive Board is working hard to be good stewards of your money and keep the dues and lunch costs where they are for the remainder of the year. As you may remember, your dues fund the annual operations of the chapter, including such things as postage and stamps, but it also includes necessary items like liability insurance, web hosting, and other administrative costs. We still find a way to contribute annually to local military-related charities and purchase medals and certificates for ROTC and JROTC leadership awardees. AND we do this without any fundraisers! If you haven’t paid your dues yet, you can still do so by mail at “MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205” or use the new Dues Portal on MOAA’s site at <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/> and be sure to scroll down to “Tennessee” for “Middle Tennessee Chapter”. Of course, you can bring the \$25 to our next luncheon on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as well.

We had a great speaker at our last luncheon: MG Tommy Baker, USA (ret.), Commissioner of the TN Department of Veterans Services, who updated us on all his department is doing across the state. DON’T FORGET that we will meet this month at 11:30 am on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Operation Stand Down Tennessee. Ms. Amy Bryant will provide us with important information on “Conservatorship in Tennessee.” See you then!

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

**16 April 2025; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

#### ***"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"***

Sammie B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

**22 April 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

#### ***"Conservatorship in Tennessee"***

Ms. Amy Bryant

Director, Office of Conservatorship Management  
Metro Nashville

**OSDTN, 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203**

**1 May 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**9 May 2025; 5 - 9:00 PM**

#### ***16th Annual "A Life Worth Celebrating" Banquet***

A Soldier's Child Foundation Fundraiser

MTSU Student Union Building

Murfreesboro, TN

Tickets: <https://asoldierschild.kindful.com/?campaign=1345270>

**24 May 2025; 10:30 AM**

#### ***"MTC Memorial Day Ceremony"***

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery

(At the Flag Pole)

7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

**27 May 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### ***"Spouses/Surviving Spouses"***

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

MTC Surviving Spouse Liaison

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

**5 June 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**24 June 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***(TBA)***

### Legislative Update

I just love it when I am concerned about something, and it does not happen. That concern was the expiration of a 3<sup>rd</sup> continuing resolution to keep the government functioning after mid-March. Continuing resolutions by Congress are *not* the greatest thing since sliced bread, but they do keep the government functioning in a temporary way.

This is the time of year when planning for the next budget starts up – all of which means that the current fiscal year may never have a budget at all. What's good about that?

I will be in Washington soon (representing the Chaplain's Virtual Chapter) for MOAA Advocacy-in-Action – our own LtCol Karon Uzzell-Baggett will be there too as a MOAA Board Member, as well as LtCol Pete Warner, President of the TN Council of Chapters – to lobby for five initiatives. The April issue of *Military Officer* has an informative reading for you starting on page 46, so please check it out. Each lobbying group will speak to only three of these which are being called "tracks." That means the Military Spouse Hiring Act and one of the two tracks. Here they are as a brief briefing:

Every visiting group will speak to the **Military Spouse Hiring Act.**

The Ask: Adding military spouses as a target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Act.

#### **For the DoD Track:**

##### Unaccompanied Housing Improvements

The Ask: Address the backlog of \$137 Billion in maintenance backlog which is an ongoing issue of long-standing.

##### Improve Access to Health Care for Military Families

The Ask: Provide better and more effective options for servicemembers and their families to get assistance within the Military Health System (MHS) by establishing a digital access assistance system for MHS patients.

#### **For the VA Track:**

##### Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans

The Ask: Pass legislation to shorten the long waits before earning service-earned care and benefits.

##### Support for Veteran Caregivers

The Ask: Champion or Cosponsor the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.

And how can you play? The Legislative Advocacy section of the moaa.org website is set up for you to send letters of support for each of these issues. It is easy to do, and it matters.

Our visits to Legislators come early in April, so more to come when I report back next month..

While you have the magazine open, save a copy of page 36, Surviving Spouse Help and put it with your important documents like your DD214.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.) MTC Legislative Liaison