



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



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

June 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“118th Wing Operations”

Col. Ted Geasley, TN ANG

118th Wing Commander

& MTC Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Col Ted Geasley is the Commander of the 118th Wing, Berry Field Air National Guard Base, Nashville, Tennessee. He assumed command of the organization that became the 118th Wing in November 2019.

The mission of the 118th Wing is to maintain military superiority through the relentless pursuit of relevance, technical innovation, and the development and readiness of our Citizen Airmen. He is responsible for \$250 million in base property and an annual budget exceeding \$116 million to include the training management and employment of over 1060 military personnel. As the installation commander, he is responsible for strategic guidance, capital allocation, and risk management decisions across all disciplines.

The 118th Wing is the only ANG base that combines Group operations across remotely piloted aircraft, targeting, and cyber disciplines under one Wing. The 118th Wing provides combat capability to combatant commanders and emergency response resources to the Governor during times of emergency. As a current and qualified, combat mission ready MQ-9 instructor pilot, he flies CAS, SCAR, and ISR missions in support of combat operations.

Ted entered the Air Force in April 1996 as a Distinguished Graduate of Air Force ROTC Detachment 790. He has been assigned to numerous active-duty and Air National Guard flying squadrons, a tour as the Aide-de-Camp for the 11th Air Force Commander, and as the Airborne ISR Branch Chief for the National Guard Bureau at the Air National Guard Readiness Center. Prior to his current position, he has commanded at the flight, squadron, and group levels, most recently as the Commander of the 118th Operations Group.

He is a Command Pilot with more than 2,600 flying hours in the MQ-9 Reaper, C-130 Hercules, F-16 Fighting Falcon, AT-38 Talon, T-38 Talon, T-37 Tweet, T-3 Firefly.

Ted is an active member of the Middle TN Chapter, MOAA.

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Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret).

Chapter Contact Information

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OSDTN 2025 Heroes Breakfast

The 2025 Operation Stand Down TN Heroes Breakfast Fundraiser is scheduled for 7 November 2025 at the Music City Center in Nashville. This is their primary fundraiser, and tickets are priced at \$125.00 per seat.

As we have for a number of years the Middle TN Chapter will host one or more tables of ten with seats costing the aforementioned \$125.00.

This year’s keynote speaker will be former NASA Astronaut and Retired U.S. Navy CAPT Scott Kelly. His record-breaking 340-day mission in space, remarkable 15,000+ flight hours, and service aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower reflect a life dedicated to courage, discipline, and sacrifice.

We will collect checks (made out to OSDTN Heroes Breakfast) from those who desire to participate in September. More information to follow.

President’s Letter

June is a very important month in US military history for many reasons. The Battle of Midway, June 4-7, 1942, changed the course of WWII in the Pacific. The Normandy landings, June 6, 1944, marked the Allied Invasion of Western Europe and the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany. The US Army was established by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary was established June 23, 1939, and June 12, 1948, when the **Women’s Armed Services Integration Act** was signed by President Harry Truman. This legislation provided for the integration of women into the US military as full members for the first time. Currently, women constitute over 17% of the total US military.

We had an especially well received presentation at our May luncheon by our own Ms. Patricia Bergquist on spouse and surviving spouse issues. Patricia gave us all a reminder to discuss, as partners, how our affairs are organized and managed so that a surviving partner or family members do not have to reconstruct them or possibly suffer loss of benefits. As MOAA members, you have access to resources through the MOAA website that can facilitate this discussion, and we sent out an email with an attachment and links to these important documents. Check your email on May 18th from MTC MOAA for this information. Thanks, Patricia!

While the 114th TN Legislature completed its 2025 session and the 2026 session will not convene until January 2026, the US Congress continues its work and MOAA remains focused on advocating for military members, veterans, and their families on several issues. You can read about these issues under the “Advocacy” tab on MOAA’s website, <https://MOAA.org>. We strongly encourage you to lend your voice to that advocacy effort through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

Thanks to our members who recruited several new members in May, and for the many members who have submitted your chapter dues for 2025. While we have made good progress on our membership campaign, we are not quite finished. We ask you to continue your membership in our chapter by paying your dues 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 as well.

We are anticipating another great luncheon at Old Natchez Country Club on June 24th at 11:30 am. Col. Ted Geasley, TN Air National Guard, will present a program on “118th Air Wing Operations”. 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



Happy 250th Birthday U. S. Army
June 14, 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"118th Wing Operations"

Col. Ted Geasley, TN Air National Guard
118th Wing Commander
& MTC Member
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

10 July 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting (ZOOM)"

(Contact a Board Member if you desire to participate.)

16 July 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

22 July 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"The Brown Water Navy in Vietnam"

CAPT Dana McLendon, USN (Ret.)
MTC Past President
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

7 August 2025; 7 - 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

26 August 2025: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
**"VA Services Overview; How to maximize your
eligibility to VA resources over a Veteran's
life journey"**

MAJ John Page, USA Retired
VA Transition Patient Advocate
& Chapter Member

4 September 2025; 7 - 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

23 September 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
LCDR Pat Ryan USN (Ret.)
MTC Member

Legislative Update

Visiting with members of congress for the MOAA Advocacy in Action (AiA) week in April was certainly an eyeopener. Capitol Hill was a very busy place, and yet the staff was courteous to us and helpful in so many ways. Lots of legislation is moving all the time, and the thousands of people working there still manage to track it all and enable negotiations to get things passed.

Then we come home to Tennessee. Reading the newspapers, websites, and watching the talk on television would make one think that only ONE thing is happening right now: The "Big Beautiful Bill". We all know so many things are working, but only one of them makes the news and it is overwhelming in impact.

When I was a kid, my father told me that the newspaper would be the same size no matter what the contents would be. Short of a declaration of war, there would be a fixed number of column-inches. If nothing important was going on, the news would be about a stray dog or new sewers; if something really important was happening, the lesser news would be pushed out. The point was that the newspaper was a fixed size, but the contents would vary. The news on television works the same way.

Back to the Big Beautiful Bill: it is **SO IMPORTANT** that the other issues get pushed out of our attention. Is that true for the legislators as well? They live 24-hour days like we do, and what gets pushed aside to make room for this item that is proclaimed as so very important and even urgent.

Urgency can also push less urgent matters aside. One of those urgent matters is the upcoming federal budget that needs to pass by 30 September. They never did pass a fiscal budget this year and wobbled through with four continuing resolutions. Both importance and urgency are at play right now, and how will it all be handled?

Here is something to communicate to your congressman and both senators: There is more going on that just the "BBB", so please don't lose sight of other matters like the five initiatives that we traveled to Washington to advocate for.

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