



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



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

August 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

26 August 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
VA Services Overview; How to maximize your eligibility to VA resources "

MAJ John Page, USA Retired
VA Transition Patient Advocate
& Chapter Member
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

John Page is a Social Worker with the VA Healthcare System with the Military to VA (M2VA) transition program. As the M2VA transition patient advocate (TPA) he is the primary point of contact for veterans from the post 9/11 Gulf War era within the VA Healthcare System in Middle Tennessee. The TPA independently provides targeted interventions and psychosocial assessments to Service Members and Veterans to facilitate their access to health care and resources through the VA Healthcare System; to improve the psychological stability and environmental needs of this complex population.

He was formerly a Social Worker with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center providing case management support for social, emotional, and environmental issues that impact Neurology/Stroke/Neurosurgery patients and their family's ability to optimally benefit from comprehensive care. Additionally, he was the Readiness and Resilient (R2) Performance Center Manager at Ft Campbell and the R2 Eastern Regional Mentor. In this capacity he was contracted by the HQDA G1, Army Resilience Directorate to provide Ready and Resilient resources to the Army.

John served as an Army Infantry Officer for over 23 years in various positions of responsibility at the MACOM through company level, in Airborne, Ranger and Air Assault units, with 3 combat tours to Afghanistan.

He holds a bachelor's degree from University of Louisville in Sociology; a master's degree from TN State University in Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He volunteers with several veteran organizations, while residing with his family in Nashville. He is an active MTC member and has been quite helpful with several of our members dealing with the VA.



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CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
- Transition Services Coordinator**
Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret.)

Chapter Contact Information

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"Operation Commissary Food Bag Packing Event"

Our Chapter has a *Community Service Project* coming up in association with Operation Stand Down TN (OSDTN). On 19 September 2025 we will meet from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at OSDTN, (1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203) to pack food bags for the middle Tennessee veterans community, in conjunction with the OSDTN Operation Commissary program. The project involves packing and loading food bags that will be delivered by OSDTN to registered program participants. There is some bending and lifting involved, and depending on the number of MTC members that participate we usually complete the project in short order. It is a casual opportunity for camaraderie with fellow members in support of a good cause. Please consider volunteering if you are available!

President's Letter

As 2025 winds down, the chapter is beginning to finish its annual activities. We have initiated our scholarship campaign, we have made our annual contributions to military-related local charities, we have scheduled the annual food packing event at Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) for September 19th, and we have even begun planning speakers for our 2026 monthly luncheons.

The US Coast Guard celebrated its birthday August 4th and we recognized Purple Heart recipients on August 8th. In a uniquely American commemoration, we recognized Navajo Code Talker Day on August 14th. Of course, National Airborne Day is August 16th, and the US Marine Corps Reserve birthday is August 29th. A busy month for highly deserved recognitions and celebrations!

August is not normally a month of legislative activity in Washington or Nashville. However, MOAA has been very busy with focusing on its advocacy to make the highest impact. If you visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC), you will see that Passing the Major Richard Star Act, Improving TRICARE Access for Families, and Supporting Military Spouse Employment are the targeted legislative initiatives at this time. You can easily show your support for your chosen issues directly from the website: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. MOAA's redesign of the LAC has made it easier than ever to act and you are not limited to the focus areas MOAA national has chosen. The website allows you to select advocacy actions by issue area as well, and it includes the latest advocacy news. Check it out!

I mentioned above that we have initiated our annual scholarship campaign. Due to your continued support, the chapter has achieved the highest levels of giving in MOAA and received the highest levels of recognition for it. We support scholarships to veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities. Additionally, we continue to support military dependents of any branch or rank through MOAA's Education Assistance Program that includes loans and grants for college students of military families.

Last month, we had a great program presented by our own CAPT Dana McClendon, USN (ret.) and it spurred interest in other historical programs for next year. This month, we will hear from another of our members, MAJ John Page, USA Retired who works at the VA as a VA Transition Patient Advocate. He will speak on "VA Services Overview: How to Maximize Your Eligibility to VA Resources over a Veteran's Life Journey." We will meet at Old Natchez Country Club at 11:30 am, Tuesday, August 26th. 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



The Coast Guard traces its origin to
Aug. 4, 1790.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

4 September 2025; 7 - 8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

19 September 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

“Operation Commissary Food Packing Event”

(Sign-up will occur in late August)

OSDTN 1125 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN

20 September 2025; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

“Retiree Appreciation Day”

Fort Campbell, KY Soldier Support Center
2702 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a Brutally Challenging World”

LCDR Pat Ryan USN (ret.)
MTC Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

2 October 2025; 7 - 8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

15 October 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”

Sammy B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

28 October 2025: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“TN Emergency Management Agency”

Director Patrick Shehan

Legislative Update

How strange is the task of writing about something that is sure to happen before knowing what the outcome will be. Our MOAA chapter membership straddles the border of congressional districts TN-07 and TN-05 – and yet, these thoughts do apply for all of us everywhere.

In District TN-07, Congressman Mark Green has resigned, so there will be a special election to fill his now-vacant seat. The primary elections are on 7 October and the election itself on 2 December. The candidates are emerging. Without knowing who and how, somebody will become the newest member of Congress BUT NOT IN TIME FOR THE FEDERAL BUDGET VOTES. This means that TN07 will not be represented in that annual and important activity.

That person will leave whatever they do and join a busy House of Representatives as the most junior member. In more usual circumstances the new members all come to Washington for a full orientation soon after election and before they join the House; not so in this case. Somebody will have the experience of being overwhelmed by circumstances in the cartoon image of taking a drink from a firehose.

That sudden change in somebody’s life and career will probably happen during the Christmas Recess period that has already begun. If this year runs like 2024, they will need to rush to Washington for the continuing resolution rush right before Christmas Day. No time to rest!

Back to the firehose analogy, how do our MOAA uniformed service concerns get noticed in the deluge? How will this new member learn and identify what constituents care about? Surely the question every morning to staffers will be: “What do my constituents care about?”, “What did they say yesterday?” and “How do I know and verify that?” The new member will realistically depend on staffers to sort through things and identify priorities.

That’s where we come in. If there was ever an opportunity to favorably influence potential and existing members of Congress, it is right now. It is time for every Chapter member to visit the MOAA website Advocacy section and communicate forward. Quantities do matter as much as quality does, so we should make a distinctive and significant contribution to what the firehose brings forth and become noticed there.

It is time to know and be known to our new TN-07 member of Congress who is yet unknown but will emerge soon. Our national president Lt-Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) wrote in our Military Officer magazine: “The more MOAA’s mission can be front of mind, the better for our success.” True that is – especially right now. The more often they see and hear from you, the more our voice sticks.

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