



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

## A 2019 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

### Military Officers Association of America



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

January 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Luncheon Meeting

**26 January 2021; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

#### *“MTC Annual Report”*

LTC (Ret.) Mike Patenaude, USA  
MTC President

**(Meeting will be Virtual - ZOOM -  
More information to follow.)**

Our January meeting provides an opportunity for the MTC Board to provide a “State of the Chapter” report covering the variety of activities and initiatives in which we invested both time and funds during 2020 calendar year. This meeting is significant in that it allows the membership to participate in a review of how our funds were allocated, how our scholarship initiative is progressing, and as an opportunity to provide input on programs for the upcoming year. We need your attendance and voice at this meeting in order to ensure that our Chapter is addressing the needs of our community.

Hopefully we can also hear from you on how we can expand the reach of the chapter, from suggestions to support for organizations that we are not currently touching, to new ideas for reaching the current generation of officers that we hope to have join our ranks.

***Please Join Us for This Meeting! Additional Information and an electronic invitation to the meeting will be forthcoming.***

(The complete report will be posted on our website, and members who do not have access to the internet will receive a copy by mail.)

### A short note on ZOOM meetings.

If you have used ZOOM during the past year you realize how easy it is as a user, as well as how helpful it is to organizations in this time of social distancing protocols.

If you are not a frequent ZOOM user, the Chapter will send out an email prior to the meeting inviting you to JOIN the meeting when it begins. The invitation will include:

- A link to the ZOOM application
- A Meeting ID \*
- A Meeting Passcode \*
- Date and Time of the meeting.

\* Both of these items will be required for you to join the meeting.

You do not have to have a ZOOM account you can still join the meeting, or you can set up a no-charge account prior to the meeting.

### Officers

#### President

LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

#### 1st Vice President

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

#### 2nd Vice President

COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA

#### Secretary

COL (R) Doug Minton, USA

#### Treasurer

1LT Deryl Bauman, USA

#### Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (R) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

CAPT (R) Larry Cotton, USN

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

#### Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

#### Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF

#### Legislative Liaison

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

### Chapter Contact Information

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Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email:

**info@mtcmoaa.org**

### Transition Assistance

MOAA National has created a **NEW MOAA Job Board** on the National Website <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/moaas-job-board/> as part of the transition assistance that they offer to transitioning officers. The site is geographically targeted and identifies a surprising number of opportunities available in the middle Tennessee area. It also provides a link that companies can utilize to insert their available positions that might be of interest to transitioning military members.

This is a welcome addition to the transition assistance that MOAA makes available. It should be of interest to Chapter members because transition assistance is often the deciding factor for officers relocating to our area in search of continued employment.

### President’s Letter

Happy New Year to all our members! Most important as I write this first President’s Letter of 2021 is to thank all of you for your perseverance and loyalty to our Middle Tennessee Chapter during one heck of a year in 2020. I do not say this lightly; I personally feel the isolation and find that I place greater value on hearing from others. I encourage each of you to pick up the phone and reach out to someone you share a table with at our chapter lunch meetings. Or if calling is not your thing, maybe send an email or otherwise message someone. I know some of you have already been doing this and it is probably more appreciated than you realize.

When we were finally able to resume our socially distanced meetings for the months of September, October and November, our attendance was surprisingly robust. Our 2020 Chapter scholarship donations of \$6,614.20 exceeded the previous year. We continued to support veteran scholarships at Belmont and Lipscomb and contributed to the MOAA National scholarship fund. We had a nice turnout for our Memorial Day ceremony, that had been postponed to June. And in 2020, our Middle TN Chapter received our seventh MOAA Levels of Excellence 5-Star Award.

We began 2020 with our Annual Report to Membership at our January meeting, then had Dr. Don Thompson, a serving MOAA national board member and former flight surgeon for February. Some of you may remember during the Q&A that Dr. Thompson addressed some COVID19 questions and mentioned that we could be facing some stay-at-home time and we would be hearing about social distancing. And that was our last meeting of 2020 until September, when we met again in person for three successive months. Among those programs, we heard from two of our own members; BG Retired Eden Murrie the new CEO of Operation Stand Down TN, and CDR Retired Sheryl Tannahill of the US Navy Sea Cadets program. The day cannot come too soon when we reemerge from this pandemic and resume our less-constrained lives!

Because of the current pandemic situation and guidance, we will conduct our 26 January Update to Members online using Zoom. You will be receiving meeting instructions and a link to join the meeting as the date draws closer. For those of you who have not used Zoom, it is surprisingly easier to use than the meeting software of just a couple years ago.

In closing I want to thank our board for their unwavering participation and wisdom in navigating each month of 2020. I have no doubt that 2021 will be another great year for our chapter.

  
Michael Patenaude  
LTC, USA Retired  
President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**13 January 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**"TN Council of MOAA Chapters Meeting"**  
*(Virtual meeting -ZOOM)*

**26 January 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"MTC Annual Report Meeting"**  
**LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired**  
 MTC President  
*(Virtual meeting - ZOOM)*

**2 February 2021; 7- 8:00 AM**  
**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**  
 NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**February 2021**  
**TVET "TN Veterans Day on the Hill"**  
 This event has been **CANCELLED** due to the uncertainties around COVID-19 precautions at the TN State Capital

**23 February 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"Tennessee Longterm Care Ombudsman Program"**  
**Mrs. Jane Ziesmer**  
 TN Ombudsman, Military Spouse  
 Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

**28 May 2021 - Time to be Determined**  
**"MTC Memorial Day Remembrance"**  
 Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery  
 McCrory Lane

**2021 Meeting Dates**  
*(not shown above)*  
 23 March 2021  
 27 April 2021  
 25 May 2021  
 22 June 2021  
 27 July 2021  
 24 August 2021  
 28 September 2021

**Veterans Legislation enacted in 2020**

Veterans Education Programs (Public Law No: 116-128, Mar. 21, 2020). Directs the VA to treat certain programs of education that have been converted to distance learning because of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions.

Student Veterans Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (Public Law No: 116-140, Apr. 28, 2020). Provides a variety of education programs and assistance for veterans during the covered period from March 1 to Dec. 21, 2020, because of the pandemic.

Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specialty Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law No: 116-154, Aug. 8, 2020). Provides improvements to VA's adaptive housing and educational assistance programs.

Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Action of 2019 (Public Law No: 116-153, Aug. 8, 2020). Establishes grants and technical assistance for state, local, and tribal governments to develop and maintain veterans' treatment court programs to help veterans charged with nonviolent crimes receive the help and the benefits they need.

Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law No: 116-171, Oct. 17, 2020). Improves mental health care and suicide prevention programs in the VA.

Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act (Public Law No: 116-177, Oct. 20, 2020). Requires the comptroller general to assess the effectiveness of all agreements the VA has entered, including non-VA organizations related to suicide prevention and mental health services.

Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act (Public Law No: 116-177, Oct. 20, 2020). Requires the VA to expand readjustment counseling and mental health services through its Vet Center Program.

Whole Veteran Act (Public Law No: 116-185, Oct. 30, 2020). Requires the VA to submit a report to Congress on advancing its whole health initiative to transform the veterans' health care system.

VA Website Accessibility Act of 2019 (Public Law No: 116-213, Dec. 4, 2020). Requires VA to study and report on the VA website's accessibility to individuals with disabilities.

Veterans Comprehensive, Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020 (Public Law No: 116-214, Dec. 5, 2020). Enhances transition assistance services and suicide prevention programs as well as improves care and services for women veterans.