



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2020 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

September 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Monthly Meeting**

**28 September 2021;  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**"Matthew 25"**

**Mr. Jim Ward**

Executive Director

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Drive,  
Franklin, TN 37069

Jim Ward is the Executive Director of Matthew 25, Inc., an area nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless veterans and men restore their lives through housing, help and hope. Jim is an experienced non-profit chief executive officer (CEO), president and consultant. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin and began an impressive career of non-profit leadership soon afterwards. He served as District Executive of the Boy Scouts of America for 4 years before moving on to become the Middle Tennessee and later the Mid-South Chapter President of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for 18 years. Building upon his ability to manage teams located in multiple states, he transitioned to Chapter Executive and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association of the Mid-South. During his 6-year tenure, he grew revenue by 64% and delivered 172% growth for the chapter's largest fundraising event, the Nashville Walk to End Alzheimer's. He then became a sought-after consultant for non-profit organizations desiring to effectively fulfill their vital missions. In May 2020, he became the fifth Executive Director, of Matthew 25, Inc.

Matthew 25, Inc. opened its doors in 1986 in Nashville with one mission-help homeless men who want to help themselves. The quartet of visionaries who founded this ministry was Fletch Coke, Ames Davis, Sue Spickard and Cotton Clark. They recognized the need for more structured housing for working, homeless men. Their combined efforts resulted in the creation of a place where homeless men could work, return to a place they could temporarily call home, and there, with the help of a caring staff, they would be taught the skills they needed to live more effective lives. Each year nearly 160 homeless men, half of whom are U.S. Veterans, come to Matthew 25 to find help, housing, and most importantly - hope. More than a shelter, Matthew 25 creates an environment of accountability and hard work, where men lift themselves up, find jobs and homes, reconnect with their families, and ultimately change their lives for the better!

**Officers**

**President**

LTC (Ret) Mike Patenaude, USA

**1st Vice President**

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

**2nd Vice President**

COL (Ret) Kent Crossley, USA

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COL (Ret) Doug Minton, USA

**Treasurer**

1LT Deryl Bauman, USA

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton, USN

CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, USN

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt.Col. (Ret) Arlie Haddix, USAF

**Legislative Liaison**

**Chaplain**

CDR (Ret) Ted Edwards, USN

**Chapter Contact Information**

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**Program Note**

We were advised on 8 September that out of an abundance of caution concerning the community concerns of COVID-19, Ms. Vedral-Baron, Health System Director, TVHS has respectfully withdrawn her offer to appear as our September luncheon speaker. Hopefully we will be able to schedule her to speak in the future.

**RSVP and Mask Requirements for the September 2021 meeting.**

**No requirement to submit an RSVP for the September meeting.**

If you have been vaccinated for Covid-19 there is NO mask requirement for this meeting; however, **if you have not been vaccinated we ask that you wear a mask in the meeting, with the exception of when you are eating.**

If you have been vaccinated and still feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then please do so.

**President's Letter**

Thank you to everyone who attended our August meeting where we heard from a member of the Department of Homeland Security on their missions and organization and learned a few new acronyms in the process. Despite the oppressively hot days of last month, we still had a robust turnout. At that meeting I announced that our Middle Tennessee Chapter won our eighth consecutive Five Star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA National. That award recognizes our strong membership in MOAA National in support of their advocacy on behalf of our active serving, reserve components and former military. In addition, the award recognizes our ongoing local support of veteran service organizations and scholarships along with our other activities that we highlight each January in our report to the members.

Speaking of scholarships, by now you should have received a request for contributions to our annual scholarship drive for local veterans and the MOAA family scholarships. Thank you for your contributions to date; your response has been strong. We look forward to once again investing in the futures of veterans and military family members. If you have not yet made your contribution, it's not too late!

This month's Military Officer Magazine outlines MOAA's advocacy priorities for the National Defense Authorization Act. It outlines priorities for active and reserve military pay, health care, military family support, and survivor support. It also provides more in-depth talking points on MOAA efforts to address concurrent receipt for disability. It is a well-written primer on this year's NDAA. Within that article, MOAA asks that we make our voice heard with our elected officials on seven items: TRICARE Young Adult coverage gap, Military Hunger Prevention Act, concurrent receipt, TRICARE for reserve component "gray area" retirees, Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act, Secure Healthcare for Selected Reserve, and Retain Skilled Veterans Act. I already sent my email since it is so easy to do these days on our elected representatives' websites.

This month we will hear from the Matthew 25, and will be welcoming their Executive Director, Mr. Jim Ward. This is an organization with an active veterans outreach, which we have actively supported for a number of years. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Old Natchez Country Club on 28 September.

I want to close by wishing a happy birthday this month to our Air Force brothers and sisters.

Michael Patenaude  
LTC, USA Retired  
President

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



Happy 74th Birthday to the  
 U. S. Air Force  
 18 September 1947

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**20 - 24 September 2021**

***"Fall Prevention Awareness Week"***

[https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/fall\\_prevention\\_awareness\\_week\\_virtual\\_demonstration\\_series\\_registration](https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/fall_prevention_awareness_week_virtual_demonstration_series_registration)

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**28 September 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"Matthew 25"***

**Mr. Jim Ward**

Executive Director

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

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**2 October 2021; 9:00 AM- 6:00 PM**

***"VETFEST 2021"***

Granny White Park, Granny White Pike, Nashville

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**5 October 2021; 7- 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**11 October 2021; 10:00 - ?**

***"13th Annual ASC Celebrity Chip-In Golf Scramble"***

(Fundraiser for A Soldier's Child Foundation)

Stones River Country Club, Murfreesboro, TN

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**20 October 2021; 1130 AM-1:30 PM**

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

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon TN

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**26 October 2021; 11:30 - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"Brain Health"***

**Ms. Kelsey Williams**

Middle TN Alzheimer's Association

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

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**2 November 2021; 7- 8:00 AM**

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

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**Surviving Spouse Legislative Update**

**SBP/DIC Offset Phase Out:** NDAA 2020 authorized the phase out of the SBP/DIC Offset over three years beginning January 2021 (paid February 2021). The second DIC offset phase out will be reflected in the SBP payment February 2022. Surviving Spouses impacted can expect DFAS "estimates" for second phase out in December 2021.

**H.R. 3402/S.976:** "Caring for Survivors Act of 2021" would amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand eligibility for the DIC increase from 43% to 55% of a single, 100% disabled veteran's compensation. The House bill has 5 co-sponsors, and the Senate bill has six. **No Tennessee co-sponsors on either Bill.**

**H.R. 2214/S.1669:** "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" would allow for retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse or other designated survivor, of a military retiree for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours and would allow for repayment over a 12-month period and gives the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the payment.

Presently, retirees receive retirement pay at the beginning of the month, and if they die during that month, survivors are required to repay a portion of that month's retirement payment. Being unaware many surviving spouses do not notify DFAS immediately of the retiree's death. Then, they are unprepared when DFAS recoups the overpayment of retirement pay from their bank account. **H.R.2214 has 34 co-sponsors with two from TN (Cohen and DesJarlais). S.1669 has 6 co-sponsors with none from TN.**

**Middle TN Chapter Awarded MOAA 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for the year 2020.**

Out of just over 400 MOAA affiliates, 162 councils and chapters nominated themselves for awards this year. Input from those who submitted a package for consideration was independently evaluated by two members of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee of the MOAA board of directors.

Award criteria was adjusted to recognize a necessary shift away from in-person events due to the pandemic, and committee members' evaluations, along with objective performance data, was weighed according to a long-established grading scale.

Our award is expected to be presented at the 2021 MOAA Annual Meeting in October of this year.