



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



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

April 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

26 April 2022;
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

"Annual Personal Affairs Meeting"

Dr. Jackie Pair, Ed.D.,
CSM, USA Retired

Vocational Development Specialist,
 Nashville VA

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

Dr. Jackie Pair is a 30-year Army Veteran who retired in 2011 as a Sergeant Major. She held five different Army occupational career fields retiring as a Senior Personnel Supervisor. Dr. Pair received numerous military awards and decorations to include the Meritorious Service Medal with 2nd oak leaf cluster. Her military and civilian backgrounds include veterinary medicine, computer systems, recruiting, adjunct teaching, equal opportunity, and human resources. She has two Bachelor of Science degrees: one from the Cameron University in Sociology at Lawton, Ok and the other from Southern Illinois University in Workforce Education, Training, & Development at Carbondale, IL. Dr. Pair obtained a graduate certification in Organizational Leadership, and two Master of Science degrees in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma and Human Resource Management from Chapman University in Orange, CA. She recently completed a Doctoral Degree in Education at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN. She volunteers as a event coordinator for DAV Chapter #3 Nashville; and is an active volunteer with the Nashville Wounded Warriors Chapter. Dr. Pair is a past officer and active member of Women Veterans of America Music City Chapter 20. She served as an adjunct faculty member of Austin Peay State University, University of Louisville, and National College in Nashville. She is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Pi Zeta Grad Chapter and serves as its Military Liaison.

Dr. Jackie Pair currently works as a Vocational Development Specialist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Employment Consultant with the VA Hospital in Nashville, TN. She works diligently for her fellow colleagues within the VA as the Secretary of the VA Employee Association and the VA chapel choir. She is married to Army retired Sergeant Major John Pair and lives in Hermitage, TN; she has one daughter and three grandchildren.

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Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

MOAA 2022 Advocacy in Action

Local MOAA teams, in concert with MOAA National are pushing Congress to act on the following initiatives this month. *Your voice counts*, please visit the MOAA AiA pages to send your thoughts on these issues now!

- ◆ The **"Major Richard Star Act"**. Concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability benefits for combat-injured veterans.
- ◆ The **"Stop the Copay Overpay Act"**. Affordable mental health care for all TRICARE beneficiaries.
- ◆ **Ensure a fair, competitive Military Pay Raise**. Fair compensation for those in uniform and maintaining the all-volunteer force.

President's Letter

Spring is finally here, and the days are filled with more sunshine to get out and enjoy great activities, which keep us motivated and healthy.

At the March luncheon meeting at ONCC, members enjoyed an informative briefing provided by Mr. Jeff Vaughn, Williamson County Veterans Services Officer, and USMC retiree. The briefing was packed with great information about the Veterans Administration's non-healthcare related benefits, which include disability compensation, aid and attendance allowances and housing grants, among other vital programs. Six members of the audience were randomly chosen to receive a hardcopy of the Veterans Administration's 2021 edition guide which is jam-packed with great information. If you would like to get your own copy, you can download a PDF version at [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors - Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/federal-benefits-for-veterans-dependents-and-survivors/).

In April, we will continue discussing non-healthcare benefits available to veterans when Dr. Jackie Pair, Ed.D, a retired United States Army Sergeant Major, is our luncheon guest speaker. Dr. Pair will discuss elements of the Veteran Readiness and Employment program. Her work in this program, along with her qualifications as a clinical social worker, positively impacts the lives of Middle Tennessee veterans. You will learn something that can help you or a fellow veteran who needs guidance, so I hope you will be able to join us at ONCC on April 26, 2022.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention another special event from our March meeting. Our chapter served as a commemorative partner for the Nation's fifth annual United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. We recognized the service of 20 chapter members who served during the Vietnam War era and paid reverence, through a small tribute table, to those military members who are still listed as prisoners of war or missing in action. The Vietnam War veterans received special commemorative lapel pins and a personalized certificate from the chapter. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the service, sacrifice and valor of these valued chapter members!

Finally, April is Advocacy in Action month for MOAA. I encourage you to contact your Congressional representatives and strongly advocate for the three legislative proposals MOAA is championing: (1) Military pay raise at 4.6% across all ranks, (2) The Major Richard Star Act (supports combat-injured retirees) and (3) Reducing TRICARE mental health copays. Thank you in advance for your advocacy!

Karon Uzzell-Baggett
 Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (ret), USAF
 Chapter President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

13 April 2022; 5 PM

TN Valley Healthcare System
"TVHS Veteran Town Hall"
Virtual Meeting
(<https://www.facebook.com/events/7191670174208405>)

26 April 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Annual Personal Affairs Meeting"
Dr. Jackie Pair, Ed.D.
Vocational Development Specialist, Nashville VA
Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

5 May 2022; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

6 May 2022; 5:45 PM - 8:30 PM

"A Life Worth Celebrating"
13th Annual Dinner Banquet/Fundraiser
A Soldier's Child Foundation
Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
(Reservations: [A Soldier's Child Foundation | Kindful](#))

24 May 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Military and Surviving Spouse Recognition"
Mrs. Sheila B. Jones
Middle TN Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator
TN Military Department
Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

28 May 2022; 10:30 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Remembrance"
TN State Veterans Cemetery
McCrary Lane

2022 Meeting Dates (not shown above):

28 June 2022
26 July 2022
23 August 2022
27 September 2022

Legislative Update

I do hope you read and took to heart and action the matter of ensuring that your family will have your DD-214 and VA Determination Letter readily available when you die. Just this month came another instance to observe how busy family members become at the time of a death and how much of their time and energy are engaged in their grief. Even so, there is that 72-hour deadline to make sure that your veteran paperwork is shown to whoever would sign the death certificate. Please take action to accomplish this task.

Posters are beginning to appear around the area for the upcoming elections. Most of us have deployed during our service careers, so most of us should realize how long the mail took to seek an absentee ballot, receive it, and get it back before election day. When I was deploying, that process would take more than a whole month. Accomplishing this in the mail has not gotten any better.

TN House Bill HB1649 and Senate Bill 1511 authorizes Montgomery County to research and develop and test technologies that would allow members of the armed forces and employees and their eligible dependents who are voters in that county but stationed outside of the USA to vote by means other than by mail. This is a one county test that if successful can be rolled out for the entire state (think National Guard and Reserves in addition to active duty.) The bills have been deferred to Summer Study and to the Elections and Finance Subcommittee.

Please note that Congress schedules a period for members to be back in their districts each year to meet with constituents. This month from April 11-22 our congressional members will be in Tennessee with much of their time devoted to campaigning. This is an opportunity for you to meet them in person and speak your concerns about military matters. Please take effort for some face time with them. It is more convenient to do that this month than usual. Those facing election will be very receptive and attentive in an election year.

MOAA has a new initiative to lobby Congress with the Major Richard Star Act that needs your prompt attention. The April issue of Military Officer arrived and includes tear-out letters to the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate. Our members can simply tear them out and mail them off or check their email for another option.

Ted Edwards, CDR USN (Ret.)
Legislative Affairs Liaison