



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2021 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

June 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

**Our Next Monthly Meeting:**

**27 June 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Military Women Appreciation”**

**Colonel Beverly Lee, USAF Retired**  
5 Star Generations CEO

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

Colonel Beverly Lee is an accomplished professional with impressive achievements in both military and civilian environments. She has a distinguished 30-year career in the United States Air Force with combined active duty and AF Reserve service. She served as the Director of Public Affairs at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, Arnold Air Force Base, TN, Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID and US Forces Japan. She excelled in demanding, fast-paced assignments supporting the Secretary of the Air Force, Director of Entertainment Liaison, where she advised writers, producers, and studio executives for USAF involvement in major motion pictures, television shows and video games developed by Disney, Paramount, MGM, and Fox, among other media outlets. Colonel Lee was the Department of Defense project officer of an Emmy nominated Super Bowl commercial, “Applause.”

Following a successful 30-year career in the Air Force, she has worked tirelessly in the Middle Tennessee community to create workforce training initiatives, teach science, technology, engineering, and math subjects, and inspire the youth in the region to pursue exciting high technology careers. She is President of 5 Star Generation, Incorporated, a market research firm collaborating with entrepreneurs and industry in the areas of green energy and leading-edge research. A true servant-leader, Colonel Lee has served as a member of the National Assessment of Education Progress “The Nation’s Report Card,” committee member; Board of Directors Vice President of the TN World Affairs Council; Executive Director of the Hands-On Science Center; Adjunct Professor in Psychology at Motlow State Community College, Member of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation and Chair of the Dream Tullahoma non-profit. She has a BA, Political Science, University of Memphis and a MA, Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, University of Northern Colorado. She is a graduate of Air Intelligence School, USAF Survival School, USAF Special Operations School counter-terrorism courses, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

**Officers**

**President**

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF Retired

**1st Vice President** (Vacant)

**2nd Vice President**

COL Jacque Tubbs, USA Retired

**Secretary and Membership Chair**

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

**Treasurer**

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN Retired

**Directors**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist  
CDR John Ohlinger, USN Retired  
LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired  
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired  
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN Retired  
LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired  
CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF Retired

**Chapter Contact Information**

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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**Yes, We Did It Again!**  
**Multiple Grants Received!**

Our chapter has once again received multiple grants from the 2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grant program.

According to MOAA National, a record number of grant proposals were received and awarded this year; 42 chapters received over \$90,000 in grants.

We were one of four chapters that received two grants!

We will collaborate with Operation Stand Down Tennessee on a \$2,000 grant to address military food insecurity and will collaborate with the Tennessee Alzheimer’s Association Military Advisory Council on a \$2,250 grant to host a dementia caregiver retreat for military spouses.

More details will be forthcoming as we begin to formalize event dates.

**President’s Letter**

Summer 2023 is finally here, and chapter members are starting to enjoy long-delayed travel plans. Our family will be visiting with relatives stationed around the globe this summer and I hope that everyone enjoys hassle-free and safe travels.

I have truly wonderful news to share regarding the chapter. COL Jacqueline Tubbs, USA Retired, has agreed to serve as our Second VP!! COL Tubbs has a distinguished career as a military lawyer and judge with postings around the world at various command levels. She recently retired from Ft Campbell, Kentucky, and attended our April chapter meeting at the invitation of MAJ M.J. Ayers, USA Retired, and immediately joined. COL Tubbs believes in the MOAA mission to “never stop serving” and accepted an invitation to join our Executive Board. In her new capacity, she will assist with community outreach events and essential administrative tasks. The chapter still has a critical vacancy at the First VP position, but I am confident that the right person is in our midst. The chapter fully champions MOAA National’s priorities, has a board populated by supportive past presidents and enjoys the support of great chapter members. Please give serious consideration to filling this critical vacancy!

Thank you to everyone who attended our May luncheon where we celebrated the devotion and sacrifice of military and surviving spouses during Military Spouse Appreciation Month. We were honored to have Mrs. Alex Denis, State of Tennessee Department of Children’s Services Executive Director, Communications and External Affairs, join us, and share how she has balanced life as a military spouse with her pursuit of successful careers in television and public service. It was wonderful to celebrate her, our Surviving Spouse Liaison, Mrs. Patricia Bergquist and 12 other military and surviving spouses in attendance. On 27 May, our chapter hosted a solemn Memorial Day observance at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. We were joined by Mr. Michael Renfrow, Deputy Executive Health System Director, TVHS, at this event where we honored nine chapter members and other area veterans and spouses who died since last year’s ceremony. As in years past, we were honored to have color guard support from the Naval Reserve Center, Nashville.

Our June luncheon promises to be a wonderful event as well. We will honor the Nation’s estimated 2 million living women veterans in acknowledgement of Women Veterans Recognition Day which is held on June 12<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the anniversary of the 1948 Women’s Armed Services Integration Act signing. Please join us!

*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



Happy 248th Birthday  
U. S. Army  
14 June 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**27 June 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Military Women Appreciation”**

**Colonel Beverly Lee, USAF Retired**

5 Star Generations CEO

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

**6 July 2023; 7:00 - 8:00 AM**

**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive,  
Nashville, TN 37204

**15 July 2023; 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**“Got Your 6 - VetFest”**

(Tickets Required [GovX Verification](#) )

(Sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation)  
Loveless Café, 8400 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN 37221

**25 July 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“National Cemetery Administration”**

(ZOOM Presentation)

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37203

**3 August 2023; 7:00 AM**

**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive,  
Nashville, TN 37204

**22 August 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Veterans Benefits and Assistance”**

Mr. Jon Foti

Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation

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

**7 September 2023; 7:00 AM**

**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

ZOOM

**22 September 2023; 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

**“MTC Food Bag Packing Event”**

OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave South,  
Nashville, TN 37203

### Legislative Update

Hello, Everyone. “Never Stop Serving,” we say in MOAA. When it comes to legislative matters, it means that we never stop paying attention. I am writing on the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy. Have you made the pilgrimage yet? If not, it is a Bucket List item. Visiting Point du Hoc, Pegasus Bridge, and the cemeteries will rivet your attention.

You surely watched the struggled negotiations about extending the federal debt limit. Without political comment, we are reminded that all the legislative activity of Congress has a financial aspect. Note this: even though the Budget was passed some months ago and governs through the end of the fiscal year – that is 30 September – there was not sufficient federal debt capacity to enable the Budget to operate the government through the end of the fiscal year.

This means that we had TWO fiscal crisis moments this year: one was to get a deficit budget passed and another to enable that budget to be supported by additional debt. Lest we think that all is settled and well for the summer, remember that another budget process will be working in September.

If you have thoughts on the budget process, this is an outstanding time to communicate that to our representatives and senators. The most recent issue of Military Officer magazine did not include the postcards to mail to our members of congress, and I don’t know why. It isn’t as if there was nothing to communicate.

Here is something to communicate... The COLA projection for the upcoming fiscal year is only 3.1%. That is down from 8.7% last time and 5.9% the time before that. Is inflation reduced to the point where 3.1% makes sense? COLA is tied by law to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) that is tracked and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. COLA at that level for us who are mostly retired and for those still in uniform means a net pay decrease, and the 3.1% level means a net decreased standard of living for those in uniform and their households who are struggling through the demands they meet every day. The 3.1% is just a projection as of now but watch for the matter to be engaged as we move through the budgeting process in September.

Watch also for whether and how the MOAA initiative to restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to the authorized but unpaid 100% level.

Once again, it is always a good time to communicate to those who represent you.

Enjoy a wonderful summer! And come to our monthly luncheon meetings.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison