



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



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

July 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

25 July 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“National Cemetery Administration”

Mr. Les Melnyk or Mr. Lawrence Provost

(Zoom Presentation from Washington, DC)

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

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is one of three pillars of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The NCA ensures those men and women who have served the Nation are never forgotten by providing dignified burial services for service-members, veterans and their family members. The NCA maintains over 150 national cemeteries and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The NCA is charged with the following tasks:

- To provide burial space for Veterans and their eligible family members.
- To maintain national cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to the honor and memory of those interred or memorialized there.
- To mark Veterans' graves with a Government-furnished headstone, marker or medallion and to provide Presidential Memorial Certificates in recognition of their service to a grateful nation.
- To administer grants for establishing or expanding state and tribal government cemeteries.

The NCA funds the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP) which it established on Memorial Day 2016 to fulfill its mission to memorialize veterans in perpetuity in innovative and engaging ways. The VLP encourages students and teachers around the country at the University and K-12 levels to immerse themselves in the rich historical resources found within the VA's national cemeteries and VA grant funded cemeteries through videos, tailored lesson plans and grants. In June 2023, the NCA awarded grants totaling \$2,187,800 to six universities and non-profit organizations in support of the VLP mission.

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is administered by the Department of the Army, Office of Army Cemeteries, **and will not be a component of the July luncheon presentation.** Information about ANC can be found at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/about or by calling 1 (877) 907-8585. Eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery is verified at the time of death and cannot be verified by the cemetery or accommodated before that time.

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Chapter Contact Information

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MTC Member Updates

Earlier this year we wished “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to LCDR Eddie Gomez, USN Retired as he left Nashville for a position at the VA Hospital in San Antonio, TX. And now we do the same for Col. Duffy White, and Lt. Col. Tricia Hannigan who have relocated to Colorado to be closer to family. And we also offer our best wishes to COL and Mrs. Jim Corfman who are relocating to NC also to be closer to family. We have been fortunate to have each of them as members! And congratulations are in order for CAPT Brian Erickson, USN who has retired from his assignment as Commander of the VU NROTC Program; and for CDR Jeff Greco, USN who will turn over Command of the Navy Reserve Center, in Smyrna, TN in August 2023. Fortunately, both are remaining in this area and will continue their MTC Membership.

President’s Letter

Summer 2023 is in full swing, and I hope you are enjoying time with your family and friends. Please be safe when outside and ensure you are hydrating, wearing light-colored, loose clothing, and pacing your outdoor activities since the summer weather can reach triple digits.

Thank you to the 40+ attendees at our June chapter luncheon which provided an outstanding opportunity to recognize women veterans in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are currently 2 million women veterans, and they are the fastest growing population for the agency. Colonel Beverly L. Lee, USAF, Retired, delivered an outstanding presentation on her career and the importance of Arnold Air Force Base in our Nation’s defense.

The chapter recognized the contributions of Colonel Lee and chapter women veterans in attendance at the meeting with certificates of appreciation and pins from the Military Women’s Memorial (MWM). The MWM is the Nation’s leading memorial and education center honoring women servicemembers and veterans. It is located at the gates of Arlington National Cemetery, and I had the honor of being there when the memorial was dedicated 26 years ago.

Currently only 10% of women veterans have registered their service with the MWM and the organization is committed to increasing registration by 23,000 in 2023. If you are a woman veteran or know a woman veteran, please encourage her to register her service (or you can start the process to register her service) at <https://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory>.

For our July 25, 2023, luncheon, we will meet at Operation Stand Down Tennessee, and begin a three-month series where we explore the missions of the three critical components of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Representatives from the National Cemetery Administration will join us via Zoom communications in July; and we will welcome the Chief Executive Officer of the Dale K. Graham Foundation to explore disability claims and benefits in August. In September, we are pleased to have the Associate Director of the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Alvin C. York Campus join us to discuss veteran healthcare and the PACT Act.

We hope that you can join us for each of these important presentations.

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 225th Birthday to the Public
Health Service - 14 July 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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”

(Mr. Les Melnyk or Mr. Lawrence Provost

ZOOM Presentation)

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37203

1 August 2023; 7:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

ZOOM

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

26 September 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“TN Valley Healthcare System”

Mr. Edward Payton

York Campus Associate Director

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin TN 37069

5 October 2023; 7:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Dr, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

Every Tuesday morning, I attend a breakfast group with a rich mixture of people including some retirees, some veterans, and some who did not wear our country’s uniform. This week, the subject came up of supplemental medical insurance, and there were a lot of opinions expressed. One very important lesson is that Tricare for Life is the Cadillac of plans, and those of us with Tricare all agreed on how valuable it is and how there is nothing in the insurance marketplace to rival it.

As I have been retired from the Navy for almost 20 years, the discussion gave me pause to reflect on Tricare and on my own prescriptions. It used to be that the mail order prescriptions were available at no cost and shipped post-paid. Some bright mind near Washington decided about 2018 that there should be a small co-pay to save the government some money – the plan surely costs plenty of money. Then the co-pay has increased about two times since then. Surely, we have noticed, but compared to our civilian friends it remains a bargain even as that bright mind has chipped away at our benefit. Have we all noticed?

The July issue of *Military Officer* includes a story on page 18 that is worth our time to read – especially as we pass the 50th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force. One paragraph begins: “Cutting benefits after they have been earned betrays the social contract that underpins the all-volunteer force...” This chipping away is a kind of ‘death by a thousand cuts.’ The article then connects to the current matter of missing recruiting goals.

The FY2024 budget request does not include any proposal to increase the co-pays, but it is an issue that raises it’s scepter every year. We should always be alert.

It is July, and the whole congressional scene goes quiet as their vacation comes in August. This is not a time for us to let our attention to advocacy matters go dormant. I notice again that the mail-in postcards are not in the July issue; however, **you can just as easily make use of the MOAA Legislative Action Center in order to let your legislators know how you feel on issues.** [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center)

The office of Senator Marsha Blackburn has appointed Grey Kidwell as a regional representative in Middle Tennessee. I have invited Grey to attend our July meeting, and he will be with us. I am hoping to learn more about him and his activities soon. Meanwhile, plan to attend our meeting on 25 July at Operation Stand Down. Do greet Grey and make him welcome. See you then!

Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison