



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

December 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

**No Meeting in December of 2023!**

**Our Next Monthly Meeting:**  
**23 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"MTC Year in Review (2023)"**

**Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett,**  
**USAF (Retired)**

President

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

**"Happy Holidays!"**

Several years ago we noticed that our members had found it increasingly difficult to attend a December meeting, given all of the competing holiday activities. As a result, the Board chose to defer our December meeting, and clear up a free Tuesday on the fourth week of this month for our members.

**HOWEVER**, there is still an opportunity to get together and enjoy camaraderie with chapter and community members in December. **The chapter will work with Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) to support a new Holiday Market concept, which is still being developed.** This event will allow the chapter to present needy veteran families with gift cards purchased through our 2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grant. Veteran families, who have been vetted by OSDTN, will receive grocery gift cards that can be used for their holiday meals.

**While a specific date has not been established, the event should take place during the December 15-18, 2023, timeframe.**

If you are interested in participating in the holiday market event, please so indicate on the following form::

<https://forms.gle/yL7feJ1HAGA2oH5t8>

**January 2024 Dues Reminder**

Just a quick reminder that come 1 January 2024 you can pay your Chapter Dues online at the MOAA National Website:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

The dues application is membership year specific so you will have to wait until January to renew for 2024. Submitting your dues payment using this link is for chapter dues (renewals) only.

The Chapter membership renewal notice is normally mailed in February of each year, so if you are planning to renew online it would be appreciated if you do so in January so that we can avoid sending you a renewal notice.

**Officers**

**President**

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF Retired.

**1st Vice President**

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired

**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 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**

Mailing Address:

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

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email: [info@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

**Critical Vacancy Filled!**

The chapter has finally filled the critical vacancy of First Vice President! Captain Larry Cotton, USN, Retired, volunteered to take the position after the October luncheon. The proposal to appoint him to this vacancy was brought to the MTC MOAA Executive Board and voted on through a virtual poll. At this month's luncheon, the appointment was briefed to the membership since a quorum was assembled. Members voted unanimously through voice vote to approve the appointment.

Captain Cotton previously served as Chapter President during the 2015 – 2017 timeframe. The chapter sincerely appreciates Captain Cotton stepping forward to fill a vacancy now and for assuming the position of Chapter President in January 2024 once again for a one-year term, which is his request. He will do a wonderful job leading this 5-star chapter!

**President's Letter**

Happy Holidays to you and your family as a joyous season of celebration begins and we prepare to greet a whole new year of possibilities in 2024! This has been a great year for our chapter, and we have fulfilled our advocacy mission, engaged in multiple ways with the community and enjoyed camaraderie amongst the membership.

Over 40 chapter members came together for the November luncheon to help us close out this monthly event for the year. Lieutenant Colonel (Promotable) Kirsten McFarland, USA, was our luncheon guest and provided a phenomenal presentation on the current and future states of United States Army recruiting. The battalion's mission is "to recruit with integrity the highest quality men and women to meet the needs of an expeditionary Army, while taking exceptional care of Soldiers, Civilians and Families" and their focus is on the active-duty Army and Army Reserve. She broke her presentation down to three main themes: (1) it is hard to get into the Army, (2) young people want to get into the Army and (3) she loves her job. LTC (P) McFarland, USA, discussed new Army physical and medical standards for recruits, the Soldier Referral Program, and the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, among other topics. The presentation was insightful and inspiring on multiple levels. If you would like to learn more, please review the battalion's website at <https://recruiting.army.mil/3rdbde/5nbn/>.

In addition to our speaker's presentation, we were able to participate in a very deserving quilt award to Dr. Tom Seals by Mrs. Pat McMahon of the Quilts of Valor Organization.

It was important to end the year by focusing on recruiting because current and past military leaders make fabulous recruiters of future military members! This year marks the 50th anniversary of the all-volunteer force (AVF). MOAA National has focused on this issue and states, "DoD finds itself in a war for talent: The active duty component faces an environment where personnel shortages result in increased workloads and reduced quality of life amid a recruiting crisis, while the National Guard works to rebound from the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic and its largest mobilization since World War II." Now is the time to support the AVF by championing the myriad quality of life advocacy initiatives ranging from restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% to supporting military spouse employment to protecting health care benefits for servicemembers and their families. Please do your part and show your support through advocacy and by telling your military stories!

*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 Holidays!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**7 December 2023; 7-8:00 AM**  
**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**  
Zoom

**\*Exact Date to be Determined\***  
**"OSDTN Holiday Market"**

MTC MOAA Outreach Grant Event  
1125 12th Avenue South , Nashville, TN  
Volunteer:  
<https://forms.gle/yL7feJ1HAGA2oH5t8>

**16 December 2023; 11:00 AM**  
**"Wreaths Across America"**  
Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery  
Civil Air Patrol: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TN0346P>  
Wreathes Across America Program:  
[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TN0080](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TN0080)  
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

**\*\* No Meeting December 2023\*\***  
**"Happy Holidays"**

**4 January 2024; 7-8:00 AM**  
**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**  
NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN

**17 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"**  
Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

**23 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon  
**"2023 Year in Review"**  
Lt Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**31 January 2024; Time TBA**  
**"Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill"**  
TNVET

Registration: <https://tnvet.org/veteran-day-on-the-hill/information-on-attending/>  
Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

### Legislative Update

Once again, we are waiting for Congress to get it done about a federal budget, and we are living under a second continuing resolution. Is it a gift to us – or a gift to legislators – as there will be no Christmas Eve rush on legislation because it is all pushed into January? I am becoming quite tired of having to write about this matter while other issues await and depend on a resolution.

Listening to our speaker from Army Recruiting, there was an unspoken message in my mind as we passed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force. For those of us who had parents involved in World War II and Korea, as school kids we knew what service our fathers and in some instances our mothers had joined and where they served. Others at the time had parents serving the war effort in other ways. Parental service was part of our culture and our upbringing, and in MOAA we are those people who followed the senior role models into our own times of uniformed service.

But what about now after 50 years of All Volunteer Service? It is good to celebrate the milestone, but so many young adults lack the sense of family heritage that would draw them into uniformed service; thus, the recruiting problems. Some with parents from the anti-war era of the 1960s or from a related counterculture do not even have the slightest idea of national service or value what it means. Then, they raised children who neither know nor value the culture of uniformed service that we in our chapter value so much. 50 years of the all-volunteer service system has not taught them our culture. Just saying...

Now we see the issue reflected in the dwindling number of legislators with service experience. Let us be thankful that the MOAA national office near Washington engages such strong advocacy for matters that concern us. So much of their work is educational for legislators who really do not relate to the armed services. It is not personal for them like it once was. That lack of experienced uniformed service is showing in their approaches to conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, and the South China Sea.

Next year the elections come around, and it might be a good idea to check candidates for their service history so that we can educate them and call them to task.

Enough of that. As we now approach Christmas holiday time, we wish you lots of Joy!

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison