



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

July 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

MTC Monthly Meeting:

23 July 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“TN Council of Chapters”

Lt Col Pete Warner, USAF Retired
 President, TN CoC
 ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
 37069

Lt Col Pete Warner began his career as an enlisted airman in 1978, first in the medical field as a medical laboratory specialist, then as an air traffic controller. Upon graduating Officer Training School and completing Undergraduate Missile Training, he was assigned to the 321st Strategic Missile Wing (SAC) as a missile launch officer.

Pete received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1985 from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. He completed his first Masters’ Degree in Aerospace Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1987. While attending Webster University in San Antonio, he completed a Masters’ Degree in Procurement and Acquisition Management in 2013 and an MBA, in 2016. Pete’s professional military education includes Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership School, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Subsequent assignments throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East in various levels of command culminated in his last assignment on the Air Staff at the Pentagon as Deputy Division Chief, Senior Leader Development. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years of honorable service.

He is a life member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and recently completed a two-year term as President of the Stones River Chapter in Murfreesboro, TN. Pete current serves as President of the Tennessee Council of Chapters. Additionally, he is a life member of the Disabled Veterans of America.

Pete, his wife, Sandy, and their daughter, Dani are considered transplants from TX and proudly reside in Winchester, TN.

MOAA Chapters in Tennessee

There are (10) MOAA Chapters in TN:
 Chattanooga Chapter
 East TN Chapter (Knoxville)
 Ft. Campbell Chapter (Clarksville)
 Gen. Andrew Jackson Chapter (Hermitage)
 Memphis Chapter
 Middle TN Chapter
 Mountain Empire Chapter (Johnson City)
 Stones River Chapter (Murfreesboro)
 Sumner County Chapter (Hendersonville)
 Upper Cumberland Chapter (Crossville)

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN 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 Ted Edwards, USN Retired
 CDR John Ohlinger, USN Retired
 LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired
 CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN Retired
 LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired
 Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF 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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Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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Congratulations & Best Wishes are in Order

Congratulations to COL Kirsten McFarland, USA who celebrated her promotion to O-6 on 15 May 2024. You will remember that LTC McFarland spoke to our Chapter in November 2023 on U. S. Army Recruiting.

On 9 July 2024 she turned over her command of the Nashville Army Recruiting Battalion to LTC Michael A. Johnson, USA in a ceremony held at Austin Peay State University.

She is now enroute (literally) to the USAF Air War College. Following completion of that course, she will report for Brigade Command at the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) School at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

LTC Johnson will reside in Nashville, is a MOAA national member, and will be joining our Chapter in the future.

President’s Letter

Oops, I made a mistake last month! I noted the Korean War Armistice Day for **June 27th** when it’s actually **July 27th**! (The Korean War started June 25th, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea, supported by the Soviet Union.) Sorry about that! It deserves our recognition this month and, more important-ly, we should thank our Korean War veterans for their service in “The Forgotten War.”

We recognized Independence Day on July 4th, of course. This year marks the 248th anniversary of the official founding of the republic as an independent nation. Despite enormous challenges across the intervening years, we annually celebrate that audacious formal statement of independence. Today, it’s hard to imagine the courage of those representatives of many of the American people and remember that a successful outcome was never a certainty!

This month also recognizes the establishment of the “Buffalo Soldier” units after the Civil War in 1866. These units consisting of Black Americans served courageously in the West where they earned their popular name and through all conflicts until the mid-1950s when integration of Army units was finally achieved. The last Buffalo Soldier, Robert Dixon, died in 2023 at 101!

The Senate released its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on July 8th and the issues remain as reported in last month’s letter. We continue to urge you to use MOAA’s active advocacy program through its Legislative Action Center (at <https://moaa.quorum.us>) to make your views on important issues known! You can see the latest updates nationally at the following link: <https://moaa.quorum.us/video/>.

Our membership is at a steady level, but we still need to continue to recruit others. Please help us continue to serve our community and nation through staying strong as a chapter! Also, please pay your dues, if you haven’t done so, by sending a check to MTC MOAA at P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN, 37205-0252 or you can also bring a check or cash to our next lunch meeting at Old Natchez Country Club on 23 July.

Finally, we continue to have great presenters at our monthly meetings and have already filled in the schedule for the remainder of the year. Everyone greatly enjoyed Mrs. Susan Hunter’s very interesting presentation at our June luncheon. This month we will hear from Lt Col Pete Warner, USAF, Ret., President of the Tennessee Council of Chapters (TN CoC), on the Council and its focus for the year. We’re meeting at Old Natchez Country Club again this month on July 23rd at 11:30 am. I look forward to seeing you there!

Larry Cotton, CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
 President

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



Happy 226th Birthday to the
U. S. Public Health Service
14 July 1798

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

17 July 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"

Sammie B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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23 July 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"TN Council of Chapters, MOAA"

**Lt Col Pete Warner, USAF Retired
President**

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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1 August 2024: 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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27 August 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee Maneuvers"

Mr. Benjamin Nance

TN Division of Archeology

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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5 September 2024: 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

20 September 2024; 12:00 - 3:00 PM

"OSDTN Hunger Action Project"

(MTC Service Project - Packing Food Bags)

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

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24 September 2024: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"TN Department of Homeland Security"

LT Greg Mays, USN

Deputy Commissioner, TN Homeland Security

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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5 October 2024; 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

"7th Annual VETFEST"

Sponsored by VetLinx

Granny White Park, 610 Granny White Park,
Brentwood, TN

Legislative Update

Do you remember that song from the musical show "Showboat"? It tells of this time of year with the words: "Summertime, and the living is easy." Well here we are in July, and has it all become easy as schools are out for the summer and many families go away on vacation?

Congress goes on vacation in August, but here we are in July – and there is still work to be done in July.

Many of us live in the 7th Congressional District, and our Congressman Mark Green is working on initiatives to be included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which will fund the armed forces for the coming fiscal year. Here are some changes related to our forces that you may wish to know about and maybe communicate to our representatives and senators:

-- A shift of Mexico from Northern Command to Southern Command in this time of needing to protect the southwestern border of the USA from undocumented immigration and the flow of drugs.

-- Directing Army Special Ops Command to establish an exchange program between Army special forces and those of the Polish Army. We have a long and productive history of personnel exchanges with friendly nations, and I served in such a program with the Royal Navy. They build relationships and foster inter-operability. Hostilities with Russian forces and with Chinese support have raised the importance of our operating relations with Poland to an elevated level.

-- Mandating that DoD produce a report to Congress on the feasibility of furnishing the National Guard in every state with a cyber unit to respond quickly to cyber-attacks. This is close to us after the recent cyber-attack on the Ascension St. Thomas hospitals in Nashville.

-- Requiring SECDEF to maintain a top-tier subterranean training facility for Special Ops units.

We would all take approaches to these matters differently based on our own backgrounds and experiences. Right now, the matter is to fund them in the new NDAA that needs to be passed for the upcoming fiscal year. If you have something to say, this is a fine time to write advocacy letters to our legislators in Washington (or make use of the MOAA Legislative Action Center (<https://moaa.quorum.us>) and to try to understand them well if they appear in the news we read and hear.

"It's Summertime ..." and I wish you well.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
MTC Legislative Liaison