



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

September 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

**MTC Monthly Meeting:**

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"TN Office of Homeland Security"**

**LT Greg Mays, USN**

Deputy Commissioner & MTC Member  
 ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin TN 37069

Deputy Commissioner Gregory A. Mays joined the Tennessee Office of Homeland Security in January 2020. He currently leads Tennessee's effort to prevent, prepare for, and respond to a terrorist attack or other threat to the security of Tennessee and its citizens. During his tenure, Deputy Commissioner Mays has focused Homeland Security's efforts on investigating threats to life, evaluating and responding to threats to schools, and protecting the state's critical infrastructure.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Commissioner, Greg had a distinguished career with the United States Secret Service, retiring as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Nashville Field Office.

In his 25-year Secret Service career, he served as the Resident Agent in Charge of the Atlantic City, New Jersey office. He also held positions in Secret Service HQ's, to include the Office of Protective Operations and Special Operations Division, where he coordinated security for several National Special Security Events including a Presidential Inaugural, and two State of the Union Addressees. He also completed assignments in the Vice-Presidential Protective Division, and the Jacksonville, Florida Field Office.

Prior to the U.S. Secret Service, Greg served on active duty as an officer in the U. S. Navy. After being commissioned through the Naval ROTC program, and following Naval Flight Officer training, he was assigned to Patrol Squadron Five (VP-5) where he was designated a Patrol Plane Mission Commander and completed multiple deployments, including numerous missions flown in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Deputy Commissioner Mays holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn University. He is also an FAA licensed commercial pilot and certified flight instructor. He is also an active member of the Middle TN Chapter, MOAA.

Greg resides in Franklin, TN with his wife and two daughters.

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**Chapter Contact Information**

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

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

**We need your assistance!**

We use a combination of methods to reach out to our members for dissemination of information, and for our annual membership dues and scholarship solicitations. Each method relies on one important factor, we have to use current email or postal addresses. And when mail is returned or emails are undeliverable we need valid phone numbers so that we can reach out to rectify the situation.

Each member provided current information when they joined; however, we know that as circumstances change, in many instances there are changes to email addresses, postal addresses and phone numbers.

This affects the Chapter, as well as the MOAA National database; so we need your assistance in keeping our records up to date for yourself as well as for your fellow Chapter members.

Corrections can be sent to any of the above listed Chapter contact methods.

**President's Letter**

Let's stick with the legislative advocacy focus this month as we need to jumpstart Chapter member participation in the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC). We are trying to get everyone with internet access to sign into the LAC and use it to correspond with our elected representatives on issues important to former, current, and retired military members and surviving spouses. The site provides an excellent means of keeping up with current legislative activity. As you know, Congress is focused on stopgap funding (when the members aren't running for their own seats or supporting others who are, of course!) but that only means providing support at current levels or not at all through the first week of November. I have consistently used the LAC to support those issues that are most important to me, and I highly recommend using the process since it's the easiest way to do it! Please sign into MOAA's Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us> and if you need any assistance in doing so, just ask any member of the MTC Board of Directors.

Our chapter supports military-related issues locally and nationally through the MOAA Foundation. If you are not aware of the Foundation, here is its focus: "The Foundation creates, enhances, expands, or supports high-impact, proven-successful programs and services for servicemembers and veterans of all ranks, and their families." The Foundation is the source of the MOAA Grants that we have put to such good use over the past three years. We also actively support good local events and organizations. This month we're going to help pack food bags at Operation Stand Down TN (OSDTN) in support of its Hunger Action Project. Please join us on 20 September from 12:00 to approximately 3:00 pm.

Our Chapter recruiting relies on our members! Please continue to let your contacts know about MOAA and our chapter. Invite them to one of our luncheons and let them witness what we are about. When they join, there are no dues for the year of joining, and if they join at the meeting their meal is on us.

Finally, I greatly look forward to seeing you at the September luncheon where we will hear from one of our newest members: Former Navy Lieutenant Greg Mays, who now serves as the Deputy Commissioner for TN's Department of Safety and Homeland Security. His appointment to this position comes after a distinguished career in the United States Secret Service. Once again, we will meet at the Old Natchez Country Club, on 24 September at 11:30 am. Please don't forget to RSVP via the link you will receive with the September Newsletter, which helps the Club staff provide their great level of support. See 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 77th Birthday to the U. S. Air Force -  
18 September 1947.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**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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**3 October 2024: 7-8:00 AM**

#### **"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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

#### **"7th Annual VetFest"**

Sponsored by VetLinx [www.VetLinx.org](http://www.VetLinx.org)

Granny White Park, 610 Granny White Pike, Brentwood

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**14 October 2024: Check-In 9:00 AM**

A Soldier's Child Foundation Fundraiser

#### **"16th Annual Celebrity Golf Scramble"**

[Register to Play](#)

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin TN 37069

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**22 October 2024: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

#### **"Battle of Shiloh"**

**Mr. Richard White**

Chief Curator, Tennessee State Museum

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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**24 October, 2024 7:30 - 10:30 AM**

#### **"14th Annual Nashville Heroes Breakfast"**

Operation Stand Down TN (OSDTN) Fundraiser

**Alejandro Villanueva**

U. S. Army Ranger & Pro Football Player

(Tickets Required)

Music City Center (Karl Dean Ballroom), Nashville, TN

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**7 November 2024; 7-8 :AM**

#### **"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

### Legislative Update

"It's Summertime ..." as I wrote before. The weather is still so very hot and dry, but we begin our activities for Autumn now. It is also Election Season for the Presidency, the whole House of Representatives, and 1/3 of the Senate. Those two houses resume their work on 9 September, and there is a rush to get the budgetary measures done in a mere three weeks.

Quoting from MOAA Advocacy email: "The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, which has enacted the least amount of legislation by any session in recent history, returns to work Sept. 9 with a full plate ... through Sept. 27 when Congress is scheduled to adjourn until mid-November. Barring an unexpected habit-breaking, last-minute, bipartisan agreement, Congress will not pass any of the 12 appropriation bills needed to fund the federal government by the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year." And that includes the NDAA.

Advocacy is not an expensive thing to do, but what we advocate for can be VERY expensive. A major job in those congressional offices is to put together all those initiatives and sort out the money to pay for them – a very arduous task. Few would admit it directly, but sorting out all those needs and wants does involve the satisfying of constituent concerns. In the world of ethics and values, there is always more need than there is resource to meet it fully. Our advocacy actually helps them prioritize, so they don't work in a vacuum of ignorance or opinion. Tell those Washington people what matters to you!

I sometimes feel like I spent too much time on the money issues of advocacy, but "money makes the world go around" as the song goes in that musical Cabaret. There is a great article in our Military Officer magazine September issue starting on page 36 about all that goes wrong in the funding action. It is worth your reading carefully.

We have talked in the past about the Major Richard Starr Act about concurrent receipt for members taking disability before normal eligibility to retire. Major Starr died in 2022, and his surviving spouse died in 2024. This important legislation comes up every year, and it remains an important item for your advocacy.

It's still summertime for a short while yet! Why not go to the Legislation Action Center website and make sure there is a pile of constituent mail awaiting our legislators when they get back to Washington. That website can be found at: <https://moaa.quorum.us>. Lawmakers' offices are very busy places in this coming season, so give them something to pay attention to.

Be safe and well; and spend some time on MOAA Advocacy Activities so that those fine people we elect can also know what matters to us and act on those matters.

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