



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

October 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

MTC Monthly Meeting:

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

Shiloh National Military Park, located on over 5,200 acres in Hardin County, Tennessee, was established by Congress 130 years ago to commemorate the April 6 – 7, 1862 Battle of Shiloh, also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing. This pivotal Civil War battle would produce over 23,000 Union and Confederate casualties and be the largest engagement in the Western theater during the early stages of the war.

Our chapter will be joined by Mr. Richard White, who has spent several years researching and archiving artifacts related to this consequential battle. Mr. White, Chief Curator of the Tennessee State Museum, manages the curatorial team, directs artifact acquisition and interpretation, engages with the public, and generally assists in the management and conservation of the collection. Richard has more than nine years of experience with the Tennessee State Museum, beginning in the Education Department before advancing to the Artifact Collections Department.

Richard is a native of Nashville and attended Hillwood Comprehensive High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Belmont University and a Masters Degree in History from Middle Tennessee State University. Richard serves on the executive board of the Nashville City Cemetery Association. He is a contributing author and series editor for *Civil War Flags of Tennessee*, a cooperative publication of the Tennessee State Museum and the University of Tennessee Press. He is also a contributing writer and editor for the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and is a 2022 graduate of the Tennessee Government Professionals Institute.

Chapter Scholarship Drive

We are making great progress in our scholarship campaign for this year, and thank you for your continued support. To date we have received contributions from 78 of our Chapter members.

If you have yet to contribute, there's still time! You can bring a check to our next luncheon or send one to our mailbox at:

MTC MOAA
PO Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252.

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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

Stay Connected

Regardless of the generation you belong to, the branch of service in which you served, or the conflict that ensued during your service, it is extremely important to make connections and continue those connections with your fellow veterans. Everyone's service was unique, but we all served and in this time that makes us an anomaly. That one thing that made our service special, no matter the assignment, was the fact that you belonged to something larger than yourself, something that provided purpose and direction.

Unfortunately, many of our fellow veterans have lost this connection after leaving the service, resulting in an emptiness that makes their lives difficult. So as Veterans Day rapidly approaches, please reach out to our fellow veterans to ensure that they know the camaraderie is still available, and the feeling of belonging can be rekindled.

President's Letter

Domestically, the devastating results of hurricanes from wind and torrential downpours have affected many of our active duty, retired, and veteran comrades throughout the Southeast US. The MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Program is available for grants to any currently serving military (including National Guard and Reserve), spouses of those currently serving, veterans, surviving spouses and military and veteran caregivers. These funds can be used for just about anything of an emergent nature, except legal fees or child support payments. If you know of someone who needs help, please point them to this program as an option. Additional information can be found on the MOAA website at the following link:

<https://moaacharities.smapply.us/prog/the-moaa-foundation-crisis-relief-program/>

Internationally America's military is being called upon in ways reminiscent of the Cold War, as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are standing in harm's way, or near to it, to help stabilize dangerous situations in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. None of these conflicts appear to be nearing peaceful resolution, so those serving are going to be routinely deployed to areas where their skills and courage are required for some time to come. That's more than enough reason to continue to advocate for them and their families through MOAA's legislative advocacy program. As I note each month, the easiest way to let your support known is through participation in MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <https://moaa.quorum.us> and, if you need any assistance, just ask any member of the MTC Board of Directors!!

If you are a member of MOAA, you can access all MOAA publications/guides and download a digital copy or order a hardcopy (depending on membership level) for your personal use. Guides include Personal Finance, Military Benefits, Transition, Survivor Issues, Chapters, and Spouse and Family topics. I have asked our own Surviving Spouse Liaison, Patricia Bergquist, to briefly discuss some of the latest changes in these offerings at our next meeting. You should know that she's been deeply involved in making many of these publications of great assistance. We will have a dedicated luncheon next May to which you should invite your spouses!

Finally, I greatly look forward to seeing you at the October monthly luncheon where we will hear from Mr. Richard White, Chief Curator of the Tennessee State Museum, on the "Battle of Shiloh." We will meet at Old Natchez Country Club again this month on October 22nd at 11:30 am. Don't forget to RSVP via the link you will be getting soon, which helps the Club staff to ensure great 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 249th Birthday to the U. S. Navy
13 October 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

16 October 2024; 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"

Quarterly Meeting
Sammie B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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

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

7 November 2024; 7-8 :AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

9 November 2024; 11:00 AM

"Nolensville Veterans Day Parade"

Downtown, Nolensville, TN

11 November 2024; 11:00 AM

"Franklin Veterans Day Parade"

Downtown Franklin, TN

11 November 2024; 11 00 AM

"Nashville Veterans Day Parade"

Downtown - Broadway, Nashville, TN

19 November 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Lamia Afghan Foundation"

Lieutenant General John Bradley, USAF Ret.
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

5 December 2024; 7-8 :AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

Long ago and far away, when I was a kid, Dwight David Eisenhower was President of the United States. Most of the kids in school with me were the sons and daughters of World War II veterans. They held President Eisenhower in the highest respect – so much so that many of the parents still called him General Eisenhower. A wartime hero was our leader, and that was a lesson not to be missed or diminished.

The presidents who followed were all veterans in various capacities and so were the elected leaders at every level. It was known which leader had served in which service, and their veteran status was so very normal that we could acknowledge it as part of daily life.

Without any fanfare or crisis or obvious cause, that all changed – and not for the better. The article starting on page 18 of the October issue of Military Officer documents the decline which has reduced the number of veterans serving in the House and Senate at a steady rate. When I was a young officer, we had about 56% of the House and 76% of the Senate with a uniformed service history. Now both houses of Congress have about 18% with service history. The decline has been steady for four decades, and few have noticed. Please read that article.

What it means is that most of the people who represent us don't share the values of those who have served. They don't even share those values with each other! What matters in our community is all but unknown to them. Watch them in their voting and hearings, and you will see how foreign our nation's defense needs are to them. It comes out as slow and uninformed decision making about the quality of forces, the equipment they use to fly and sail and conquer – but most especially in the uninformed questions they must ask. It is really scary that the halls of Congress are populated by people who lack the personal experience to know what is needed and wanted in the serving communities and what is important to protect the interests of freedom-loving people around the world.

How will they know unless they hear from those who know and care? That's why the MOAA mission of advocacy is so important. It is also why you who know and care communicate with those who must decide and act (and lack the experiences we who served share together). Please make use of the MOAA Legislative Action Center!

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