



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



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

November 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

MTC Monthly Meeting:

19 November 2024; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Lamia Afghan Foundation"
 Lieutenant General John Bradley,
 USAF Ret., Founder & CEO
 ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
 37069

General Bradley retired from the United States Air Force in August 2008, with 41 years of service. He was the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Washington, District of Columbia, and the Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, the largest Major Command in the U.S. Air Force, responsible for over 76,000 Airmen, around the world. Prior to this he was the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for Reserve Matters, the Pentagon. He is a Vietnam veteran, with 337 combat missions as a fighter pilot. He has over 7,000 flying hours in the A-37, A-10, F-4, and F-16 fighter aircraft.

He is the Founder and CEO of the Lamia Afghan Foundation. The non-profit foundation was established in 2008, to build schools for girls in Afghanistan. This foundation has now built seven schools and has established literacy and sewing training programs for women. It gathers, moves, and distributes humanitarian aid to families in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)/Refugee Camps, orphanages, schools, hospitals, and rural villages across the country. Its goal now is to provide education and economic development opportunities for long-term, self-sustainability for all Afghans; men, women, girls, and boys.

To date it has moved over three and a half million pounds of winter clothing, blankets, shoes, boots, food, school supplies, medical equipment, and medical supplies for distribution; totaling eighty-five Air Force C-17 cargo loads of humanitarian aid. (A U.S. federal law, the Denton Amendment, allows humanitarian aid to be flown to foreign countries on Air Force aircraft, free, on a space-available basis.)

The foundation also works with two other non-profits, Kabul Orthopedic Organization (KOO), and A Leg To Stand On (ALTSO), to help children injured by explosions get new custom-made prosthetics. He is also a member of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. Since his retirement, John and his wife Jan Bradley have travelled to Afghanistan seven times on behalf of the Foundation. They normally stay a month, each time they travel there.

Officers

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 CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret)
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 Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
- Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**
 CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret)
- Transition Services Coordinator**
 Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret)

Chapter Contact Information

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Thank You for the Support!

I would like to sincerely thank all the chapter members who voted during this summer's 2024 MOAA National Board and Bylaws Election. Your support is deeply appreciated, and I am delighted to join the 2024 – 2030 MOAA National Board. I have the honor of following in the footsteps of Mrs. Patricia Bergquist, who served on the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee and provided critical insights on Surviving Spouse issues several years ago. Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF, Retired, MOAA President and CEO, recognizes the importance of MOAA chapters and councils referring to them as the "heartbeat of the association." I hope to work diligently to advance the concerns of our area chapters and our council during my term.

Sincerely, Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col, USAF, Retired.

President's Letter

Congratulations to our own Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (ret.) recently elected to the MOAA Board of Directors! She was a great Chapter President and now will bring her outstanding skills to MOAA National for all. Happy News!

If you haven't seen the latest copy of the MOAA *Military Officer Magazine*, you should check it out. Please make sure to read "WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN A MOAA CHAPTER." The article spells out seven good reasons and our chapter's activities reflect each one of them. You can use these when you are talking to potential members: Make yourself heard, Give back to the community, Expand social opportunities, Network with fellow officers, Stay informed, Influence state legislation, and Find camaraderie with a purpose. Sounds like "Never Stop Serving" to me!

One of our annual activities is providing scholarships to veterans and dependents of veterans of any rate/rank. Our campaign is wrapping up and we must make our distributions by the end of the year. If you would still like to contribute this year, please do so soon. You can bring cash or check to our next luncheon, or you can send a check to our chapter mailbox: MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205. You should be proud!

Despite the intense focus on US elections, the international situation has continued to worsen, which places even more of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in harm's way. We should continue to advocate for them and their families through MOAA's Legislative Action Center <https://moaa.quorum.us>. If you need any assistance, just ask any member of the MTC Board of Directors!!

At the last luncheon (another great speaker, by the way), Patricia Bergquist provided a summary of the latest MOAA publications and guides available to Premium and Life Members. Most importantly perhaps, there is a new publication "Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse." To find this publication and others, please go to MOAA.org and log in. Then click on "Resources" and under "Surviving Spouse", you will find "Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse" and "A Survivors Checklist."

Finally, I greatly look forward to seeing you at our last 2024 monthly luncheon where we will hear from Lt Gen John Bradley, USAF (ret.) on the "Lamia Afghan Foundation." **Plus, don't forget to bring new unwrapped toys for the annual "Toys for Tots!"** Again, we will meet at Old Natchez Country Club this month on November 19th 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.

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 - U. S. Marine Corps
10 November 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

9 November 2024; 11:00 AM

"Nolensville Veterans Day Parade"

Downtown, Nolensville, TN

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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

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19 November 2024

"Toys for Tots" Toy Collection

Bring new unwrapped toys to our
November meeting.

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5 December 2024; 7-8 :AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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14 December 2024; 10:00 AM

"Wreathes Across America"

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery
7931 McCrory Lane
Nashville, TN 37221

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NO Meeting in December

"Happy Holidays"

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2 January 2025; 7-8 :AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

First things first: Highest Congratulations to LtCol Karon Uzzell-Baggett for being elected to serve on the MOAA Board of Directors – a national level position. Woo Hoo!

I am writing in that very highly charged time when all the electioneering is happening. It is an odd time when the nation is full of noise and little else going on. Congress is in recess until after the elections but will be so very busy with unfinished business. Leading that unfinished business is the federal budget for the fiscal year that has already begun. They passed a continuing resolution to keep operating until 20 December which will bring a frenzy of activity to get things done before Christmas. This has happened before, so there is nothing new as the 118th Congress wraps up and the new congress is sworn in at noon on 3 January.

For all the heat and discontent that is in the news, let the Thanksgiving holiday time and anticipation of Christmas teach us an important lesson: You and I have won the lottery, because we are Americans who lived and served through our nation's many conflicts and live under God's blessings today. There has never been another time like this, and we have been able to not only watch it happen but also to participate in this great age.

I read recently that a real sign of American greatness and exceptionalism is how those who complain and hate America refuse to leave. What a wonderful place and time this is. Enjoy and rejoice.

And one last point; I would be remiss, if I did not remind you that the easiest way to make your opinion known on legislation in support of our military is through participation in MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

10 November is the Birthday of the Marine Corps. That's a Sunday. Go to church and give thanks.

And offer thanks again on the 28th: Thanksgiving Day. Need I say more?

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