



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



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

December 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

NO Meeting in December
"Happy Holidays"

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

28 January 2025; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"MTC 2024 Year in Review"

CAPT Larry Cotton USN (Ret.)
President
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
37069

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. But please note that the December bonus comes at a cost; we need you to attend the very important January meeting.

MTC Year in Review is exactly what it says; we review the year's events, activities and finances to ensure that the Chapter is on a track that is acceptable to our members. **We need your input at this meeting so please plan on attending!**

MTC Scholarship Program Update

We recently received thank you letters from the scholarship awardees of the four endowed MOAA Military Family Scholarships that the Chapter has funded. Each of these students expressed heartfelt gratitude in their letters to our chapter. We want to share with you that this year's awardees are enrolled at the University of Tennessee, the University of Arkansas, the University of Colorado, and in one of the Seven Sisters Colleges. Their majors are Forensic Anthropology, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, and Psychology. One of them is a member of the Arkansas National Guard, one is in Army ROTC and one is in Air Force ROTC (and hoping to work in Cyber Security). They remarked, on being from military families, that these scholarships are life-changing for them, and all considered them as having a positive impact on their futures. Thank you for your very important contributions that are directly helping to shape our country's future leaders.

We have not yet been notified on the recipient for the Lipscomb University endowed scholarship.

We have also funded \$1500 one time veterans scholarships at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities, and are awaiting notification from the schools that these have been awarded.

Officers

- President**
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret)
- 1st Vice President** (Vacant)
- 2nd Vice President** (Vacant)
- Secretary and Membership Chair**
COL Doug Minton, USA Retired
- Treasurer**
LCDR Bea Henderson, USN Retired
- Directors**
Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret)
CDR John Ohlinger, USN (ret)
LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (ret)
LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired
Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret)
- Surviving Spouse Liaison**
Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
- Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret)
- Transition Services Coordinator**
Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret)

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**

We need your assistance!

We normally utilize either email or USPS to reach out to our members to deliver newsletters and other Chapter information. Unfortunately, when members move or change phone numbers or email addresses, we are the last to know of these changes.

We currently have three long term members with whom we have lost contact:

- CDR Ray Kennedy, USN (Ret.);**
COL Tom Feuerborn, USA Retired;
LCDR George Leasure, USN (Ret.).

If anyone knows an address or contact method for one of these members please let our Membership Chair, or a Board member know at your earliest opportunity.

And please, if you are anticipating making a move, or changing your email or phone number, PLEASE let us know!

President's Letter

Merry Christmas! Happy Hannukah! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Holidays! December is always a busy time for families to get together and celebrate traditions. It can also be a time of loneliness and concern for many. We often get lost in our own affairs and fail to recognize the needs of others around us. Please reach out to anyone you see in distress or in need of a friendly hand!

The MOAA National website has added some helpful resources on its homepage that are easily accessible. Among others, there is a link to a Tricare Guide that applies to active duty and retired. A new resource has been added called "Ask the Experts" that provides some one-on-one help with Personal Finances, Career, Transition, and Military Benefits among others. There is also a quick link to an application form to apply for a MOAA Scholarship, that is available for children of active duty, retired, or veterans of any rank.

We don't have the final numbers yet for our chapter's annual Scholarship Campaign (there's still time!), but we're doing well. The Board approved an increase of the scholarships to veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities from our traditional \$1,000 to \$1,500 each. Additionally, we have an endowed scholarship at Lipscomb that pays for itself. And we help fund MOAA's national scholarship fund above with any remaining gifts from our campaign. So, if you haven't contributed this year and would like to, please do so soon. You can send a check to our chapter mailbox: MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205, but the check must be dated prior to December 31st to count for this year!

Everyone is carefully watching what Congress will do about the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It's been waiting on resolution between the Senate and the House since July of this year. Some action has taken place on the Dole Act that provides much needed improvements for veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors who depend on VA health care and benefits. The House passed its version and sent it to the Senate, but the upper chamber only has 15 days left for action before the Christmas break. MOAA's legislative advocacy program remains the easiest way to make your support known through participation in MOAA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. If you need any assistance, just ask any member of the MTC Board of Directors!!

Finally, please remember **there is no luncheon meeting this month**, but I do thank you for the great response to the annual "Toys for Tots" campaign! I'm sure many happy children will have a nicer Christmas due to your generosity. We will see you on January 28th for our Annual Report to the Chapter at Old Natchez Country Club. See you in the New Year!

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

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

14 December 2024; 10:00 AM

“Wreathes Across America”

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

18 December 2024; 12 - 3:00 PM

“OSDTN Holiday Market”

(MTC contributing grocery cards purchased through a
2024 MOAA Grant)

OSDTN, 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

19 December 2024; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

“A Soldiers Child Christmas Open House”

A Soldiers Child Foundation
1197 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167

NO Meeting in December

“Happy Holidays”

2 January 2025; 7-8 :AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

28 January 2025; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“MTC 2024 Year in Review”

CAPT Larry Cotton USN (Ret.)

President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

29 January 2025; Times TBD

TNVET

“Veterans Day on the Hill”

MOAA Member registration:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQPhkUQQtZSqH3TTq1rLRWo_AB55L93SpmNHCUP)

[d/1SQPhkUQQtZSqH3TTq1rLRWo_AB55L93SpmNHCUP](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQPhkUQQtZSqH3TTq1rLRWo_AB55L93SpmNHCUP)
[k6W8/edit?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQPhkUQQtZSqH3TTq1rLRWo_AB55L93SpmNHCUP)

Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

5 February 2025; 7-8 :AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

It’s Transition Time in Washington. The 118th Congress is in session until 20 December, and work needs to be either finished by then or dies on the floor. That’s not a long time, and the Budget and National Defense Authorization Act (annual NDAA) needs to be finished and signed – or another continuing resolution needs to be created. All pending legislation dies with the end of the 118th Congress and needs to start all over again.

The 119th Congress gets sworn into office on 3 January at Noon Eastern Time. That’s only 17 days before the Presidential Inauguration – 20 January at Noon. Busy times it is and especially for the Senate which need to confirm new presidential appointees – a great number of them. As officers we are presidential appointees. Do you remember waiting after the selection boards for the results? That time was taken or even delayed pending Senate confirmations of us who were confirmed as a group which seemed like a lengthy process. These new appointees are confirmed individually.

So here is what is important right now: There will be LOTS of new folks in Congress who may not be familiar with MOAA and what matters in our community. Recently I wrote about how few have served in the uniformed services at all and so are unfamiliar defense issues. There is a steep learning curve for new legislators, and getting started is probably as overwhelming as that proverbial drinking out of a fire hose. There will be high demands on their attention and time. Here in Middle Tennessee, we reelected our members, but that is not true elsewhere.

The first demand on us is to ramp up advocacy. Fortunately, MOAA has made it easy for us with the Advocacy page on their website – mentioned many times before but here it is and accessed through the MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

The second is our friendships and contacts across America who have newly elected representatives who are truly freshmen in Congress. Talk with your friends elsewhere and encourage them to communicate with their new legislators in both houses of Congress.

And a third is being prepared when we meet them face-to-face.

“Advocacy in Action” is part of that firehose, but it is organized for greater focus and impact than individual communications. Advocacy may be a noun, but ADVOCATE is a verb – and verbs are actions we do. So, get active in January and “advocate” for those concerns that matter to you personally and for our uniformed services collectively. And Happy New Year to all of us!

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

MTC Legislative Liaison