



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

January 2026

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

27 January 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Annual State of the Chapter
Report and Election”

CAPT Larry Cotton

Chapter President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN
37069

MTC Year in Review is exactly what it says; we will review the previous year’s events, activities (to include the December OSDTN event where we distributed gift cards funded by a MOAA Grant) and finances to ensure that the Chapter is on a track that is acceptable to our members.

This year we will consider a potential dues increase, necessitated by the fact that the price of everything has risen.

We are an organization of Leaders, and in January we will elect the next officers to lead our Chapter, as well as say “Thank-You” to CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (Ret) who will have served in the role of President for two terms (four years). Fortunately we have had an officer step up to fill the Presidential office, and one willing to consider a VP position. That is two volunteers for leadership roles out of 200 + members. While we are particularly pleased with the volunteers, it makes you wonder why more of our members are not willing to step up and assume leadership roles in the Chapter?

We need your input at this meeting so please plan on attending!

Tennessee Veterans (TNVET)

An organization to unite, under one state legislative umbrella, the leadership and membership of Tennessee’s individual veteran organizations to work on behalf of all state veterans (and active duty members stationed in Tennessee) in advancing services and/or benefits for all members; and, to provide a forum in which to present, discuss, debate and propose procedural and/or legislative solutions to inequities and issues affecting the veteran community and its active duty counterparts within the state of Tennessee. This work is performed in a nonpartisan manner.

Current membership is from the following organizations: Air & Space Forces Association (AFA), Buffalo Soldiers, Farmer Veterans Coalition, American Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), West TN Veterans Coalition, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Women Veterans of America (WVA) and Veterans Service Organizations (VSO).

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret.)

1st Vice President

Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (ret.)

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

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Middle TN Chapter, MOAA
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Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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MTC Non-Partisan Policy

As a reminder to our members, The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Middle Tennessee Chapter (as an affiliate organization), are Section 501 (c) (19) organizations; which allows contributions (scholarship donations yes - dues no) to be tax exempt.

As an organization exempt from Federal taxes we are prohibited from advocating for issues that may represent one political agenda over another, or from supporting a specific candidate for elected office.

To this end, we limit our chapter advocacy to MOAA supported national issues at the Federal level, and veteran and military issues (primarily published by TNVET) at the state level that do not represent a particular political platform.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the MTC Board.

President’s Letter

Happy 2026! I truly hope you had the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends over the holidays. Despite any ongoing turmoil around the world, they remain your touchpoints of peace and stability.

The holiday season is over, but advocacy for our military and their families, including active, reserve, retired, and veterans of every stripe never ends. Even with some progress in the last legislative session on a national level, much more needs to be done. Budget pressures remain and off-cycle elections promise to complicate getting needed legislation through the process to signature on the President’s desk. However, opportunities arise and MOAA’s Legislative Advocacy (LAC) section continues to work hard at keeping issues in front of Congress. We can help by communicating with our Senators and Representatives and, of course, the easiest way is through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. If you weren’t active in 2025, the new year is an opportunity to do something good for our military and it’s easy! This month, MOAA is featuring “Supporting Our Nation’s Combat-Injured Veterans,” but you can also choose to focus your support in the following areas: “Currently Serving, DoD Health Care, Families & Survivors, Retirees & Veterans, and VA Health Care” through the LAC. You can log into the LAC at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and it may require you to change your password if you have not logged in recently. If you need any assistance, contact any MTC Executive Board Member.

Since this month’s luncheon is our annual business meeting, we will conduct a few items necessary to keep our chapter functioning as a 5-Star Level of Excellence awardee! Members of the Executive Board will present the Annual Report for 2025, focusing on activities of the chapter and its financial status. We will need to vote on an increase in annual chapter dues from \$25 to \$30 for officers, but dues for Surviving Spouses will remain unchanged at \$5. We will also elect new officers as President and Vice President. Finally, we hope to present a MOAA Leadership Award to one of our distinguished members!

As outgoing President of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of MOAA, I want to thank you all for making our chapter known as “Best in Class.” I frequently receive comments from other chapters in Tennessee about how well our chapter operates and how much its activities are appreciated. Further, I have received phone calls and even visits from other chapter members around the country asking how we did “this or that.” That’s certainly something you should be proud of. Thank you!

Please remember to mark your calendars for our annual “Report to Members” on January 27th at the Old Natchez Country Club. 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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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21 January 2026; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”
Sammy B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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27 January 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Annual State of the Chapter Report”
MTC President & Board Members
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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28 January, 2026 Time TBD
TN Veterans (TNVET)
“TNVET Veterans Day on the Hill”
Cordell Hull State Office Bldg.
(See Legislative Update for Registration Link)

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5 February 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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12 - 14 February, 2026
National Guard Assoc. of Tennessee (NGATN)
Annual General Conference
Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center,
1200 Conference Center Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

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24 February 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Tennessee Veterans (TNVET)
Capt. Bill Summers
TNVET Founder and Executive Board Member
(emeritus)
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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5 March 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-
24 March 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“MOAA Council & Chapters Visit”
Ms. Dena Kilgore
Program Director, Affiliated Council & Chapters
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Legislative Update

We are starting a new year, and Congress is back in session. This seems like an opportune time to bring up the subject of legislative action in several ways.

First is the MOAA Legislative Action Center. If you sign into the moaa.org website, there is a drop-down menu for Advocacy then you can choose the Legislative Action Center. It will give you topics of interest from which you can choose and adapt letters on a range of topics. Your zip code will enable forwarding the letters to our two senators and your specific representative. There is an icon below letters to allow you to edit them and personalize them including adding your name to the signature line.

Moving away from the generic text to individualize your note is a good idea to separate your letter from the pack. There is a submit button, and not long after you will probably receive an email acknowledging your letter. It is all quite easy to do, and there is no limit – so write often and vary the chosen topic.

Our chapter has a reputation for high level of advocacy activity. It is one of many measures that supports our continuing Five Star chapter status. That advocacy delivers not only impact for our congressional members getting supported by your participation but also for our Middle Tennessee Chapter as a whole. Supporting critical benefits and advocacy issues on a regular basis pays dividends. Even if you do not often make our monthly meetings, your participation in advocacy activities furthers our national level mission to **“Never Stop Serving”**.

Further to that matter, this is an election year for the whole House of Representatives. The usual cycle of candidate announcements of primary elections will start soon. You may know some of these potential candidates personally. As the Advocacy system only addresses those elected and in office, how can you help the Chapter communicate with unelected candidates so that they know what matters to our chapter of officers and the larger veteran’s community. How powerful would it be if aspiring candidates could have a sense of what we value and what matters to us? Something to think about...

Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill which is 28 January. Registration is open if you wish to attend. I know of a half dozen or so who plan to participate – myself among them – and you could as well. Here is the website to learn and register: <https://tnvet.org/veteran-day-on-the-hill/information-on-attending>

Happy 2026 to Everyone!

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret.)
MTC Legislative Chair