



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

February 2026

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

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

Capt. Summers was commissioned through AFROTC at the University of Tennessee, where he graduated with a BS in Industrial Management. He later earned a Master’s degrees in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, MO.

He was commissioned in the Air Force as an Industrial/Management Engineering Officer. Positions held include base and command Branch Chief, Command Division Chief and Unit Commander. He served in Germany at U.S. European Command HQ. (J-1). He attended in-resident and graduated from USAF Squadron Officers School, USAF Air Command and Staff College and Armed Forces Staff College. He retired in 1994.

Bill is a MOAA member, and an active member of the Ft. Campbell, KY Chapter. He is one of the founders of the Tennessee Veteran (TNVET) organization, which unites state veteran organizations under one political entity/organization for the purposes of working legislative needs/issues for Tennessee active duty, military, veterans and their families. He is an originator and still organizing member of the “Veterans’ Day On The Hill” team, which has brought hundreds of veterans to meet face-to-face with their state legislators in Nashville to discuss veteran issues.

He is actively working with state Senators and House Representatives and the state military legislative caucus on veteran legislation needs. He has spoken before and attended numerous legislative committees, written legislative bills on behalf of TNVET/veterans and stood with the governor during the signing of some of our legislation.

His leadership in the legislative area has resulted in him being presented twice with the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) Leadership Award. He currently serves as the MOAA Legislative Liaison Officer for the Ft. Campbell Chapter and for the TN Council of Chapters.

Bill and his wife Cindy (a retired civilian pharmacist from Ft. Campbell Hospital) currently reside in Clarksville, TN.

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 (Ret)
- 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 (Ret)
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (Ret.)
LTC Mike Patenaude, USA (Ret)
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**

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 members: AFA, Buffalo Soldiers, Farmer Veterans Coalition, American Veterans, Marine Corps League, MOAA TN CoC, West TN Veterans Coalition, DAV, VFW, VVA, WVA and TN Veterans Service Organizations (VSO).

President’s Letter

Surprise! I’m still here! Because of the ice storm at the end of January and lack of a quorum at the planned ZOOM call business meeting, we could not conduct a vote for the new President and Vice President. Therefore, I will remain President until the February 24th luncheon. Happy to continue to serve!

Of course, I hope you all had minimum impact from the recent snow/ice storm, but I know that some of you lost power for some days and, perhaps, had other challenges. It was gratifying to see how neighbors came out to help neighbors and family during and after the storm. Of course, MOAA continues to have a MOAA Charities Crisis Relief Program that can sometimes help those who have been affected by natural disasters. Here is a link to the site for making an application: <https://moaacharities.smapply.us/res/p/crisis-relief-program/>.

MOAA continues to advocate for continued pay for uniformed members, regardless of service, during this and future shutdowns. You can support this effort at the Legislative Advocacy Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. Our chapter leads Tennessee MOAA chapters in advocacy activity, and we want to keep the pressure on. Here is a quote from the Families & Survivors page that illustrates why this is so important: “Unfortunately, programs and services for military and veteran families are often the first to see cuts when government funding becomes tight. Routinely, such decrements hit staffing, which diminishes quality and availability of programs. These benefits are essential to ensure servicemembers are squared away and able to focus on the mission.” Please continue to advocate for our service members and their families!

February is an important month for military recognition. February 2nd, we recognized the establishment of the US Army Nurse Corps in 1901. We had Four Chaplains Day on February 3rd honoring four chaplains who sacrificed their lives to save others on the US transport Dorchester in WWII. The US Marine Corps Women’s Reserve was established in 1943 on February 13th. February 19th is the US Coast Guard Reserve Birthday. Finally, February 27th marks Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day.

Since we had to cancel our January luncheon meeting, we will need to conduct items of business at our upcoming February 24th meeting. 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 elect new officers as President and Vice President. Also, we hope to present a MOAA Leadership Award to one of our distinguished members!

On February 24th we will hear from TNVET Founder and Executive Board Member (emeritus) Capt. Bill Summers, USAF (Ret) on “TNVET Advocacy”. Please join us!

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

24 February 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Tennessee Veterans (TNVET)

Capt. Bill Summers, USAF (Ret)

TNVET Founder and Executive Board Member
(emeritus)

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

-

28 February 2026; 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Joshua Chamberlain Society of Nashville

"Let Freedom Ring" Annual Gala

(Fund Raising Event)

Keynote Speaker :

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales

(Link for additional information and Tickets:

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/KIT/>

Richland Country Club, 1 Club Drive, Nashville, TN 37215, USA

-

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

-

2 April 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-

22 April 2026; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, 705 Cadet Court, Lebanon, TN.

-

28 April 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Combat & Medevac; Helicopters in Vietnam"

CPT Art Jacobs, USA

MTC Member & Vietnam Helicopter Pilot

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

-

14 May 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-

Legislative Update

What a storm that was! Yesterday (28 January) was to be Veterans Day on the Hill, and we would have been well represented had it happened as planned. Tuesday was to have been our Chapter Annual Review Meeting, so we will move that to February. So many thousands of people are without electric power and may be for some days to come. Does it seem as if Tennessee has come to a crashing halt?

What does NOT stop are the public needs for safety and security – and the need for those who represent us to work the legislation that makes our national civilization and culture work. Since all that legislative activity needs to happen for the benefit of all, our advocacy needs to continue without a break. Even if meetings and hearings must momentarily pause, the needs to be addressed never pause. If needs cannot pause, advocacy cannot either.

When times like this come around and the winter weather slows us down, that computer on your desk gives you the tools you need to communicate with our legislators – so long as you have electricity and connectivity. Being confined at home gives you the opportunity to write to your legislators and accomplish some advocacy. That is perfect for when you unexpectedly get some free time.

Our January column provided directions for using the MOAA Advocacy platform, and the storm may have given you some free time to do that. When the storm hit and I pulled limbs from the driveway and sidewalks, I wondered what to do with some free time. So, I did some online advocacy.

This is the season when MOAA would announce its primary and focused initiatives in anticipation of Advocacy-in-Action week and the day on Capitol Hill which will be 8 April. More on that when I hear more.

Consider what matters to you and what you value on matters of quite a list of possibilities: military personnel, family health and welfare, veterans matters and the VA, retired veterans, new retirees finding their way back into the civilian world, veteran disabilities, career retraining, ... so much more.

And in the meanwhile, be safe and well.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret)
MTC Legislative Chair