



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

March 2026

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“MOAA Council & Chapters Visit”

Ms. Dena Kilgore

Program Director,

MOAA Affiliated Council & Chapters

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

As Program Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, Dena Kilgore provides direct support for MOAA’s network of more than 400 active and engaged councils, chapters, virtual chapters, and satellite chapters. These affiliates expand MOAA’s reach through advocacy, community service, member engagement, and brand visibility.

She supports the senior director with oversight of MOAA’s council and chapter awards and sponsorship programs promoting excellence in leadership, effective communications, and positive community impact. She also provides in-person support to council and chapter activities and events and helps organize quarterly council and chapter leader in-person workshops and other training opportunities.

Dena has over 20 years in association management; engaging members and helping volunteers thrive in their leadership roles. She earned the designation of Certified Association Executive (CAE) in 2012.

Dena is a native of Kingsport, TN.

MOAA Affiliated Council & Chapters

MOAA chapters are Chartered by MOAA National but function as independent organizations, each with its own set of by-laws. The MOAA Affiliated Council & Chapter Affairs Department is the national -level component of MOAA that manages, supports and acts as liaison for the chapters and state councils across the country. They provide resources, training, and guidance to these independent, self-governing, and nonpartisan organizations across the country. The Affiliated Council & Chapters also manages the MOAA awards program and plays a significant role in awarding MOAA Grants.

In states that have a number of chapters a Council comprised of those chapters functions as an intermediary providing support and direction to the member chapters. The Tennessee Council of Chapters (TN CoC) meets quarterly and rotates its leadership amongst its member chapters.

Officers

President

Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)

1st Vice President

LCDR Majella Stevenson, USN (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)

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (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

MOAA Legislative Action Center

The Legislative Action Center (LAC) provides a very comprehensive tool for MOAA members to use in corresponding with their elected congressional representatives.

After signing into the LAC you can choose from a list of Active Advocacy Campaigns to correspond with your legislators on the particular issue you have chosen. A suggested letter is available to be used in corresponding with your legislator and you are presented with the option of modifying the letter to make it more personal.

The LAC also offers you an option to view the status/progress of MOAA Supported Legislation that is of interest to you as it moves through Congress.

Please take a moment to visit and utilize the LAC at

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

President’s Letter

Hello, my name is ‘Dale’ Kiser, I am a native of New Orleans, LA. I am honored to be the new Chapter president. I am the son of a dentist and became a dentist myself. I spent 10 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard as a dental technician during college and dental school. After dental school I was commissioned as a dental officer in the Air Force. My wife and family relocated to Brentwood in 2020 after retiring from active duty.

I want to thank Larry Cotton for his leadership of the chapter for a second term. He and his wife Diane Lanier have done a great job and have been very welcoming to me. I also thank the chapter’s executive board for their confidence. I am thankful that we can also welcome a Vice President, Majella Stevens. She and her husband both retired from the Navy, and recently located to our area. She is a great asset to have in the chapter’s leadership; she will move to the presidency in 2 years.

The February speaker was Bill Summers of the Ft Campbell chapter and organizing member of Tennessee Veteran (TNVET) organization and the Veterans Day On The Hill. He provided an outstanding presentation regarding state level advocacy; as you know, advocacy is one of the core tenets of MOAA. Please check out the TNVET website and Facebook page and look for opportunities on your future calendars to use your voice as a veteran to advocate for state and local issues.

Where were you 65 years ago, in 1961? Dwight D Eisenhower gives farewell address in January, warning against the “military-industrial complex”. First episode of “The Dick Van Dyke Show” is filmed. JFK is inaugurated as 35th US President. Elvis Presley’s “Are you Lonesome” hits #1. Dow Jones was 735, inflation was 1%. Ham the chimpanzee is the first primate to go to space. 23rd Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified. Bay of Pigs Invasion. Harper Lee wins Pulitzer Prize for “To Kill a Mockingbird”. Alan Shepard is the first American in Space.

In March 1961, 39 officers applied for and were approved to establish the ‘Middle Tennessee Retired Officers Association’ as an ‘Affiliate of The Retired Officers Association’. Please join us at our luncheon on 24 March 2026 to celebrate our chapter’s 65th Birthday. Our speaker is Dena Kilgore from MOAA National.

Please contact either me or another board member with ideas or suggestions for speakers or topics for our luncheons. I do have an ask for you; we are needing more contributions from chapter members with the executive board of the chapter. Please talk with a board member or join us at a board meeting, details of time and place are on the MTC MOAA website.

Dale Kiser Jr, Col, USAF, (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 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

23 May 2026; 10 - 11:00 AM

“MTC Memorial Day Observance”

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

26 May 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“ Service Academy Selection Process”

Tom Forsythe

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

4 June 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

23 June 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Annual Personal Affairs Program

2 July 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

Legislative Update

MOAA Leaders descend *en mass* at the Capitol in Washington every year in Spring – this year on 15 April – for Advocacy-in-Action to draw special attention to items of legislation that impact our uniformed services community. There are a LOT of issues going on all the time, but MOAA identifies a few for special attention. Here are the four specifics for 2026:

- **Shutdown Fairness Act (S.3168)** supports those currently serving, including National Guard and reservists with continuity of pay during the periodic shutdowns awaiting continuing resolutions.
- **Military Care Act (HR.6796)** supports all TRICARE beneficiaries who experience problems getting access to care or the care itself with a standard way to report the problems and seek out resolution.
- **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act**, acronym is GUARD, (HR.1732) to protect beneficiaries from dealing with unaccredited representatives who then defraud the VA system. The goal is for individuals seeking assistance with VA services to receive that assistance from professional providers so that better care is delivered and the VA is not defrauded.
- **Major Richard Starr Act** (S.1032 & HR.2102) to amend Title 10USC, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans’ disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities. While this is heavily sponsored by legislators, it never quite gets across the finish line. There is supposed to be a Senate vote on this bill on March 3rd, so hopefully this is the year to get it through.

You can read greater details in *Military Officer* magazine, March issue, page 20 and following on page 26. Our MOAA impact increases significantly when the officials and their staffers know that constituents care about these items and then we visit their offices; that is to say, we all have roles to play in pushing these matters forward.

When you visit the Advocacy section of the MOAA.org website, you surely notice how many issues there are and how some draw your attention more than others. That is fine, because there is so much happening. Please make special visits to the Advocacy section of the website this month to help make greater impact. *When you write do mention the bill numbers that are shown, because legislators and staffers understand that you have done your homework when they see that you know the bill numbers.* I will report back on our visits in the May column.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret)
MTC Legislative Chair