



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2025 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Web: https://www.mtcmoaa.org			August 2026			Editor: Doug Minton		
Next MTC Monthly Meeting: 25 August 2026; 11:30AM - 1:00PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "Singing Second" CPT Dean Wegner, USA West Point Graduate & MTC Member ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 Dean Wegner is the Founder & CEO of Authentically American, a Veteran owned, American made premium apparel brand that was founded in 2017. They are a company that celebrates patriotism, believes in the American worker, and honors our American heroes by intentionally donating 10% of profits to Veteran and First Responder charities. A West Point graduate, Dean served 7 years as a helicopter pilot and Army Ranger. Most of his business career was spent in business development, marketing, and strategy with Mars and Procter & Gamble. Dean is happily married to his bride of 31 years and they have 4 children, with the youngest being adopted from Ethiopia. As a former Division I ice hockey player, Dean is highly competitive, possesses a tireless work ethic, and he still plays in a Men's "Beer League" every week. Dean is active in his church and has served on the boards of many for-profit and non-profit companies and organizations. His presentation applies the time-honored Service Academy tradition of 'Sing Second' to all aspects of life! Dean highlights invaluable lessons learned from West Point, Flight School, Ranger School, Corporate America, Family Life, and the journey of becoming a Veteran Entrepreneur. Consistent themes throughout the message are developing and adhering to strong values and mission, having a tireless work ethic, treating others with dignity and respect, putting the interests of others first, and building something that matters...in uniform, in business, and in life! Please join us for what should be an energetic and entertaining presentation. Please note: Dean is planning on bringing a sample of his company's apparel which he will sell and then donate a percentage of the sales to our annual scholarship drive.			Officers President Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret) 1st Vice President LCDR Majella Stevenson, USN (Ret) 2nd Vice President MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret) 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)			Presidents Letter Astronomical summer doesn't officially end until 22 September 2026. But my youngest daughter is off to college already and local schools start back on 10 August 2026. Boo to back-to-school traffic, Fall is here school-wise. If you couldn't attend the July luncheon, you missed a good one. Sheriff Hughes gave a great, well-received presentation about the Williamson County Sheriff's Office and the new County Jail project. He went all the way to 1320 answering everybody's questions, it was the longest luncheon I remember having since I joined the chapter in 2020. On deck for August 25th is our own chapter member Dean Wegner. Dean is a West Point graduate and the founder and CEO of Authentically American. Also, if you're available in the Columbia, TN area, he's the Keynote Speaker for Operation Stand Down Tennessee's 2 nd Annual Heroes Breakfast fundraiser on Friday 11 September 2026 in Columbia, TN. You can get tickets here: https://www.osdtm.org/colhb Last month, a chapter vote was held with unanimous decision in the affirmative to have any unused scholarship funds at the local level to be forwarded to MOAA Charities. As such, shortly you will receive a letter and envelope for the annual scholarship fundraising drive. And new this year, you will see a 'request by date' for the receipt of your contribution. This is to allow enough time before the end of the calendar year, for tax and processing purposes, for the funds to be sent to the college who can then disperse the funds to the needy veteran student. For your upcoming calendar, the MTC MOAA chapter is providing manpower on 25 September 2026 for Operation Commissary at Operation Stand Down Tennessee in Nashville. We need your help loading grocery bags/gift baskets for needy military and veteran families in our local area. We need approximately nine members/family members for about two hours to accomplish this task. Registration can be accomplished using the link shown in the column to the left. Member participation in events and meetings is a key indicator of the health of the Chapter; so, I hope to see you at the upcoming luncheon and this event as well. Dale Kiser Chapter President		
			MTC OSDTN Support Opportunities 25 September 2026: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. MTC members & family will participate in an "Operation Commissary" food bag packing event held at OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203. Register at https://app.buglevolunteers.com/registration?id=4a06b11b-3301-4bcc-9933-3226d89a78eb . 24 October 2026 – 5th Annual Music City Got Your 6 Ruck March 0700 – 1000 AM at Geodis Park, Nashville, TN. Underwritten by the Bob Woodruff Foundation. Volunteers are needed to work at the event or participate in the march. https://www.musiccityruckmarch.com/ . 5 November 2026 - 16th Annual Nashville Heroes Breakfast. Event is at the Music City Center, Karl F. Dean Grand Ballroom. This is a fundraising event for OSDTN, with Rocky Bleir as the keynote speaker. Additional event information at https://www.osdtm.org/nhb . MTC will have a table with seats which are funded by individual MTC members. Information on sign up for seats will be published shortly.					

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
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Happy Birthday
U. S. Coast Guard – 7 August

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<u>Upcoming Programs & Events</u>	<u>Legislative Update</u>
25 August 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting <i>"Singing Second"</i> CPT Dean Wegner, USA West Point Graduate & MTC Chapter Member ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 - 3 September 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM <i>"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"</i> NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204 - 19 September 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM <i>"Ft. Campbell, KY Retiree Appreciation Day"</i> Soldier Support Center 2702 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY - 22 September 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting <i>"Disaster - Financial Preparation"</i> MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret) Retired Financial Planner & MTC Chapter Member ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 - 25 September 2026: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM <i>"MTC Operation Commissary"</i> MTC Volunteer - Food Bag Packing Event OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 - 1 October 2026; 7-8:00 AM <i>"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"</i> NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204 - 27 October 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting <i>"Operation Stand Down Tennessee"</i> (Speaker TBD) OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 - 4 November 2026; 7-8:00 AM <i>"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"</i> NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204	Am I the only one who has found it a bit confusing that congressional districts have been restructured but even more so that candidate advertising on television does not indicate which district candidates are standing for? Welcome to August, everyone. For 2026 election season, the August primaries are over. Due to recent redistricting, if you are unsure about your voting district, try the following helpful link. Put in your street address and you can find out what your district is: https://sos.tn.gov/announcements/2026-congressional-redistricting Upcoming Noteworthy Election dates: Monday, October 5, 2026, voter registration deadline. Wednesday, October 14, 2026 - Thursday, October 29, 2026, is early voting Tuesday, November 3, 2026, is election day We have four of the nine districts in our membership area. This is a time to pay close attention to what matters to you and figure out exactly who you can support. For this whole month and into September, both houses of Congress are in recess, and there will be another recess leading up to the General Elections in November. What never ends for us is advocacy for earned benefit issues supporting both currently serving members of our armed forces and those who have served in the past. Our Middle Tennessee chapter has become somewhat famous for the depth and quality of our advocacy actions and participation. We are the most active among all Tennessee chapters. Veterans Administration health benefits are such a significant part of that activity. The simple and most important point is that MOAA Advocacy on our behalf and our own personal participation does NOT go on recess. PLEASE Go to the MOAA website, www.moaa.org/advocacy - look over the many items available for advocacy and speak out. Something else on that subject is that the Advocacy area of MOAA Website is not just for us members but is available to everybody out there. Driven by our addresses, it will deliver advocacy mail to our own representative and both our senators. It's there, and it's free – so let's make use of it in August. CDR Ted Edwards, USN Ret MTC Legislative Liaison