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## Middle Tennessee Chapter

# Military Officers Association of America



Web Site: [mtcmooa.org](http://mtcmooa.org)

April 2009

Editors: Doug, Gus and Paul

## MOAA Monthly Luncheon

April 28, 2009  
11:30 AM

Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Dr  
Franklin TN 37069

CDR Jim Auer, USN Ret.  
US Military Relations with  
Japan

CDR Jim Auer served in the U. S. Navy from 1963 to 1983, in a number of positions, mostly in Japan. He holds the distinction of being the first officer of the U.S. Navy to study with Japanese officers at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Staff College in Tokyo; as well as having commanded on a guided missile frigate homeported in Yokosuka. From 1979 he served as Special Assistant for Japan in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He holds an A.B. degree from Marquette University, and a PHD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; and is currently the Director of the Center for U.S.—Japan Studies and Cooperation at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.

On November 3, 2008 the Government of Japan officially announced that Dr. James E. Auer will be honored with a prestigious decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. The decoration, was established in 1875 as the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese Government. is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.  
(You don't want to miss this program!)

## Officers

**President**  
COL Doug Minton  
**1st Vice President**  
CAPT Dale Lewelling  
**Secretary**  
LCDR Gus Gustafson  
**Treasurer**  
LTC Michael Patenaude  
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LTC Wanda Graham  
1st Lt John Manley  
CAPT Dana McLendon  
CAPT Charles Stewart  
CAPT Dennis Witzenburg

## DUES

Please look at your address label. If the top line doesn't read like this:  
"Dues paid thru 1/1/2010"

Then your 2009 Chapter dues are due.

Member dues are \$15.00  
Associate dues are \$5.00

Checks may be made out to MTC Chapter MOAA and mailed to MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205-0252.

## New Members:

1LT Dorothy Davis , RN  
Army Nurse Corps

Lt Col Wilbur Everett  
USAF (Ret)

CPT Art Jacobs  
USA

LTC Tom Pardue  
USA (Ret)

LT Joseph Rolwing  
USNR

CPT Bryon Olsen  
CPT USAR (Active)

## MTC Board Notes

Who knew a helicopter pilot could be so eloquent? If you missed the March meeting you missed a prime opportunity to once again understand why we should have so much pride in the men and women that serve in our Armed Forces! LTC Jason Cummins and three of his fellow pilots and leaders of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade made an outstanding presentation depicting the environment and the operations during their 2008-2009 deployment in Afghanistan. Wow! And on the other end of the spectrum Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett had two of her cadets who will soon be commissioned into the USAF at the meeting, making it quite clear that our all-volunteer force continues to produce top notch young officers.

### Scholarship Fundraising Update:

As of April 7th seventy-three members have responded with contributions for our 2009 MOAA Scholarship installment. *While this is a very good start, it only represents the efforts of only 26% of our membership.* Remember the scholarships we support are available only to children of military families—officer and enlisted.

### Road Trip?

We are considering visitation of the Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, TN as an option to having an October meeting this year. It truly is "rocket science" and makes for a very interesting tour! You will remember that Col Art Huber, Commander Arnold AFB gave a 30 minute glimpse into the activities at Arnold last October.

**Our Annual Joint ROTC Picnic** is in the planning phase, with a *September* date and venue to be published soon!

And an apology is due to **MAJ Dan Sulenger**, USMC (Ret) who was listed in the last newsletter as USA Retired: many thanks to all of our members who serve or served in the Marines for pointing out that Dan is a *Marine*. And thanks to Dan for pointing out that the MOAA Award packets are available for both ROTC and Junior ROTC programs!

Doug Minton, President, MTC

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## Upcoming MTC Programs

May 26  
**Maj Mike Nave, TN ANG**  
TN Partnership for Peace Mission-Bulgaria

June 23  
**Lt Gen Garry Trexler, USAF Ret\***

July 28  
**CPT(P) Matt Smith, TN ARNG\***  
Preparation for 2nd Deployment to Iraq

August 25  
**Col Gus Schettler, TN ANG\***  
TN Air National Guard Roles & Missions

\* Current Middle TN Chapter Members.

## 2009 Memorial Day Ceremony

Our Chapter will conduct its annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday, 23 May 2009 at 1000 hours at the TN State Veteran's Cemetery on McCrory Lane (located off I-40 West, just west of Bellevue).

The ceremony is military in nature for the sole purpose of honoring the deceased. There are no speeches. It commences with General Officer Honors, the presentation of the Honor Guard, and "Sound Off" by the Piper. This is followed by the Publishing of the Order "Each year a day shall be set aside for the purpose of decorating the graves of all veterans with flowers and ribbon. The practice shall continue until the last veteran no longer stands..." Placement of wreaths, followed by Amazing Grace and Taps played by the piper, concludes the ceremony.

**We welcome and encourage your participation!**

## Honor Flight

Since 2005, the Honor Flight program has brought World War II veterans from across the country to Washington, D.C., for a day-long visit to the World War II and other memorials. Many of these veterans have no other way to see "their" memorial. Time is of the essence as more than 1,000 World War II veterans die each day. Because of voluntary contributions, veterans are able to travel aboard aircraft chartered by the Honor Flight program free of charge, escorted by volunteer "guardians" from the city where the aircraft departs.

While in D.C., these veterans travel aboard buses to see the World War II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and the Iwo Jima Memorial. So far, nearly 18,000 World War II veterans have traveled to D.C. on chartered Honor Flights from 70 hubs in 30 states. The Honor Flight program has a need for volunteers at various airports in the D.C. area to greet the World War II veterans or travel with them. Honor Flight also is seeking donations for more flights and names of World War II veterans who would like to go on one of the flights.

MOAA is encouraging members to donate or help out if possible. If you are interested in being a part of this great effort, you can contact COL (Ret) Paul Fleenor at (615) 567-6066 who works with the Williamson County Honor Flight Program.

### Change Your Email Recently?

We are working on an email distribution list, so send your name and new address to Doug Minton at [mintond@comcast.net](mailto:mintond@comcast.net).