



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

## Military Officers Association of America



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

December 2009

Editors: Gus and Doug

### MOAA Monthly Luncheon

#### No Luncheon in December

#### Upcoming Organizational Meeting in January

Our organizational meeting will present an opportunity for each member to make suggestions for the upcoming program year; provide an opportunity to discuss our finances as well as gain opinions on the lack of a meeting in December; and finally to express our appreciation to a Board Member who will be cycling off the Board and hear our recommendation for his replacement.

We need your suggestions for programs! This past year we have had a great opportunity to call on members for programs as well as feast on the availability of our area active and reserve component service members to share their experiences. Do you want to continue in this direction, or had you rather add some local interest or political insight speakers. It is your call, and we would love to hear your ideas.

CAPT Dennis Witzenburg will be cycling off of our Board at the end of this year. I use the term cycling because this is not the first time that Dennis has stepped up and volunteered to lead this organization, and for that the Chapter should be extremely grateful. If you have seen him at work you realize that driving submarines is not his only skill set!

Fortunately we did not have to look far to find a suitable candidate to fill Dennis's position. Your Board has nominated COL Bill Bacon, USA Ret to fill the upcoming Board vacancy. Bill is an active member of this Chapter and will be a fine addition to the Board.

### Officers

(Board Contact Number 615-415-6816)

#### **President**

COL Doug Minton

#### **1st Vice President**

CAPT Dale Lewelling

#### **Secretary**

LCDR Gus Gustafson

#### **Treasurer**

LTC Michael Patenaude/

CAPT Dale Lewelling

#### **Past President**

CDR John Ohlinger

#### **Directors**

BG Jeremiah Brophy

LTC Wanda Graham

1st Lt John Manley

CAPT Dana McLendon

CAPT Charles Stewart

CAPT Dennis Witzenburg

#### **Auxiliary Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

### 2010 Dues

Our membership year runs from January through December, which means that dues for 2010 will be due in a few short weeks. We will include a self-addressed envelope with the December newsletter for use in submitting your dues; or if you misplace the envelope after receiving the newsletter, you may remit your dues to:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA  
P. O. Box 50252

Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Your dues status will be indicated by the year your dues are paid through; if it shows "Dues Paid Through January 2010" then its time to locate the checkbook. Dues are \$20.00 for regular members, and \$5.00 for Auxiliary members.

**We currently have 262 active members.**

### Newsletter via Email

To date we have heard from 103 of 137 members with email concerning receiving the newsletter via email. If you would like to receive it in this manner, and have not already responded please send your address to [info@mtcmooa.org](mailto:info@mtcmooa.org) today.

### MTC Board Notes

We have all witnessed in the news the skill and compassion with which our Wounded Warriors are cared for as they are moved from conflict to recuperation. Our November speaker, Col Jackie Nave, Commander of the 118th Aero Medical Evacuation Squadron, TN Air National Guard brought this process to life as she explained the equipment, process and personnel that are combined to provide this care.

We had a strong contingent of our members who served in the Medical Professions in the audience to include 2Lt Ginnie Tribble, CAPT David Moses, LTC Jim Carter, 1LT Dorothy Davis, Capt India Matlock, COL Bill Bacon, and Lt Col Sara Jayne Williams. Col Nave was able to draw numerous comparisons to the impact their experiences had on the manner in which this care is administered today.

We should all hold the corpsmen, nurses and doctors and Medical Service personnel that treat our wounded and injured service members in a special place in our hearts and it was very gratifying to be able to express this appreciation during the meeting. Attendance was a bit low, but enthusiasm was right up there where it ought to be.

Please extend a hearty welcome to the following new members:

**COL Bob Johnston**  
USA

**Col Jackie Nave**  
TN ANG

**Capt Ed Zeagler**  
USMC

We will not have the pleasure of visiting with each other again until 2010, so please accept our extended Christmas greetings to each of you and your families! And we would stand amiss if we didn't all offer a silent prayer on behalf of all those young men and women serving this great nation in our Armed Forces, many of them in distant and dangerous lands far away from friends and family.

*Merry Christmas!*

Doug Minton, President, MTC

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## Upcoming MTC Programs

### NO DECEMBER MEETING

January 26, 2010  
**Annual Chapter Organizational Meeting**

February 23, 2010  
**Annual Personal Affairs Presentation**

## 2009 Tennessee All Academy & ROTC Ball

The 2009 Tennessee All Academy and ROTC Ball will be held at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville on Monday, **December 28, 2009** at 6:00 PM.

The event benefits the National Wounded Warrior Project and is registered as 501(c) (3) charitable organization.

LTC Mike Newton (Ret) USMA '84 and a member of this Chapter will be the guest speaker and CAPT Mark Rogers, USN Ret will be the master of ceremonies.

Uniform is Full Dress over white/Mess Dress, Black Tie optional.

For reservations or more information go to [www.tennesseemilitaryball.org](http://www.tennesseemilitaryball.org) or call Becky Ross at 615-377-7774.

## *Legislative News*

### **Senate Approves Family-Caregiver Bill**

On November 19, the Senate unanimously approved **S. 1963, the Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009**, a major MOAA goal.

The legislation will alleviate some of the heart-wrenching situations families of wounded warriors have encountered. Many caregivers have been forced to quit their jobs, deplete their savings and retirement accounts, give up their own health care benefits, or become destitute as a result of caring for their wounded service member or disabled veteran. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee told members, "The toll on the caregivers who try to do it all can be measured in higher rates of depression and poor health as they struggle to care for these wounded warriors - an obligation that ultimately belongs to the government...this legislation fulfills the VA's obligation to care for the nation's wounded veterans by providing their caregivers with counseling, support, and a living stipend - including health care."

The bill also contains a number of other important provisions:

- Increased mental health care funding for women veterans suffering from military sexual trauma
- Medical services for newborn children of female vets
- Improved access to care in rural areas
- Creation of programs to combat veteran homelessness

The House has passed a less-extensive bill, H.R. 3155, and Congressional leaders are expected to meet shortly to resolve differences between the bills.