



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2015 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

October 2015

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

27 October 2015; 11:30 AM

“Substance Abuse Services
for Veterans in TN ”

Ellen Abbott

Director of Criminal Justice Services
Dept. of Mental Health and Substance
Abuse Services

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive
Franklin, TN 37069

There are currently 45 TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services funded Recovery Courts around the state. A Recovery Court is a specialized court or court calendar, comprised of a multidisciplinary team of individuals that serves to address the needs of nonviolent offenders who have substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental health issues, or who are veterans. Around the nation, most of these courts are called “Drug Courts.” However, in Tennessee, the term “Recovery Court” is used to symbolize the all-encompassing aspect of the court program and the focus on recovery. Recovery Court programs’ are highly structured and demanding. The journey is long and can be difficult, but if participants take ownership of their lives and the choices they make, they can break the cycle of addiction and crime and live a life of recovery.

“We are facing a major prescription drug problem in our state,” Commissioner E. Douglas Varney said. “We need to focus all of our resources in the most efficient, effective, and collaborative way to maximize our impact on this issue and drug abuse overall. And because so many people who are dealing with a substance abuse issue also have a mental health issue – a situation referred to as a co-occurring disorder – these Recovery Courts will be able to help them get all the help that they need at one time and in one location.”

Recovery Courts have existed in Tennessee since 1997 and established in statute in 2003 (T.C.A. §16-22-101-114). Executive Order No. 12 transferred them to TDMHSAS oversight in June 2012. Each Recovery Court receiving state funding must adhere to the principles set forth in the 10 Key Components, an evidence-based list established by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals with support from the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

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Upcoming Reminders

The November meeting date will be the third Tuesday (November 17) instead of our regular fourth Tuesday to accommodate those that travel over Thanksgiving.

We will continue our tradition of collecting new and unwrapped toys at the November meeting for the Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” initiative sponsored locally by the Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines. Please bring new unwrapped toys to the November meeting and we will collect and deliver them to the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Smyrna, TN. Before Christmas.

No meeting in December to accommodate all of the family activities that go on at that time.

President’s Letter

If you have not visited the MOAA website recently, I recommend you do so. MOAA launched its revamped website last month with easier to find information and resources on subjects such as Pay and Benefits. Although active duty personnel will get a small pay increase, retirees will not see an increase this year.

Our luncheon guest speaker in September was former pro-football player and coach Jim Ryan. His journeyman experience as an undrafted eventual starter with the Denver Broncos and 10 years in the league gave us a view of a player’s life not often seen by fans of the game. If you missed this meeting, you missed a superb presentation.

During our October luncheon I will be in Orlando, Florida at the Annual MOAA Meeting to receive our third consecutive 5 Star Chapter Award. I want to thank all of our board members and all of you for helping to make our chapter top notch. A strong and growing membership is key to our future and so far this year we have added 20 new members.

Colonel David Kenneth Holland, USA (retired), 87, of Brentwood, TN died Sunday, September 13, 2015. Colonel Holland was a long time and very active member of our chapter. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family. His wife, Claire Mabry Holland has indicated that she plans to stay active in the chapter. MTC’s Surviving Spouses representative and board member, Patricia Bergquist, has done a super job at the national and chapter levels and is always available to assist our surviving spouses.

In closing, I want to congratulate Colonel Kent Crossley, our Legislative Affairs Liaison, on his recent selection as Executive Director, Centerstone Military Services, the parent organization of Courage Beyond.

Scott Cantlon
LTC, USA Retired
President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Happy 240th Birthday
U. S. Navy
October 13, 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events	Legislative Affairs Update
21 October 2015; 11:00 AM "MOAA TN Council of Chapters' Meeting" Veteran's Building, Ward Agricultural Center, Lebanon, TN	Senate and House representative positions on key issues are important to the Middle TN Chapter of MOAA members and MOAA National. Senators Corker and Alexander have not cosponsored any bills associated with the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Caregiver expansion, Veteran Status, VA access for female veterans, Military Spouse employment or Concurrent Receipt.
-	-Survivor Benefit Plan
23 October 2015; 4:40-5:30 PM VU NROTC National Security Symposium "Space and Cyberspace; Vital to National Defense and Security" General John E. Hyten, USAF Commander, USAF Space Command Vanderbilt University, Sarratt Cinema	Current receipt legislation would reduce or end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP annuities or increase the amounts payable to survivors subject to deduction. S.B. 979 Sen Nelson; H.R. 1594 Rep Wilson (TN Cosponsor: Desjarlais (41), Cooper (5), Black (6), Blackburn (7) Cohen (9))
-	-Caregiver expansion legislation would provide veterans of all eras the full range of caregiver support services through the VA S.B. 1085 Sen Patty Murray; H.R. 1969 Rep Jim Langevin (TN Cosponsor: Cohen 9)
27 October 2015: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "Substance Abuse Services for Veterans in TN" Ellen Abbott Director of Criminal Justice Services Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services	-Veteran Status legislation would grant veteran status to members of the reserve components who served a career of 20 years or more and are military retirees but who, through no fault of their own, are not recognized by our government as veterans. S.B. 743 Sen John Boozman; H.R. 1384 Rep Walz
-	-VA Access for female veteran legislation would improve services and standards for female veterans using the VA. S.B. 471 Sen Heller; H.R. 1356 Rep Coffman (TN Cosponsor: Cohen 9)
30-31 October 2015 "MOAA National Annual Meeting" Orlando, FL	-Military Spouse employment legislation would authorize tax credits for employers who hire military spouses or credits for military spouses who incur relicensing / credentialing expenses associated with a military-ordered move between states. S.B. 759 Sen Casey; H.R. 1620 Rep Cartwright
-	-Concurrent Receipt legislation would reduce or eliminate the deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay. S.B. 271 Sen Reid; H.R. 303 Rep Bilirakis; H.R. 333 Bishop (TN Cosponsor: Cohen 9)
3 November 2015: 7:00-8:00 AM "MTC MOAA Board Meeting" 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204	Congressional Engagement President LTC (Ret) Scott Cantlon, COL (Ret) Doug Minton, CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger and COL (Ret) Kent Crossley visited Senator Bob Corker's office and spoke to Field Representative Carlie Cruse about four key MOAA issues related to keeping our military strong and helping service members and their families; active and retired. Ms. Cruse was very familiar with these issues and explained that the Senator was a strong supporter of the military, however did not go into detail about the Senator's position on either S.B. 271 or S.B. 979. She did note that funding for the military either to increase pay or increase military spending would require a waiver to the sequestration spending limitations. This would require significant legislation because it would invalidate the current agreement all federal agencies are maintaining. The other alternative would be a reallocation of funds from within DOD.
-	Respectfully submitted, /s/ Kent Crossley, COL, USA Retired, MTC Legislative Affairs Liaison
7 November 2015; 2:00 PM "Tennessee State University vs. Austin Peay University Football Game" Honoring all Veterans Veteran and up to two family members have free admission. Hale Stadium - Nashville, TN	
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14 November 2015; 7:30 AM "Patriot Dash 5 K Race/Walk" NGATN - EANGTN 250 8th Ave Smyrna, TN 37167	