

Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2015 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Web Site: mtcmoaa.org February 2016

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

23 February, 2016; 11:30 AM

"Aging in Place: What you should consider now!"

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

Cindy Natsch & Denise Becker Home Livability Consultants, A Better Nest Nashville

> Old Natchez Country Club 115 Gardengate Drive Franklin, TN 37069

Our relationship with our homes is such that with the passage of time we begin to overlook the small inconveniences that we encounter on a day to day basis, but as we age or have to care for family and friends we find that our homes are no longer as welcoming as we thought. Increasingly savvy homeowners want to plan ahead, while others may have a need to quickly respond to more urgent healthcare matters. If you are planning for the future or adapting to a new set of needs, our speakers can assist by providing clarity concerning the options available to make living environments simpler, safer and more livable for individuals and families.

Cindy Natsch has been an active contributor in the Nashville senior market for over a decade. As both an entrepreneur and an advocate for healthy aging, Cindy is dedicated to educating our community (both residents and professionals) about aging-related issues. Cindy is a current board member and volunteer at FiftyForward, and serves on a variety of task forces and committees to improve the lives of seniors.

Denise Becker is a Nashville native and Project Manager with *A Better Nest*. Formerly a Clinical Social Worker, Denise developed award-winning programs for home-based and residential care that included tailoring living environments to meet both the physical and emotional needs of residents. Denise is also trained in home inspection, construction methods, and home modifications to accommodate aging and physical challenges.

Officers

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COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA <u>Surviving Spouse Liaison</u> Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

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Website

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Membership Dues

We are now actively soliciting dues payments for the 2016 membership year. Your Board has continued the dues at a level of \$5.00 for Surviving Spouses and \$20 for all other members.

The Dues Letter was mailed earlier this week, and contained a preaddressed envelope for your use in submitting them, or you can pay in person at the next Meeting. We are also participating in the MOAA online Chapter Dues payment option when you pay your National Dues. (If your pre-addressed envelope pulls a vanishing act, you can mail dues to the address above.)

If you did not receive a Dues Letter, then it most likely means that you do not owe dues for this year. If you are unsure on that issue, please ask our Treasurer or Secretary at an upcoming meeting or call the phone number given above to determine if you fall into the category of needing to pay.

President's Letter

Editor: Doug Minton

January's MTC Luncheon Meeting was very well attended and Beth Harwell, Speaker of the House, Tennessee House of Representatives, gave an excellent presentation that was followed with a very robust question and answer session.

This month's luncheon will cover the MTC Board of Directors Annual Report on 2015, Proposed By-Laws Changes, and the Personal Affairs presentation on "Aging in Place: What you should consider now!" The proposed by-laws changes are updates to the MTC officer nominating process and officer and board of director term limits that are keeping with current chapter management best practices.

On February 17th, MTC along with the MOAA Tennessee Council of Chapters will join with a coalition of other veterans' organizations in Tennessee to participate in the "First Consolidated Veterans Legislative Day at Tennessee's Capital Hill." It is the coalition's plan to make this an annual affair to positively influence veteran legislation in Tennessee. There are 47 bills related to veteran causes before the state legislature and it is likely 15-20 of these bills will ultimately reach the floor for a vote. The coalition is particularly interested in three bills on property relief, extending free admission to Veterans to state parks, and the reduction of the Hall Income Tax for Veterans with service connected disabilities. The goal of this event is to make sure every legislator is visited and reminded of veterans' interest in these three bills. If you would like to participate please contact our Legislative Liaison, Kent Crossley.

The lifeblood of any chapter is a steady flow of new members. Our chapter is poised to continue last year's excellent growth again this year. It appears that once invited to attend one of our monthly luncheon meetings potential candidates usually become chapter members. Please continue to reach out and bring potential new members to our monthly luncheon meetings. I hope that you can make our next MTC meeting!

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

Happy 87th Birthday MOAA! Established February 23, 1929.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

17 February 2016

"First Consolidated Veterans Legislative Day"

Tennessee's Capitol Hill Nashville, Tennessee

(RSVP to <u>veteransdayonthehill@gmail.com</u> by 5 February 2016)

24 February 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting
"Aging in Place: What you should consider now!"
Cynthia J. Natsch & Denise Becker
Home Livability Consultants, A Better Nest Nashville

10-13 March 2016

"87th National Guard Association of Tennessee State Conference"

Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro ,TN

22 March 2016; 11:30 AM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "Changing Roles of Women in the Military" Colonel Julia Meade, USMC (Ret)

26 April 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Resetting U.S. and Cuban Relations, Round 2"

Dr. Frank Robinson Vanderbilt University

24 May 2016; 11:30 AM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Alberto Gonzales

Dean of the Belmont University Law School 80th United States Attorney General

Remaining MTC MOAA Meeting Dates for 2016:

28 June 2016 26 July 2016 23 August 2016 27 September 2016 25 October 2016 15 November 2016 No Meeting December 2016

Legislative Affairs Update

Federal.

As previously reported, current law unfairly makes military survivors forfeit part or all of their military Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP). The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a VA program that provides a \$1,254 monthly annuity for survivors of veterans whose death is ruled service connected. The "widow tax" is a reduction in SBP payments by the DIC. MOAA convinced congress in 2008 to provide a modest Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to offset that "tax". This payment will end in OCT 2017 unless Congress extends this payment. House Bill sponsored by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) is proposing to end this off set.

State

Legislative bills for 2016. This year's legislative session is starting out strong and should move rapidly. All bills are in as of 27 Jan. In total, there are 47 bills related to veteran causes. There likely will be 15-20 of these bills ultimately reaching the floor for a vote, as some are very similar. Of particular interest are the property relief bills, seven of which deal with exemptions for those permanently disabled. Other non related bills for example extend free admission to Veterans to state parks or reduce the Hall income tax for Veterans with service connected disabilities.

There is a strong effort by various veteran organizations in the state to hold a one-day presence on the legislative hill before this legislature begins voting on bills. Mr. Bill Summers, the Legislative Affairs Liaison for the Ft. Campbell MOAA chapter and other organizations are planning this event to make aware to legislators the significant population of voting veterans in the state. The coalition wants to advance at least three bills (to be determined) to be passed during this legislative session. The group leading this is asking for any and all members of the MOAA chapters to participate in this day long schedule of meetings with their representatives. It is very important we visit all legislators and have someone from their district as a speaker. While this is coming together very fast this year we have been assured that next years approach will include a much earlier notification so that more can participate.

Respectfully submitted, /s/ Kent Crossley COL, USA Retired MTC Legislative Affairs Liaison