



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2019 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

March 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

23 March 2021; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

"God's Word for Warriors"

Dr. Tom Seals, USMC

Founder and Executive Director
 God's Word for Warriors Foundation

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

Tom Seals served in the Marine Corps from 1957-1960, with the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan, followed by several years with the U.S. Government in Europe.

He is a former 28-year Professor of undergraduate Bible courses as well as Biblical ethics and textual studies at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN and has served as Chaplain to campus Veterans.

He received his BA in Biblical languages from Lipscomb in 1971, his M.T.S. degree from Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. in 1976, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1999.

In addition, Tom has completed post-doctoral work in Pentateuchal Studies and in Religion, Politics and Social Issues from Vanderbilt University. He has published Proverbs. Wisdom for All Ages, Sermon on the Mount for Modern Living, The Quest for Spiritual Maturity, and God's Word for Warriors. He has served as pulpit minister in Virginia, Tennessee, and Colorado. Tom is actively involved with the *Instituto Biblica Interamericano* (IBI) in Lima, Peru, serving as International President.

Tom is Founder, President and Executive Director of the non-profit "Gods Word for Warriors".

Tom and his wife, Barbara, have three children: Amy, Tom Jr. (deceased), and Melanie, along with three grandchildren.

RSVP Request for our March Meeting

We request that everyone planning on attending our upcoming meeting notify us accordingly. With Covid-19 precautions still in place, we know that ONCC will need for us to forecast our attendance number so that adequate seating can be ensured and more importantly that adequate food can be ordered for the event attendees.

We would appreciate receiving all RSVP confirmations NO LATER THAN 16 March, 2021.

Officers

President

LTC (Ret) Mike Patenaude, USA

1st Vice President

Lt.Col. (Ret) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF

2nd Vice President

COL (Ret) Kent Crossley, USA

Secretary

COL (Ret) Doug Minton, USA

Treasurer

1LT Deryl Bauman, USA

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton, USN

CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, USN

LTC (Ret) Doug Gilbert, USA

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. (Ret) Arlie Haddix, USAF

Legislative Liaison

LTC (Ret) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chaplain

CDR (Ret) Ted Edwards, USN

Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Contact Email:

info@mtcmoaa.org

MTC Transition Initiative

Your Chapter is investigating an initiative to provide assistance for transitioning officers in the local area. The initial effort is to identify chapter members willing to mentor individuals seeking direction in particular fields of business, and/or those that could provide more process assistance for transitioning into the civilian workplace. **At this point we are looking to identify chapter members willing to talk about how this process could work, and then assist in formalizing that process.** As officers we all remember how the guidance and direction of our seniors played a significant role in our development, and we are in hopes that the willingness to "continue to serve" will elicit a strong response from our chapter. The program development will be led by Lt. Col. Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret.) and COL Kent Crossley, USA Retired. If you are interested, please reply to info@mtcmoaa.org.

President's Letter

Thanks to all who attended our 23 February meeting! We had 27 attend and we received an excellent presentation from Ms. Jane Ziesmer, a military spouse and TN Long-Term Care Ombudsman. She explained the Tennessee Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and provided a lot of information that was relevant to most of our families. Judging from the number of people who waited to speak with her after the meeting, I believe her presentation hit home with a lot of our members.


I'm happy to announce that we will hold our 23 March meeting in person based on the favorable COVID statistics. As a reminder, we will continue with our COVID precautions of masks, spaced tables and plated meals. We will need your RSVP to help plan the meal count. Our presenter will be Dr. Tom Seals formerly a Lipscomb University professor, who will tell us about the program called "God's Word for Warriors". Dr. Seals served as a Marine in the Vietnam war and eventually became a professor of Bible Studies. His program is a support program for veterans.

We had a show of hands at our February meeting and well over half of those in attendance had received their first dose of the vaccine, and a substantial number had also received the second dose. That was great to see! This spring is looking to be an incredibly special season.

On the advocacy front, there is much to keep up with that is outlined in our March issue of Military Officer. An informative article begins on page 14 titled "MOAA Works with New Congress". Beginning on page 15 is a lengthy list of Congressional Budget Office recommendations for cost-cutting; many of the items targeting active and retired military benefits. We will be hearing more from MOAA as the 117th Congress begins work on the budget. There is another excellent detailed article beginning on page 18 about the effects of recent veterans' legislation.

We are now presenting ROTC and Junior ROTC awards, and I want to put a plug in for our support of the JROTC and ROTC awards programs. Most of the presentations fall into the March – April time frame each year. Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett (ROTC) and CAPT Larry Cotton (JROTC) continue to do an outstanding job of ensuring that we have members to make presentations at these awards ceremonies. If you are interested in attending or presenting at a ceremony this year, please contact Lt. Col. Uzzell-Baggett or CAPT Cotton.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 23 March meeting!


 Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

23 March 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"God's Word for Warriors"

Dr. Tom Seals, USMC

Founder and Executive Director

God's Word for Warriors Foundation

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin, TN 37069

-

6 April 2021; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

27 April 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee State Senator Heidi Campbell"

District 20

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin, TN 37069

-

4 May 2021; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

28 May 2021 - Time to be Determined

"MTC Memorial Day Remembrance"

Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

McCrory Lane

-

1 June 2021; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

22 June 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee State Representative

COL Sam Whitson, USA Retired"

District 65

Member Middle TN Chapter, MOAA

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin, TN 37069

-

Legislative Update

STATE

Since vaccinations began, the Tennessee National Guard has helped administer over 223,000 vaccinations across Tennessee. As of February 23, 680 Guardsmen are activated and working alongside the Health Department and local agencies providing support during the ongoing pandemic. Over the last year, more than 1,600 Guardsmen have assisted with COVID-19 testing. Guardsmen are supporting 126 individual locations in 72 counties as of February 23.

TVET BILLS OF INTEREST:

HB 0504/SB 0390 - As introduced, designates June 12 as "Women's Veterans Day," a day of special observance. SB 0390--Placed on Senate State and Local Government Committee calendar for 3/2/2021. HB 0504-- Placed on cal. Naming & Designating for 3/2/2021.

HB 0442/SB 0793 - As introduced, enacts the "Major Trevor Joseph Act," which requires the department to provide burial services for a person who died while on active duty with the armed forces and is being interred in a state veterans cemetery on a date requested by the family members of the person if the department is given notice of the burial at least 72 hours in advance of the burial. HB 0442-- Departments & Agencies Subcommittee for 3/2/2021. SB 0793--- Referred to Senate State and Local Government Committee 2/11/2021.

FEDERAL

On 5 February, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum directing a one-day stand-down to address extremism in the ranks. On 18 February, HQDA published EXORD 108-21 Extremism Stand-Down. To reinforce the Secretary of Defense's guidance, the Army will conduct a service-wide stand-down which will be completed by April 6, 2021, for active component commands and no later than June 6, 2021, for reserve component commands.

As of February 26, 2021, women will be allowed to have buzz cuts. And they will be able to wear combinations of styles, such as locks pulled back in a ponytail, which for years were off limits. The new rules allow short ponytails at all times, and long ponytails in combat and in training when a bun might otherwise interfere with equipment.

More than 1 million Veterans have at least one vaccine and 400,000 received both doses. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Veterans in rural and highly rural communities not receiving the vaccine is a concern. About 4.7 million Veterans live in rural and highly rural areas. Of those, about 2.7 million use VA health care.

LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert
MTC Legislative Affairs