



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



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

April 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

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

**"Tennessee State Senator
Heidi Campbell"**

District 20

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

Senator Heidi Campbell is a Nashville native, a Mom, a former music industry executive and was the first female Mayor of the city of Oak Hill with six years of experience as an elected leader in this district. In her time in this office, she focused on cultivating relationships with local and state stakeholders and established a track record for fiscal discipline.

In the state senate her focus is on bringing compassionate and data-based leadership to the legislature. Senator Campbell is the Chair of the Davidson County Senate Caucus, and serves on the Fiscal Review, Energy and Government Operations committees.

She lives near Radnor Lake with her husband Andrew, her two children, and a few Goldendoodles.

April 27 Meeting RSVP Request

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. And yes, masks will still be required for indoor dining.

We would appreciate receiving all RSVP confirmations NO LATER THAN 20 April, 2021.

Significant Accomplishment

We would truly be amiss if we failed to recognize a noteworthy accomplishment by one of our very active members; Capt. (Ret.) Jerry Neal, USAF has recently celebrated his 100th birthday! You will remember that Jerry's activity on D-Day and throughout World War II was very remarkable. It will be interesting to see how he feels it compares to his most recent milestone.

Please join us at our April meeting to offer our congratulations to Jerry for another significant achievement!

Officers

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Chapter Contact Information

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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info@mtcmoaa.org

**TN Alzheimer's Association
Military Advisory Council**

The Tennessee Alzheimer's Association is still looking for participants and a prospective Council leader.

If you have interest in participating please contact Ms. Kelsey Williams at kewilliams@alz.org

The goal of the organization is to provide support and education for military families impacted by dementia.

Their current focus is on coordinating dementia education programs for military organizations and groups, as well as making connections within our networks for new council members and community partners.

If any MOAA members or other veterans that you may know are interested in participating, please contact Kelsey Williams.

President's Letter

Another excellent meeting in March with 37 in attendance. Dr. Tom Seals a minister, former Marine, and former Lipscomb University professor, presented on his veteran ministry program, "God's Word for Warriors". His presentation was impassioned and insightful into combat veteran emotional and spiritual struggles and his program's focus on providing a pathway to healing. This was our second in-person meeting in 2021, the first having 25 in attendance, so our attendance is growing. Thanks to all who were able to attend.

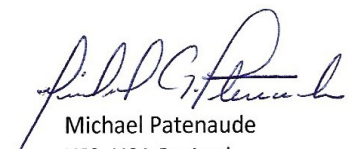
By now, a majority of our attendees have been vaccinated and that number continues to grow. When I wrote this letter a year ago in April 2020, we had little knowledge about the nature of this virus, how much impact it would have, the timeline for a vaccine, or when we could resume our meetings, etc. etc. I am grateful to be on the return path from our society shutting down over a year ago, and I remain hopeful that our progress will continue.

It is time to take action as part of our MOAA advocacy. In your April issue of Military Officer, there are tear out letters to our congressional leaders for us to sign and mail. Numbers count in advocacy and MOAA has a strong voice. These letters focus on the FY 2021 NDAA; specifically, the issues of toxic exposure reform, Health Care for Military Families Act, and Basic Needs Allowance for uniformed services families at or below 130% of the federal poverty rate. I signed and mailed mine today. I hope you will do the same.

I want to thank everyone who has paid their dues so far. We appreciate your support. To date we have 77% of the membership who paid their dues for 2021. If you have not paid your dues for this year please mail them to the Chapter address shown on this page, or log into MOAA National and select the Middle TN Chapter to pay online.

I have an important announcement for our luncheon two months from now in May; we will hold it in the new Operation Stand Down TN facility at 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 and you will be invited for a tour of the new facility if you want to remain after our meeting. We will be served Mission Barbeque. More details will follow.

Keep in mind that our regular luncheon meeting for this month, will be at our normal location of the Old Natchez Country Club on 27 April, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.


 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

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

7 May 2021; 5:45 - 9:00 PM

12th Annual "A Life Worth Celebrating"

Annual Fundraising event for A Soldiers Child
tickets at: asoldierschild.org

Embassy Suites, 1200 Conference Center Blvd,
Murfreesboro, TN

8 May 2021; 5:30 PM until....

"Songwriters' Night"

Joshua Chamberlain Society of Nashville Fundraiser

tickets at: chamberlainsociety.org/events

Leiper's Fork Distillery, Franklin, TN

25 May 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

(More Details to Follow!)

29 May 2021 - 10:00 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Remembrance"

Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

McCrary 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

Legislative Update

In support of the National MOAA 2021 legislative advocacy please take a few minutes to extract, sign and mail the letters to Congressional Leaders that can be found in the April 2021 *MOAA Magazine*. (Note: there are two copies of each letter in case your spouse or significant other wants to submit one as well.) You can annotate the letters with personal reasons on why you support the subjects of the letters ("Toxic Exposure Reform", "Health Care Fairness for Military Families", and "Securing Basic Needs Allowance in the 2022 NDAA"). If you do not receive a copy of the *MOAA Magazine*, you can achieve similar results by visiting moaa.org Advocacy: Legislative Action Center and completing the emails on these issues.

The Military Coalition (TMC) represents more than 5.5 million service members, veterans, their families, and survivors. **MOAA is a leading member of the TMC.** As the Department of Defense (DoD) begins work on the FY 2022 budget request, TMC has stepped up to request the following items be addressed:

TRICARE fee increases. Healthcare is one of the most important elements of the military compensation and benefits package and a key to retention. After two decades of unprecedented demands on the all-volunteer force, the cohort that served nearly their entire careers during wartime is approaching retirement or recently retired. At the same time, TRICARE fee increases have diminished the value of the healthcare benefit, particularly for retirees. Since MHS reforms were passed into law with the FY 2017 NDAA, beneficiaries have faced a series of out-of-pocket cost increases. In 2018, copays for outpatient visits more than doubled. In 2018 and 2020, pharmacy copays increased, and biennial pharmacy copay hikes are programmed in statute through 2027. As of January 2021, Group A retirees on TRICARE Select have a higher catastrophic cap and a new annual enrollment fee.

Reconsider medical billet cuts. TMC supports congressionally mandated MHS reforms aimed at improving medical readiness and system efficiencies if access to high quality care is maintained for our service members, their families, retirees, and other beneficiaries. However, we have great concerns about medical billet cuts driven by the Services and included in the FY 2020 and 2021 administration budget requests. Proposed medical end strength reductions of nearly 18,000 billets represent an 18% cut to uniformed medical personnel. The current pandemic has highlighted the risks of eliminating surge capacity within the medical system.

Sustain funding to the Uniformed Services University (USU) of the Health Sciences. USU plays an essential role in filling the uniformed health care provider pipeline, including clinical psychologists, nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists in addition to physicians. USU is the single largest accession source for physicians into the force.