



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



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

June 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

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

**"Tennessee State Representative
 COL Sam Whitson, USA Retired"**

District 65
 MTC Member

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

Colonel Sam Whitson is a native Tennessean, his family having first arrived in Middle Tennessee in 1807. He graduated from Glencliff High School and attended Middle TN State University on an Army ROTC Scholarship, where he received both an A.A. and a B.S. degree. Following graduation in 1976 he was commissioned a second lieutenant as a Regular Army officer. Sam commanded at company, battalion and brigade level units, and served on staffs at the battalion, brigade, division and corps levels. He had the opportunity to witness significant historical events while stationed in Germany from 1989 to 1992, including the fall of the Berlin Wall, collapse of the WARSAW PACT, and deployment of U.S. combat forces from Germany to the Middle East. He had wartime service in Iraq with the U.S. Army's VII Corps during Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm.

He retired in 2002 at the rank of colonel after serving for 26 years.

Following retirement he was employed as a defense contractor and regional manager providing training support and personnel for the Department of the Army at college and university level ROTC programs from 2002 to 2011.

When Sam returned to Tennessee, he stayed very busy in the Williamson County area, volunteering extensively and becoming involved in the local community. His sense of community service eventually led him to become dissatisfied with local state politics and in 2017 he put his beliefs into action and ran against a heavily favored incumbent for the position of Representative for House District 65. He won and took office in the 110th General Assembly. He was re-elected in 2020 to the same position in the 112th General Assembly. He currently is assigned to the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, the Health Committee, and the Transportation Committee.

Sam is devoted to his community, neighbors, friends, family, all dogs and especially his two sons, two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and Pam, his high school sweetheart and wife of 47-years.

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Chapter Contact Information

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info@mtcmoaa.org

RSVP NOT Required for the June meeting.

If you have been vaccinated for Covid-19 there is **NO** mask requirement for this meeting; however, if you have not been vaccinated we ask that you wear a mask in the meeting, with the exception of when you are eating.

If you have been vaccinated and still feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then please do so.

MOAA 2021 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award - Website

We are pleased to announce that the Middle TN Chapter Website was awarded the MOAA 5-Star award for Websites in May. This is the first time the Chapter has submitted for this Award.

Many thanks to all that have provided content and suggestions for format over the many years.

President's Letter

We have a lot for which to be thankful and to remember this month. To begin with, we had an excellent May meeting as guests of OSDTN where we were welcomed by CEO, BG Eden Murrie, USAF Retired, also a member of our chapter. We had 38 members present for an engaging presentation from Belmont University Men's Basketball Coach Casey Alexander and a great meal provided by veteran-owned Mission Barbeque. Our luncheon was followed by a tour, and it was inspiring to see the new facilities that focus on holistically serving the different needs of our veterans.

I want to thank all of you who attended our Memorial Ceremony on May 29th at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. We had great weather for the event and even had a small busload of 20 extra people show up who were appreciative to attend our ceremony. Once again, we were supported by the US Navy Operational Support Center who provided outstanding color guard and bugler support.


Speaking personally, I truly enjoyed entering and attending our May meeting without wearing a mask since protocols no longer require masks for vaccinated people. I have recently attended church, gone shopping and attended a wedding, all without a mask. I know most of you have experienced the same, and I sure am thankful for that step toward normalcy.

Lastly, and I feel most importantly, I am thankful on the June anniversaries of our nation's successful WW2 battles of the D-Day invasion of Europe and the Battle of Midway. The sacrifices made in those battles are unimaginable. Our Chapter has the privilege of knowing member Jerry Neal, who was part of the US D-Day battles. Our country and the rest of the free world live in a tremendous debt to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight to defend freedom against tyranny.

It was great to introduce our new members at the May meeting. Our membership has been climbing steadily over the past few months. If you know anyone who ever served as a uniformed officer of the United States, please invite them to one of our meetings so they can learn more about MOAA and our Middle TN Chapter.

This month, we will hear from COL Sam Whitson, USA Ret. who currently serves as a member of the TN House of Representatives.

As a reminder, our June meeting will be back in the Old Natchez Country Club. I look forward to seeing you there!


 Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

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



Happy Birthday to the U. S. Army!
 14 June 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<u>Upcoming Programs & Events</u>	<u>Legislative Update</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">19 June 2021 "Military Retiree Appreciation Day 2021" June 21- 25 2021 "Week of the Eagles" Ft. Campbell, KY -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 June 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "Tennessee State Representative COL Sam Whitson, USA Retired" District 65 MTC Member Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 July 2021; 7- 8:00 AM "MTC Monthly Board Meeting" NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 July 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM "TN Council of Chapters Meeting" (Location or Zoom - yet to be determined) -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 July 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "CAPT Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret) " Senior Director, MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 August 2021; 7- 8:00 AM "MTC Monthly Board Meeting" NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 August 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting "Speaker TBD " Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 September 2021; 7- 8:00 AM "MTC Monthly Board Meeting"</p>	<p>State:</p> <p>The following Veteran/Military related Legislation from the 112th General Assembly was passed and has been or will be signed into Tennessee law in 2021:</p> <p><u>H.B. 1578/S.B.1183</u> - Legislation which as enacted provides 36 hours of yearly leave for a state employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more to be used to attend appointments related to the service-connected disability.</p> <p><u>H.B.1150/S.B. 1173</u> - Legislation enacted to revise various provisions of the TN Helping Heroes Grants.</p> <p><u>H.B. 442/S.B.793</u> - Legislation enacts the "Major Trevor Joseph Act" which requires the (TDVS) 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.</p> <p>H.B.82/S.B. 754 - As enacted, establishes state employment protections for members of the national guard, state guard, and civil air patrol called to active state duty equivalent to the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) for members of the national guard called to federal active service.</p> <p><u>H.B. 504 / S. 390</u> - Legislation enacted to designate June 12 as "Women's Veterans Day" a day of special observance (on an ongoing annual basis).</p> <p>Federal:</p> <p>MOAA's ongoing Advocacy in Action initiative is reaching out to all Congressmen and Senators using virtual meetings to seek support and co-sponsorship of existing bills on the following subjects:</p> <p><u>H.R. 2436 / S.437</u> Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act.</p> <p><u>H.R. 2127 / S. 927</u> Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act.</p> <p><u>H.R. 475</u> Health Care Fairness for Military Families</p> <p><u>H.R. 2339 / S. 1488</u> Basic Needs Allowance Act</p> <p>To learn more about this initiative and then take action asking your Representative and Senators to get behind these bills, go online to https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?1 or call their local office to make a verbal request. <i>Please Take Action!</i></p>