



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2020 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

March 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

22 March 2022;
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

**"Veterans Affairs
from a VSO Perspective"**

Mr. Jeff Vaughn
Williamson County
Veterans Service Officer

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veteran's Benefits Administration is charged with ensuring eligible veterans receive the essential benefits they deserve. Veteran Services Officers (VSO) are the agents charged with assisting veterans and their dependents with acquiring non-healthcare related benefits. VSOs are trained and accredited by the VA or other veterans' organizations like the American Legion to carry out these critical duties. Williamson County is lucky to have a dedicated VSO, Jeff Vaughn, working on veterans' behalf.

Jeff grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from Edison High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991. He attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

During his 22 years career, Jeff had a variety of jobs and assignments. During his first enlistment as an F/A-18 hydraulics mechanic, he deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Japan with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225. Following his first enlistment, Jeff served with AT (TOW) Co. 4th Tank Battalion while attending the University of Oklahoma.

Following several deployments to Iraq, Jeff was selected as an instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One in Yuma, Arizona where he later became the CH-46 Division Chief and MV-22 Instructor.

Jeff finished his career as the Director of Training for the CH-46 Crew Chief Course at Camp Pendleton, California where he retired in 2013.

After retirement, Jeff worked as an aviation manager for Shell Exploration in Alaska before becoming the Veterans Services Officer for Williamson County. Jeff and his wife, award-winning pastry chef Alena Vaughn, own Triple Crown Bakery in Franklin. Jeff has two children, Maisy who is 15 and Bradley who is 19.

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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

PLEASE NOTE

Chapter Luncheon Fees Increase

Effective March 2022, the member luncheon fee will increase to \$25.00 for the full-service lunch meal that we enjoy at our monthly meetings.

Old Natchez Country Club (ONCC) contacted the chapter in January about raising the luncheon fee due to the rising costs for labor and food, which all hospitality venues are experiencing.

ONCC has raised its prices for its club members, and we are not immune from these adjustments.

We will continue to enjoy a salad, entrée, and dessert, along with wonderful service from our wait staff, in a beautiful setting.

Thank you in advance for your support.

President's Letter

I would like to sincerely thank the chapter members and guests who attended the February meeting despite having to travel through fierce rainstorms. The event at Operation Stand Down Tennessee allowed members to come together for fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal provided by Mission BBQ, a veteran-owned firm. More importantly, the chapter got to hear from Chief John Drake of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department about his philosophy and public safety goals for the #25 fastest growing city in the country. After sharing formative aspects of his life, the Chief relayed his vision for recruiting more police officers, refocusing training, and improving public safety. Reducing juvenile crime through reviving the sports league and increasing positive mentorship relationships were hallmarks of Chief Drake's vision.

There is a change in speakers for March. Ms. Traci Holton of the Nashville International Airport had a last-minute conflict and is now rescheduled for July 26, 2022. Mr. Jeff Vaughn, Director of Veterans' Services for Williamson County, will now speak to our group. The discussion will center around Federal and state benefits that are available for veterans, dependents and surviving spouses. There is never a charge for any of the services provided by Veterans Services offices. Prepare to be amazed at the services ranging from healthcare to non-healthcare to burial benefits that are available.

The month of March holds great significance for military members. March 29th is recognized as National Vietnam War Veterans Day after being signed into law by the 45th President of the United States in 2017 following official inauguration of the commemoration by the 44th President of the United States in 2012. This is one of seven military-centric annual observances: joining Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, and Veterans Day. March 29, 1973 is the day the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam and around the final timeframe when the last acknowledged prisoners of war were released by Hanoi. No observation would be complete without acknowledging the 26 Tennessee servicemembers still listed as missing in action and their families who still seek closure.

Finally, the chapter will continue its annual tradition of awarding MOAA Outstanding Cadet of the Year awards to local JROTC and ROTC cadets. Both CAPT (ret) Larry Cotton and CDR (ret) Ted Edwards do a fantastic job with managing these programs. Please contact them if you would like to participate in these award presentations.

Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (ret), USAF
Chapter President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

13 March 2022; 4:00 PM

"USNA Glee Club Performance"

(FREE - No Tickets Required)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN

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22 March 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Veterans Affairs

From a VSO Perspective"

Mr. Jeff Vaughn

Williamson County Veterans Services Officer
Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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7 April 2022; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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26 April 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Annual Personal Affairs Meeting"

Dr. Jackie Pair, Ed.D.

Vocational Development Specialist, Nashville VA
Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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5 May 2022; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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6 May 2022; 5:45 PM - 8:30 PM

"A Life Worth Celebrating"

13th Annual Dinner Banquet/Fundraiser

A Soldier's Child Foundation

Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
(Reservations: asoldieschild.org)

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24 May 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Old Natchez Country Club

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Legislative Update

Do you know where your DD-214 and VA Disability Determination Letter are?

More importantly: Do your family survivors know?

Working through the Tennessee Legislature are House Bill HB-2220 sponsored by Rep. Hodges and Senate Bill SB-2306 sponsored by Sen. Campbell – matching bills with two numbers. They are to require the officials who sign death certificates to inspect our veteran paperwork before signing death certificates. The pressing issue is that the certificate must be signed within 72 hours, and there is no option to delay the signing while family members look for your paperwork. Death certificates can be amended after signing, but it is a slow and arduous process. The death certificate is needed to process SBP and DIC claims, so those benefits get delayed if the death certificate is wrong or delayed.

What has made this especially important in our Covid Crisis is how many death certificates are simply attributed to Covid without reference to any service-connected health matters.

There is a simple task before each of us: Make copies of those two documents for not only your surviving spouse but also for children. Put them in a sealed envelope and have them keep those copies. Think about copies for ready access entrusted to a close friend or even your attorney.

The point is that the copies are needed quickly. Your spouse and family members will become very busy quickly and could have difficulty locating your filed paperwork to make the 72-hour deadline. If several family members have the documents, somebody will be able to retrieve them quickly.

If your time comes outside of Tennessee, different states and countries will each have their own systems and deadlines – another matter but one where ready access can help move a solution along.

This may seem like a very direct article, but it is important to get this matter right. It is not easily solved after the fact, so take this little errand to heart and get the errand done.

Life is uncertain.

Please do this right away.

Ted Edwards, CDR USN (Ret.)
Legislative Affairs Liaison