



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2021 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

September 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

27 September 2022; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

“Memories of a Presidential Aide”

Col. Duffy White, USMC (Retired)
MTC Member and
Former Presidential Aide

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave So, Nashville, TN 37203

Colonel Duffy White’s career in the United States Marine Corps spans nearly thirty years where he served as an Infantry Officer. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in May, 1984 and retired as a Colonel from Active Duty in November, 2013. His combat experience includes serving in Iraq as Commanding Officer of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and in Afghanistan as the Commanding Officer of the Regimental Combat Team - 3 and the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Afghanistan from 2008 - 2009.

While a Major, Colonel White also served as the Marine Corps Military Aide to the President from 1997 to 1999. During this time, he carried the “nuclear football” for the President and witnessed a number of incredible events including the presentation of the Medal of Honor to retired Marine Corps Major General James L. Day for his actions during the Battle for Okinawa.

Colonel White holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Memphis State University, a Master of Military Studies from the Marine Command and Staff College, and a Master’s of National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

He is currently the Operations manager for InfoWorks, Inc. in Nashville.

Colonel White is married to Patricia Hannigan, LtCol, USMCR (Retired) and they have a daughter, Kathleen, who is a graduate school student at the University of Dayton, and a son, Rory, who is a Second Class Cadet at the US Air Force Academy.

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

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CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired)

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2022 MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award

Congratulations to Mrs. Patricia Bergquist, our Surviving Spouse Liaison, who was recently recognized with the 2022 MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award!

She was nominated by the Tennessee Council of Chapters for her dedicated service and was unanimously selected. Our chapter is blessed to count her as a member.

She will receive her award at the 2022 annual MOAA membership meeting held on October 28, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri.



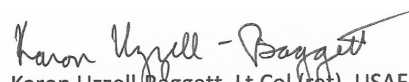
President’s Letter

Recently, I read startling statistics compiled by the Council on Criminal Justice, which has created a national commission to examine why at least one-third of veterans’ report being arrested and booked into jail at least once in their lives. This is eye-opening since fewer than one-fifth of non-veterans’ report being justice-involved. It is estimated that 181,500 veterans are currently in United States prisons and jails.

These statistics are why the dedicated work of our August luncheon speaker, Judge Melissa Blackburn, Division II General Sessions Court, is so critical. Judge Blackburn created her Davidson County Veterans Court in 2014 as an alternative sentencing initiative for men and women who had served in the military. To date, 168 people have gone through the program where the judge holds people to high standards which include refraining from drug and alcohol abuse, working with partner agencies like Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) and gaining employment. The program’s success rate exceeds 85% and is estimated to have saved Davidson County taxpayers \$13 million dollars in jail housing expenses.

In September, chapter members will get a unique opportunity to hear reflections from someone who has been given a rare opportunity to witness operations at the highest levels of government. Colonel Duffy White, USMC (Retired), will provide glimpses into his experience as a Presidential Aide during the early 1990’s. I hope you will join me at OSDTN on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

September is Hunger Action Month and marks the start of the first project we are undertaking with the Community Outreach Grant funds we received from the MOAA Foundation. Our first project is packing food bags to be delivered throughout the Middle Tennessee area to active-duty and veteran families dealing with food insecurity. This event only requires a few hours of your time on Friday, September 30, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm, but will bless military families several times over. Our next event is on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The chapter is working with the Alzheimer’s Association of Middle Tennessee to educate the military community about dementia and its impact on veterans and their caregivers. This promises to be informative and empowering. Look for registration information to come out for both events, which represent ways to “**never stop serving!**”


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



Happy 75th Birthday
USAF

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

27 September 2022: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Memories of a Presidential Aide”

Col. Duffy White, USMC (Retired)

MTC Member and Former Presidential Aide

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave So, Nashville, TN 37203

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30 September 2022; 12:00 PM-3:30 PM

MOAA Community Grant

“OSDTN Hunger Project”

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave So, Nashville, TN 37203

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1 October 2022; 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

“Military Retiree Appreciation Day”

(Open to All Branches)

Soldier Support Center, Ft. Campbell, KY

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6 October 2022; 7 - 8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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15 October 2022: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

MOAA Community Grant

“Alzheimer’s Association Dementia

Awareness Project”

Operation Stand Down TN

1125 12th Ave So, Nashville, TN 37203

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25 October 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Bunker Labs”

Sean Patton

Bunker Labs Nashville Ambassador

U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Veteran

Od Natchez Country Club

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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8 November 2022; 7:30 AM-9:30 AM

“OSDTN Heroes Breakfast”

Music City Center, Karl Dean Ballroom,

Nashville, TN

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Legislative Update

You have surely noticed all the advertising on TV about the long-term health effects of toxic waste at Camp Lejeune in the 1950s to 1980s. Those ads are sponsored by law firms seeking damages for the impacts of those wastes on the long-term health of Marines and related people. This situation is not a MOAA initiative or direct matter, but it raises the important topic of what we were exposed to during our service and what it may do to our health even decades later.

The September issue of Military Officer on page 16 tells of Marine Veteran Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas who was exposed to burn pits in Iraq at the age of 25, suffered cancer at age 38 and died at 42. She had to fight hard to have the VA connect her cancer to that exposure. Only this year did the President sign the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Service Act into law long after it was needed. The article is worth your reading.

The point is that we all need to identify and know the risks we faced from toxic materials. That means reading through your service record and medical record to refresh your memory and capture the information that may relate to your health years later and documentation of it. Nobody else will do that for you, and the documentation matters if you need it.

Where did you serve, and what were the toxic dangers? The articles in this issue were about breast cancer and toxic chemicals from burn pits in Southwest Asia, the Middle East, and Northwest Africa; however, the other historic dangers include Agent Orange, asbestos, toxic chemicals entering ground water, and many more.

MOAA championed the Dr. Kate act and may well have championed your own health in the process. We have our own parts to play as well as we remember exposures and find the documentation. May we all enjoy good health.

Other matters: The federal fiscal year ends on 30 September. The House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act in July, and the Senate sent it to committee. Then they all took their August vacation break. Now that September is here, the pressure is on to both get the NDAA passed and the whole federal budget as well. And there is the whole business of getting reelected. Busy times on Capitol Hill.

Writing to your own representatives is always important. The existing legislators remain in office until Noon on 3 January, so keep their inboxes full and your priorities expressed.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired), Legislative Affairs Liaison