



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



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

November 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

29 November 2022; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

*“Mental Health
and the Military”*

Dr. Tom Seals

MTC Member, Founder & Chairman of
God’s Word for Warriors Foundation

Old Natchez Country Club

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Dr. Tom Seals is Founder, President, and
Executive Director of the God’s Word for
Warriors organization.

He served in the United States Marine
Corps from 1957-1960, with the 3rd Ma-
rine Division in Okinawa, Japan, followed
by several years with the U.S. Government
in Europe.

Later, he taught undergraduate Bible
courses as well as Biblical ethics and textu-
al studies at Lipscomb University in Nash-
ville, TN and served as Chaplain to Veter-
ans until his December 2020 retirement.
He received his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical
languages from Lipscomb in 1971, his
Masters Degree from Wesley Seminary in
Washington, D.C. in 1976, and his Doctor-
ate in Ministry from Memphis Theological
Seminary in 1999. Dr. Seals later complet-
ed post-doctoral work in Religion, Politics
and Social Issues at Vanderbilt University.

He has served as pulpit minister in Virgin-
ia, Tennessee, and Colorado, and is pres-
ently teaching at the Bellevue Church of
Christ in Nashville, TN. Tom is actively in-
volved with an educational ministry in
Lima, Peru, serving as International Presi-
dent while also serving as Executive Direc-
tor of God’s Word for Warriors. Tom is
also a very active Honorary member of the
Middle TN Chapter, MOAA.

He has published Proverbs, Wisdom for
All Ages, Sermon on the Mount for Mod-
ern Living, The Quest for Spiritual Maturi-
ty, and God’s Word for Warriors.

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

Toys for Tots Collection Reminder

MTC will again support the Marine Corps
Reserve “Toys for Tots” Program at our
November meeting. This collection is
conducted in the Middle Tennessee area
by the Marines of Kilo Company 3rd
Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment.

Bring new, unwrapped Toys (no bicycles
please) to our November meeting!

Officers

President

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

1st Vice President (Vacant)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (Retired)

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
CDR John Ohlinger, USN (Retired)
LTC Wanda Bruce Graham, USA Retired
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (Retired)
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (Retired)
LTC Michael Patenaude, USA Retired
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. Arlie Haddix, USAF (Retired)

Chapter Contact Information

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email: **info@mtcmoaa.org**

Wreaths Across America

Our Chapter members have historically
supported Wreaths Across America at
the Tennessee State Veterans Ceme-
tery at McCrory Lane. This year the
Wreaths Across America Organization
estimates that they are currently short
5,900 wreaths at this cemetery.

We have two members that belong to
organizations which offer wreath sales
in support of this event:

* Friends and Family of Middle TN
State Veterans Cemetery (TN0080)
[Wreaths Across America](#)

* Dickson County Composite Squad-
ron - Civil Air Patrol (SER-TN-218)
[Wreaths Across America](#)

Each link will take you to a support
page for each separate organization.
In the holiday tradition we hope that
you will consider giving to and partici-
pating in this most worthwhile event.

President’s Letter

I just returned from Kansas City, MO where I had
the honor to accept our 9th consecutive MOAA 5-
star Levels of Excellence Award. I also had the hon-
or of seeing Mrs. Patricia Bergquist, our Chapter
Surviving Spouse Liaison, receive her well-deserved
honor as 2022 MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison
Excellence Award winner. Congratulations to the
chapter and Patricia!

During the October luncheon, former Captain
Sean Patton delivered a powerful reminder to
attendees about the outstanding skills and distinct
value that military personnel bring to the work-
force. He drew a clear contrast between the adept-
ness to lead and inspire versus the capability to
manage.

In recognition of Navy Day and the United States
Navy’s 247th birthday, we had a special observance
of Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence and his contri-
butions to his home state of Tennessee. Admiral
Lawrence had a distinguished and highly decorated
career as a naval aviator. It was during his 6 years
as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam era that he
composed and committed various poems to
memory. After his release in 1973, his poem, *“Oh
Tennessee, My Tennessee”* was published and ap-
proved by the Tennessee legislature as the official
state poem. Surviving Spouse and Chapter Mem-
ber, Mrs. Patricia Wildrick, brought this moving
poem and Admiral Lawrence’s accomplishments to
the chapter’s attention and, it was an honor to
have her and her brother in attendance to hear
Captain Larry Cotton recite it.

For the November 29th luncheon, we will receive
a message from Chapter Member, Dr. Tom Seals,
who will be discussing the mental toil that military
service and frequent deployments can have on
military personnel and their family members. This
topic relates specifically to several legislative issues
regarding mental health championed by MOAA this
past year. We will continue our long-standing tradi-
tion of collecting new, unwrapped toys for the
United States Marine Corps Reserves’ Toys for Tots
program. Due to transport limitations, please re-
frain from donating large objects like bicycles.

Finally, the chapter has continued MOAA’s mis-
sion to “never stop serving” through our communi-
ty outreach efforts. Our efforts to address food
insecurity, started with the food bag packing event
in September in conjunction with Operation Stand
Down Tennessee and continue during the holiday
season with the distribution of gift cards to military
families in need. During October, we hosted a suc-
cessful in-person and virtual veteran dementia
symposium with the Alzheimer’s Association of
Middle Tennessee. Thank you to all the chapter
members who have supported these critical
efforts!

Please enjoy a safe and joyous Thanksgiving!

Karon Uzzell-Baggett
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 247th Birthday
USMC

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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*** 29 November 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM ***
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Mental Health and the Military”
Dr. Tom Seals
Founder/Chairman of God’s Word for Warriors
Foundation & MTC Member
Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069
*** Please note date change ***

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29 November 2022; 11:30 AM
“MTC Annual Toys for Tots Collection”
Collection at our November meeting.

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1 December 2022; 7-8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
Zoom

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17 December 2022: 11:00 AM
“Wreaths Across America”
Middle TN State Cemetery (TNMTVN)
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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**** No Meeting December 2022****
“Happy Holidays”

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5 January 2023; 7-8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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24 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM *
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Annual MTC Year in Review (2022)”
Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Retired)
President
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin
TN 37069

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2 February 2023; 7-8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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Legislative Update

Election Day on 8 November is coming quickly, and it may well have come and gone when you read this. There are critical issues to be dealt with, and our legislators in Washington will be back off the campaign trail soon to do their work.

If you remember that the NDAA and Federal Budget had not been passed and signed by 30 September, what was written a month ago remains true now. The Continuing Resolution is in effect until 16 December, and there will be a legislative crunch leading into their Christmas holiday break. The lack of a budget stalls the work of the new fiscal year at the FY 2022 levels. That means that contracts are stalled, needed training is delayed, and new initiatives cannot begin.

On top of all that, our elevated inflation rate is not reflected in the continuing resolution levels, so need is high and resources are low. Those of us who served in uniform have all known and experienced what it is means to be under-resourced and yet have mission to accomplish.

Which brings us to understand why we are in such situations every year. As of the current congress, just 17% of members have served in uniform – stark contrast to just two decades ago when over half had served. Those who have served know and appreciate what goes unrecognized elsewhere. Will that improve when the next Congress is sworn in on 3 January at Noon Eastern Time?

Another matter is that eligibility for burial at Arlington is moving toward change with MOAA fully engaged. Watch for news to come. The initiative is moving toward attaching eligibility in time to combat status rather than just honorable service; that is Silver Star or Purple Heart as the criterion level. There are currently 155 VA-run cemeteries and 5 state veteran cemeteries in Tennessee. This will take a long time to sort out, but many of us have Arlington in our plans and may need to rethink the plans eventually.

Veterans Day comes on 11 November. How do you plan to celebrate?

Thanksgiving Day comes as well. How will you celebrate? For what are you thankful?

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