



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



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

December 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

No Meeting in December of 2022!

“Happy Holidays!”

A number of years ago we noticed that our members had found it increasingly difficult to attend a December meeting, given all of the competing holiday activities. As a result the Board chose to defer our December meeting, and clear up a free Tuesday on the fourth week of this month for our members.

Please enjoy the free time and plan on attending our next meeting which will be on 24 January, 2023.

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

24 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
“MTC Year in Review (2022)”

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

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

January Dues Reminder

Just a quick reminder that come 1 January 2023 you can pay your Chapter Dues online at the MOAA National Website:  
[MOAA - Online Chapter Membership Dues Join and Renewal](#)

The dues application is membership year specific so you will have to wait until January to renew for 2023. Submitting your dues payment using this link is for chapter dues (joins/renewals) only.

This capability is available to both Chapter surviving spouse members and officer members. Surviving spouse member dues will continue to be \$5.00 and regular member dues will continue at \$25.00 for 2023.

National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to <https://www.moaa.org> and proceed with their National dues payment process.

The Chapter membership renewal notice is normally mailed in February of each year, so if you are planning to renew online it would be appreciated if you do so in January so that we can avoid sending you a renewal notice.

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

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](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grants

The new submission period for the 2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grants has begun and runs through February 28, 2023.

During the 2022 submission period, our chapter received over \$8,000 in grant funding for three projects that have made a difference in our local Veterans community.

Let’s keep this positive momentum going. If you have an idea for a community outreach project in one of the ten impact areas available, please submit it, along with a potential nonprofit to partner with, to chapter leadership.

[MOAA - Community Outreach Grants](#)

President’s Letter

2022 is swiftly drawing to a close and the holiday season has begun. I hope you and your family enjoy this special time of year and look forward to what 2023 will bring!

Dr. Tom Seals, Founder of God’s Word for Warriors and Honorary Chapter Member, delivered a powerful presentation on the estimated 18 million servicemembers dealing with mental health concerns during our November luncheon. He eloquently reminded everyone that seeking mental health treatment should be viewed as a sign of strength, not an indication of weakness. Dr. Seals also spoke about the power of spirituality to aid in addressing mental health concerns. The Department of Veterans Affairs notes the criticality of Spirit and Soul in its Circle of Health, which encourages veterans to consider their Whole Health. Spirit and Soul involve connecting with something greater than ourselves to provide a sense of meaning, purpose, peace or comfort. The ways a person does this can involve religious affiliation, spending time in nature and engaging in activities like art or music. Dr. Seals concluded his presentation by encouraging members to continue advocating for mental health resources for veterans, the spouses and other family members.

December means the 117th Congressional period is ending, but there is still time to advocate for critical issues important to military members and their families. By utilizing the excellent advocacy tool found at the MOAA

[Legislative Action Center](#) [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#), members can advocate for vital issues involving concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers, military family mental healthcare access and fixing the TRICARE Young Adult coverage gap, among other proposals. I encourage you to let your representatives hear your voice on these critical issues now!

Finally, best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday period. May you enjoy great food, restorative rest and enjoyable company until we meet again on January 24, 2023, for our next luncheon!

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**

**17 December 2022: 11:00 AM**  
***“Wreathes Across America”***

Middle TN State Cemetery (TNMTVN)  
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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

**5 January 2023; 7-8:00 AM**  
***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**18 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
***“TN Council of Chapters Meeting”***

Sammie B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

**24 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
***“MTC Year in Review (2022)”***

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

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

**26 January 2023; 8:00 AM CST**  
VA DOD Survivor *Online* Forum  
***“The PACT Act”***

An online forum - mor information to follow.

**1 February 2023**  
***“Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill”***  
Cordell Hull Legislative Building, Nashville, TN

**2 February 2023; 7- 8:00 AM**  
***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**28 February 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM \***  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
***“Tennessee Valley Healthcare System”***

**Mr. Dan Ducker**  
**Executive Director**

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Dr, .Franklin TN 37069

**Legislative Update**

Well, the elections have come and gone, and now we are in that no-man’s-land between the election of a new congress and its inauguration on 3 January at Noon. We are also in between the end of Fiscal Year 2022 and into Fiscal Year 2023 without a federal budget and for our interests without a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We do have a continuing resolution through 16 December. Yes, it seems like we have been here before – annually.

What makes this a particularly difficult year is that inflation levels have far surpassed anticipated levels. As November ends and we come down to the wire, initiatives are working to raise the NDAA by \$45 Billion to the level of \$847 Billion which is about 5% above initial planning. I would say, “watch this space,” but I only write once per month and things are going to be moving fast.

Budgetary wrangling does not jeopardize Defense Department salaries, but not all our uniformed services are within the DoD. The Coast Guard is within the Department of Homeland Security, so salaries are not protected in case of a shutdown. There is an article on page 16 of the new *Military Officer Magazine* about initiatives to keep salaries coming in case of a shutdown to the Coast Guard but also to US Public Health Service – not mentioned but should include NOAA as well.

Why mention this right now to a chapter membership which is mostly retired? We still have vested interests in those active duty and reservists who do today what we did back then. National Interest is always a topic for all citizens to keep in mind and especially as conflict in Ukraine keeps happening and as our friends in European NATO countries look at a winter of fuel availability issues.

Have you been deployed over the Christmas holidays? Most of us have spent such time away from home and family – some of us repeatedly. Before the Soviet Union fell, there was a very beneficial phenomenon which I saw play out in the Mediterranean. The Soviet fiscal year was the calendar, which meant that we could make long port visits in late December because the Soviet Navy was out of money until New Years. No mischief was going to happen when the Soviets were broke. I do not know if that works in the 2020s, but it does no good for our forces and the people within them when the DoD is under fiscal constraints.

If you have any direct contact with members of Congress this month, do remind them that MOAA is still busy pressing for initiatives that benefit our uniformed people and protect our country.

Beyond that, enjoy the holiday season, holiday activities, and all the good blessings.

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