



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



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

February 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

28 February 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

*"The Battle of Nashville and the  
Pivotal Contributions of the  
USCT"*

Mr. Richard White  
Chief Curator, Tennessee State Museum

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

The Tennessee State Museum, located at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, is home to 13,000 years of Tennessee art and history. There are six permanent exhibitions, one of which focuses on the Civil War and Reconstruction.

In honor of Black History Month, Mr. Richard White, Chief Curator of the Tennessee State Museum, will discuss the Battle of Nashville and the pivotal contributions of the United States Colored Troops.

Mr. Richard White, Chief Curator, manages the curatorial team, directs artifact acquisition and interpretation, engages with the public, and generally assists in the management and conservation of the collection. He has more than eight years of experience with the Tennessee State Museum, beginning in the Education Department before advancing to the Collections Department.

Mr. White is a native of Nashville and attended Hillwood Comprehensive High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Belmont University and a Master's Degree in History from Middle Tennessee State University. Currently, he serves on the executive board of the Nashville City Cemetery Association. He is a contributing author and series editor for *Civil War Flags of Tennessee*, a cooperative publication from the Tennessee State Museum and the UT Press. He is a contributing writer and editor for the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and is a 2022 graduate of the Tennessee Government Professionals Institute.

"MTC Year in Review"

The complete report is now posted on our website at [Middle Tennessee Chapter - MOAA \(mtcmooa.org\)](https://www.mtcmoaa.org) and members who do not have access to the internet can procure a copy by contacting any of your Board members.

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 Mike 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@mtcmooa.org](mailto:info@mtcmooa.org)

"PACT Act Resources"

There are excellent PACT Act resources available for chapter members to benefit from.

A comprehensive resource sheet has been provided by chapter member Major John Page, USA, Retired who is a Licensed Master Social Worker and VA Transition Patient Advocate. This document was provided to chapter members via email on February 1, 2023. If you have questions, John may be reached by calling 629-259-0020 or by emailing [John.Page@va.gov](mailto:John.Page@va.gov)

Additionally, the MOAA website has detailed resources at this link: [MOAA - Your PACT Act Resource List](#).

Please invest time in reviewing this critical information.


President's Letter

February and its potentially inclement weather is here, and it has already led to the cancellation of the annual Veterans Day on the Hill advocacy event. As the luncheon approaches on February 28, 2023, please be mindful of the weather. The chapter bases event cancellations on the closure decisions of the Metro Nashville Public School district.

I want to thank all of the chapter members who attended our January 2023 luncheon. At this important meeting, we discussed key ways that the Middle Tennessee Chapter has embodied the tenets of the Military Officers Association of America. We continue to be committed to advocating for key legislation and benefits for military personnel, military dependents and surviving spouses and championing community outreach events and grants to support numerous area non-profits. Members were able to receive critical information on how their membership dues are used to power the chapter and empower the work of six area charities.

February is celebrated as Black History Month and affords an opportunity to reflect on the impressive contributions made in countless areas by African Americans. What began as a week-long celebration of African Americans in 1925 created by Mr. Carter G. Woodson blossomed into a month-long observance in 1976 by President Gerald Ford's proclamation. We will honor this 47th observance of Black History Month with a presentation from Mr. Richard Wright, Chief Curator of the Tennessee State Museum and a native Nashvillian. Mr. Wright will briefly discuss the beautiful new museum and the Battle of Nashville fought in December 1864. He will also highlight the instrumental contributions of the United States Colored Troops, who fought valiantly in a diversionary battle despite being outgunned, outmanned and barely trained. This promises to be an informative event about a crucial Civil War engagement.

As the year progresses, I hope you will join me in the various chapter activities we will be undertaking in 2023. These include a group visit to the Tennessee State Museum and a career development training event for Matthew 25 in March. The Middle Tennessee Chapter is strong and relevant because of its wonderful members. Tell others what we are doing and encourage them to attend our luncheons and join us as we *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 Birthday MOAA,  
founded on 23 February 1929.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**28 February 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"The Battle of Nashville and  
the Pivotal Contributions of the USCT"***

**Mr. Richard White**

**Chief Curator**

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

-

**2 March 2023; 7- 8:00 AM**

***"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"***

Zoom

(If interested in participating please let a Board Member  
know.)

-

**28 March 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***" The Mission Continues"***

**Mr. G Daniel Collins**

Nashville Platoon Chief

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

-

**6 April 2023; 7:00 - 8:00 AM**

***"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"***

NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville

-

**25 April 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

*Annual Personal Affairs Program*

***"Elder Care"***

**Mr. Chris Johnson**

Major, USMC Retired

Lawyer, Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law

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

-

**4 May 2023;7:00 - 8:00 AM**

***"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"***

Zoom

-

**6 May 2023; 9:30 AM -**

***"Walk in the Woods"***

**Legislative Update**

The chapter’s Legislative Liaison, CDR Ted Edwards, USN, Retired, is out of the country and unable to complete his monthly report. The following information has been compiled to inform members about the status of state and Federal legislation.

Regrettably, icy weather caused the cancellation of the annual Veterans Day on the Hill slated for February 1, 2023. The event is organized by TNVET, a compilation of various statewide veterans’ groups, with the primary purpose of supporting and advocating for legislative bills that TNVET member organizations formulated and approved. The four key legislative bills proposed for this year follow:

Electronic Voting for Active Duty (Montgomery County Pilot Program).

Medical Cannabis.

Restoration of the Second Free Auto License for 100% Disabled Veterans.

Identify and Implement Processes/Procedures that Document that the State is accomplishing its “Hiring Qualified Veterans Within Departments” process.

A review of legislative bills filed by the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on Feb 3, 2023 with the subject of “Veterans” found at [Tennessee General Assembly Bills By Subject \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/bills/assembly-bills-by-subject) indicates that there are 12 bills which have been filed by legislators from the Tennessee House and Senate. One filing for HB0700 and SB1162 increases from one to two, the number of free plates for Purple Heart and disabled veterans. Other bills cover topics ranging from a Veterans’ Bill of Rights to waivers to knowledge tests for temporary commercial learner’s permits to lifetime enhanced handgun carry permits for retired veterans. If you would like to comment on the proposed bills or advocate for the TNVET proposals, please locate your respective legislators at [Find My Legislator - TN General Assembly](https://www.tn.gov/bills/assembly-bills-by-subject).

On the Federal level, MOAA’s Legislative Action Center found at [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center) allows you to send messages to Federal legislators on critical topics affecting the entire military community to include dependents and surviving spouses. More detailed information about the respective advocacy efforts for each group can be found at [MOAA | Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center). Please review this critical information and advocate today!

MOAA remains a highly effective lobbying group at the state and Federal levels because of your continued engagement. Please lend your voice and insights to legislation being proposed and submitted which impacts everyone in our cherished military community.