



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



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

April 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

**Our Next Monthly Meeting:**

**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

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps after graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, Chris' career included multiple deployments to Japan and Afghanistan and he served in a number of roles as an Infantry Officer and Judge Advocate, including Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Chief Legal Assistance Officer, Senior Defense Counsel, Military Justice Officer, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion Executive Officer, Commanding General's Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and Deputy Chief Legal Advisor to the Afghanistan National Army.

Prior to his retirement from military service in 2014, Chris had achieved the rank of Major and was heading the Legal Services Support Team serving Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

After relocating to the Nashville area, Chris began working at Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law where his practice includes elder law, estate planning and administration, probate law, and VA benefits planning. He has 19 years of legal and military experience.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Juris Doctor degree from the College of William and Mary School of Law. He is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, serves on the Board of Directors of Vista Points and the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association (LCPLFA), and previously served on the Board of Directors for the VFW Post 9851 in Hendersonville, and is a member of Rotary International Gallatin Noon Club and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. He is a member of the Sumner County MOAA Chapter.

When he's not serving clients, Chris enjoys swimming, sailing, hunting, and spending time with his wife Melissa, son Braxton and daughters Bobbye Clare and Billie Ann.

**Officers**

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

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**2nd Vice President** (Vacant)

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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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**Advocacy in Action 2023**

Later this month, MOAA Council & Chapter Presidents will gather in Washington D.C. for the first, in-person Advocacy in Action (AiA) event since the pandemic. Two critical issues will be championed during this session: (1) Restoration of the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% and (2) Reversal of cuts to the TRICARE pharmacy network. EVERYONE must get involved in AiA. Chapter members can access the MOAA Legislative Action Center found at <https://moaa.quorum.us> and advocate for various issues impacting military personnel, their dependents, and surviving spouses. Please join me in voicing unwavering support for maintaining hard-earned benefits and services for our military community!

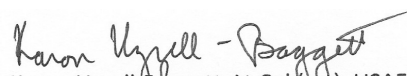
**President's Letter**

The final week of March was truly heart-breaking on so many levels. The deaths of six staff and students at The Covenant School truly devastated our city and state in a seminal event that we will mourn for years. Our grief was further compounded by the deaths of nine United States Army servicemembers in an aviation accident near Fort Campbell, Kentucky later in the same week. These events remind us of how precious life is and how we need to care for our families, communities, and Nation in these turbulent times.

Thank you to everyone who attended our March luncheon. Regrettably, I missed it due to attendance at a conference hosted by the American Society on Aging (ASA) in Atlanta, Georgia. I heard it was a great meeting and appreciate CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired, leading it. The speaker, Mr. G. Daniel Collins, Jr. is devoted to serving his fellow veterans in the community and through his various entrepreneurial endeavors. The Mission Continues, which he helped revitalize in our area, provides veterans with an opportunity to continue serving in their respective communities.

I am sure this message resonated with our chapter members. I know first-hand that our chapter members embrace continued service because they have stepped up to pack food bags for needy veterans and mentor formerly homeless veterans through our MOAA Community Outreach Grant projects. One of the presenters at the ASA conference I attended, emphasized the critical role that volunteerism plays in healthy aging and happiness. Dr. Ken Dychtwald, President and CEO of Age Wave, presented data that showed people who volunteer are happier, healthier and have greater purpose in their lives. Hopefully, you feel the same way and have seen the benefits of volunteering in your lives.

Our chapter is continuing its strong support of the annual MOAA Cadet of the Year awards, which recognize outstanding students displaying professionalism and leadership in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. If any chapter members would like to present the awards at upcoming events or just attend the ceremonies to support the cadets, please contact the chapter president for ROTC presentations and CAPT Larry Cotton, for JROTC.

  
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**

**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

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**4 May 2023; 7:00 - 8:00 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**  
Zoom

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**5 May 2023; 5:45 PM -**  
**“A Soldier's Child Dinner Banquet”**  
Fundraiser for A Soldier's Child Foundation  
Embassy Suites Conference Center, Murfreesboro, TN

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**6 May 2023; 9:30 AM -**  
**“Walk in the Woods”**  
Fundraiser for Mathew 25  
Edwin Warner Park Shelter 5, Bellevue TN 37221

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**10 May 2023; 2:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**“Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery**  
**Open House”**  
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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**23 May 2023 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Military & Surviving Spouse Appreciation”**  
**Mrs. Alex Denis**  
Military Spouse & Former WKRN Evening Anchor  
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin  
TN 37069

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**1 June 2023; 7:00 - 8:00 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**  
NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville

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**27 June 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Military Women Appreciation”**

**Legislative Update**

Hello, Everyone. I had to make a surprise trip to the United Kingdom that lasted far longer than anticipated. It related to the terminal illness of a close friend who was a retired Surgeon Captain from the Royal Navy. We had been neighbors in both England and Connecticut. I also conducted his burial before returning to Tennessee.

Reflecting on that time, what I learned is how very much better we who are retired relate to our service than the British forces do. When they retire, they are almost forgotten and have little to show for it than their pension. There are no matching programs like the VA provides for medical care or disability. Veterans and retirees are also not held in esteem in the community at the level we enjoy in the USA. In this case, I discovered that there is no decedent affairs situation available and there are nothing resembling veterans’ cemeteries or the many VA benefits.

It reminds me of something that few of us remember. When we retire as officers, we are still members in our services with our duty being the retired list and the potential to be recalled. A long list of benefits accrue for us, with our retired ID being the key to accessing it. In the Royal Navy, you just retire and are gone and your health care reverts to the National Health Service. It is a wholly different situation in the UK, and we should value what we have here in the USA.

Back in the Fall, I wrote about the Federal Budget which finally passed in late December. When we think of legislative advocacy, the financial aspects are never far away. A proposal in a December 2022 CBO Report received significant attention on social media in recent weeks as it suggested reducing VA benefits for veterans with higher incomes – an affluence test -- enough that it was raised and rebuked during VA Secretary Denis McDonough’s press conference on 23 March.

Shortly after the CBO Report was released, MOAA wrote how the CBO options include potential cuts to military spending, veterans’ benefits, and TRICARE. The CBO Report has been published at the start of each new Congress for the past 12 years, providing lawmakers with options to reduce the deficit through spending cuts and ways to increase revenue. The nonpartisan CBO has no say in political objectives and is simply fulfilling its mandated mission to provide these advisory reports.

While the notion of means-testing VA disability pay is concerning, no legislation to that effect has been offered in either chamber nor has the proposal been a part of any administration budget plans.

MOAA’s vigilance and dedication on these issues, and any others that may seek to decrease or eliminate service-earned entitlements, are codified in our motto, “Never Stop Serving.” MOAA’s mission is clear: To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired) MTC Legislative Liaison