



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



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

May 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

**Our Next Monthly Meeting:**

**23 May 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***"Military & Surviving Spouse  
Appreciation"***

**Mrs. Alex Denis**

Military Spouse & TN Department of  
Children's Services Director of  
Communications

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

Alex Denis is a six-time Emmy award-winning journalist who joined the Executive Leadership team at the Department of Children's Services in February 2023. She brings nearly two decades of experience covering and reporting on local, state, and national interests, sharing stories that capture major events and make them connect with her audience.

Prior to joining DCS, Denis anchored the 4pm newscast at WKRN-News 2 in Nashville. She shared stories on the 2020 tornadoes in Middle Tennessee, the Christmas Day bombing in Nashville, the devastating floods in Waverly, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her special report, Unspeakable Crimes: What Parents Need to Know, earned top regional recognition by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Alex spent 8 years on CBS New York's morning show where she launched the company's first 24-hour streaming news service, CBSN-New York. While in New York City, Alex was recognized on billboards in Times Square for her efforts to help stop distracted driving with the non-profit Project Yellow Light.

A Florida native, she graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Florida with a Mass Communications degree.

Alex is married to a veteran combat Infantry Officer who had tours of duty in both the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) and 82nd Airborne Divisions. The couple has a son and daughter.

**HAPPY MILITARY SPOUSE DAY**  
**12 May 2023**

**Officers**

**President**

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF  
Retired

**1st Vice President** (Vacant)

**2nd Vice President** (Vacant)

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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**

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Website:

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

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

Contact Email: **[info@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)**

**Update Your Military ID Cards**

The Department of Defense will phase out the current **military ID cards (with and without expiration dates) for retirees and dependents by 2026**. The current cards, which come in various colors, will be replaced with the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification (USID) card, which has enhanced security features.

Cards with expiration dates must be replaced within 90 days of expiration and cards without expiration dates should be replaced by 2026.

New USID cards can be obtained at area Air Force and Army National Guard and Reserve bases. Telephone numbers for local units are:  
Nashville – (615) 313-0854 or (615) 660-8607  
and Smyrna – (615) 313-0594.

**President's Letter**

May and the wonderful Spring weather has finally arrived. This month was Congressionally designated in 1999 as National Military Appreciation Month to pay tribute to military personnel past and present. Observances range from Armed Forces Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 2023, to Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, 2023, which honors servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation's democracy.

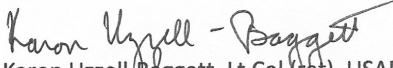
The chapter will commemorate Memorial Day at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, May 27, 2023, starting at 10:30AM.

Thank you to all the chapter members who attended our April luncheon focusing on Personal Affairs. We were honored to host Major Chris Johnson, USMC, Retired, an accomplished Elder Care lawyer. He discussed critical estate planning documents and actions that military members should undertake now before emergencies arise. The website for his law firm, Takacs-McGinnis Elder Care Law, has wonderful, free resources at <https://www.tn-elderlaw.com/free-downloads>.

LTC Wanda Bruce Graham, USA Retired our chapter's dedicated Personal Affairs Director provided a timely reminder about MOAA's excellent resources which are found at <https://www.moaa.org>. Please seek this information out and start getting your affairs in order.

Our April luncheon provided an opportunity to recognize members during Volunteer Appreciation Month. The chapter is blessed to have committed members who fill key leadership positions or participate in our various community outreach events on a regular basis. One volunteer, Col Doug Minton, USA, Retired, is peerless in his countless volunteer duties. It was fitting to recognize him with the prestigious MOAA Outstanding Service Award, in recognition of his leadership and dedication.

For our May luncheon, we are honored to have Mrs. Alex Denis, Tennessee Department of Children's Services Director of Communications and a military spouse, join us. We will pay tribute to chapter military and surviving spouses in recognition of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which is observed the Friday before Mother's Day. We hope you and your spouse can join us at this special 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**

**15 May 2023; 5:00 PM**  
TN Valley Healthcare System,  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
**“Virtual Town Hall”**

[VA Tennessee Valley Health Care | Virtual Veteran Town Hall | Veterans Affairs](#)

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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 & TN Department of Children’s  
Services Director of Communications  
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin  
TN 37069

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**27 May 2023; 10:30 AM**  
**“MTC Memorial Day Ceremony”**  
Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery  
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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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”**  
**Colonel Beverly Lee, USAF Retired**  
5 Star Generations CEO  
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin  
TN 37069

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

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**15 July 2023; 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
**“Got Your 6 - VetFest**  
(MTC Volunteers Needed)  
(Sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation)  
Loveless Café, 8400 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN 37221

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**Legislative Update**

The last week of April brought lots of state leaders to MOAA HQ in Alexandria where they participated in Advocacy in Action (AiA) visits to Congressional officers. They met with representatives and senators when they could, but Congress was in session so those people had votes to cast. Often the AiA visitors met with leading staffers.

There were two big issues to communicate. Those issues were the restoration of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to the 100% level and correcting the disaffiliation of thousands of pharmacies with our benefits. A month ago, I asked you to get the tear-out letters from the April issue of Military Officer Magazine and send them in. You may remember that there were two identical sets. If you responded to my recommendation, leadership people like the majority leaders and Speaker would receive those letters – then receive the AiA visitors – then a second set of letters. Repetition and piles of mail help them to know what is important to us as MOAA members in general and their own constituents in particular. I hope you did so. I did, and it was easy.

The May issue has mail-in postcards. The creative technology people at MOAA created a way to have those post cards pre-addressed to our Tennessee representatives and senators and even with our own return addresses. They just need signatures and stamps. The primary issue this month is to work up solutions to the issue of limited space at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). There are about 1/3 of a million burials there now, and space is not unlimited. The need for a second location cannot be put off forever, and MOAA is advocating for planning and development.

As of now, there are some 155 veteran’s cemeteries at the federal and state levels. We have some of them here in Tennessee – 7 if I count correctly. As this month ends, we will have our own Memorial Day observance at the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery near Pegram. Come out for it, and let the wonderful work done there remind you that the solution to eventual filling up of ANC is an important matter for us to discuss and press for future solutions.

Please send in those postcards, and save the addresses for letters you may want to write now and in the future. If you run into a representative or senator, be ready to express what is important to you. We are all advocates for the interests of each other.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison  
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