



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



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

September 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

26 September 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“TN Valley Healthcare System”

Mr. Edward Payton

York Campus Associate Director

Old Natchez Country Club,

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

A Jackson, Mississippi native, Edward Payton earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration with a management concentration from Morehouse College in 2009 and a Master of Health Science from the University of Mississippi in 2013. He then completed an administrative fellowship with the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) in Baltimore, MD in 2014.

Prior to joining Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) as associate director for the Alvin C. York campus in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Mr. Payton was the chief of medical administration service (MAS) at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS). During his tenure at SLVHCS, Mr. Payton was appointed as acting associate medical center director and also served as deputy chief of MAS. Mr. Payton began his career at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) in Baltimore, Maryland as an administrative fellow. After completing his fellowship, Mr. Payton served in various leadership roles to include senior department administrator, ambulatory and emergency care clinical center, acting group practice manager, and administrative officer of mental health clinical center.

Mr. Payton is the immediate past chair of the National VHA MAS/HAS/Business Office Chiefs group, a 2017 graduate of the VISA 5 Leadership Development Institute and a 2018 graduate of the VHA Healthcare Leadership Development Program. Mr. Payton is also an active member in the American College of Healthcare Executives and the National Association of Health Service Executives.

Located in Murfreesboro, Tenn., the Alvin C. York Campus of the Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) provides a variety of medical, psychiatric, and long-term care services for veterans. As part of its offering, TVHS runs an outpatient substance abuse program that includes counseling, outpatient opiate detox, outpatient ambulatory detox for alcohol dependency, and aftercare services. While the center’s substance abuse treatment is offered on an outpatient basis, referrals for inpatient psychiatric care are provided when appropriate.

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MTC MOAA...Still Serving!

Upcoming Community Events

Sep 22, 2023 – we will gather at OSDTN to pack food bags for veterans and their families in need. More details at the following link: <https://forms.gle/DiCAD7baCsiXhSk9>

Nov 3, 2023 – chapter members will support the 13th Annual OSDTN Heroes Breakfast. Details are found at the following link, and it would be wonderful to have two chapter tables! <https://forms.gle/DiCAD7baCsiXhSk9>

December 2023 – exact date and details pending for a holiday gift card distribution at OSDTN.

March 2024 – Operation Wind Down in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, a retreat for caregivers of veterans and their dependents living with dementia. Details are pending. Please join us as we live the MOAA mission to “Never Stop Serving”!

President’s Letter

Fall is here (and so is the pumpkin spice—Yeah!). I hope September is shaping up to be a good month for everyone and their families.

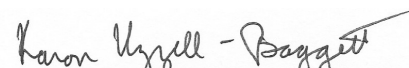
Our August luncheon, which explored veterans’ benefits, was a highly enjoyable and informative affair. Former Captain Jon Foti, Chief Executive Officer of the Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation (DKGVF), was our guest speaker and we had almost forty members in attendance.

The DKGVF is based in Oklahoma and boasts an impressive \$80 Million in benefits for veterans in 2022, plus a 90% claims approval success rate. The organization will be opening a branch in Nashville soon to continue its important mission of providing financial assistance, referrals management and education on Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and benefits. Jon explained the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) community, which is comprised of 40,000 veteran and military non-profits, 100 accredited VSOs, and fifty state accredited veterans’ organizations. He also highlighted the crucial link between an event or injury in service and a current diagnosed condition being recorded in medical records to document chronic conditions. More information about the foundation can be found at <https://www.dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org>.

At our September luncheon, we will conclude our examination of the various VA administrative departments when we host Mr. Edward Payton, Associate Director of the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Alvin C. York Campus. This will give chapter members an opportunity to learn first-hand about new initiatives for our area VA campuses and clinics, plus the latest PACT Act updates. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at the Old Natchez Trace Country Club.

Please note, for the PACT ACT, a critical deadline is nearing that chapter members, who are Post-9/11 combat veterans and served between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, need to be aware of. A special VA enrollment period for these veterans, who have not previously enrolled in VA healthcare, has been extended until September 30, 2023. Please access the following link for more information: [PACT Act Special Enrollment Period - My HealtheVet - My HealtheVet \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/pact-act/special-enrollment-period).

Finally, the chapter has several events slated for upcoming months to honor our commitment to never stop serving the Middle Tennessee community. Please check the center portion of the newsletter for details.


 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 76th Birthday to the United States
Air Force (18 September 1947)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

16 September 2023; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

"Retiree Appreciation Day"

Soldier Support Center, Building 2702
Michigan Avenue, Ft. Campbell, KY

22 September 2023; 12:00 - 3:00 PM

"MTC Food Bag Packing Event"

OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave South,
Nashville, TN 37203

26 September 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"TN Valley Healthcare System"

Mr. Edward Payton

York Campus Associate Director
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin TN 37069

5 October 2023; 7:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Dr, Nashville, TN 37204

18 October 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of MOAA Chapters Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant
705 Cadet Court, Lebanon, TN 37087

24 October 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"MOAA"

CAPT W.G. "Bud" Schneeweis, USCG Retired

MOAA National Board Director
OSDTN Event Space
1125 12th Ave South, Nashville TN 37203

2 November 2023; 7:00-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive,
Nashville, TN 37204

3 November 2023; 7:30 - 9:30 AM

"13th Annual OSDTN Heroes Breakfast"

Admiral Michelle J. Howard, USN (Retired)
Music City Center, Nashville, TN

Legislative Update

Welcome to September – the end of the federal fiscal year and the beginning of a very busy time for legislators.

It has been just over a year now since the PACT Act became the law of the land. This law expanded VA benefits for service members who were exposed to the toxicities of Burn Puts, Agent Orange, and other dangers. And how has it worked out?

I saw a TV interview showing that 4.4 Million veteran PACT Act claims had been filed by the end of July. What I do not know, is how many had been anticipated and what resources had been made available to manage the many claims, but in any case, it is a whole lot. VA is working hard to accomplish the processing and decisions, but the workload is enormous while service members with the exposure need to wait on their individual cases. Processing claims is one thing, but it is another to provide the benefits. Providing the benefits involves both skilled people delivering the services and paying the costs of those services. That is quite a demand at the end of the fiscal year!

Welcome to September and to the resumption of congressional sessions. As I wrote a month ago, the House and the Senate had both passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and that is quite an improvement over last year. Now comes the hard work of reconciling the versions for passage and signing. It may seem demanding, but this comes along every year.

MOAA at the national level is lobbying on our behalf as they always do so well. Last month, I called on you to visit the MOAA Advocacy Section and use their suggested letters for submission to our congresspeople and senators. Time to do it again!

On another matter, we have local elections coming soon. This would be a good time to become more aware of the integrity of our election processes and maybe contribute your time and participation to elections. County election commissions always need new poll workers, and they offer training. The political parties are also training election poll watchers. It is important work for our communities, and this is an appropriate time to become knowledgeable and involved as we move toward our national election cycle in another year.

Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison