



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

October 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

**Our Next Monthly Meeting:**

**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**

**Our Upcoming Meeting:**

Our October meeting offers an excellent opportunity for members to meet and interact with a member of the MOAA National Board of Directors. Our guest speaker has been associated with MOAA for some time and has held several different positions in the organization. He will meet with our leadership team prior to the meeting and then speak to the membership. If you have questions about MOAA or suggestions on topics they address, this will be a prime opportunity to present them to our speaker.

**Our Speaker:**

Capt. W.G. “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG (Ret), is a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. A Cutterman, he has served in command and key staff positions including Chief of Coast Guard Public Affairs and Commander, Coast Guard Recruiting Command.

Following retirement in 2001, he joined the Personal Affairs Staff at MOAA (then The Retired Officers Association). On September 11, 2001, he was presenting a Transition Assistance brief at the Pentagon when the building was attacked. He served on the MOAA staff for 11 years, retiring from the position of Director of Benefits Information and Financial Education.

During his service at MOAA, he obtained his certification as a Certified Financial Planner and later worked at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. He served as First Vice President of the Charleston, South Carolina Chapter. He currently serves on the MOAA Council & Chapters Affairs Committee, Investment Committee, and the Member Services Committee.

**Scholarship Drive Update**

Our Chapter Scholarship drive is well underway, but it is not too late to make a contribution to the initiative. Our goal this year is to complete the funding of our fourth MOAA scholarship, as well as continue funding the Veterans scholarship amounts at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities. We are closing in on this goal, but are not yet there, so if you can see a way we appreciate your contribution.

**Officers**

**President**

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF Retired

**1st Vice President** (Vacant)

**2nd Vice President**

COL Jacque Tubbs, USA Retired

**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 B. 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@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

***Answer the Call!***

The end of the year is fast-approaching, and this signals the end of the current two-year Presidential term. In a chapter full of talented officers who previously commanded scores of Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, I am confident there is one individual who can serve now as First Vice President. This person would be working with an Executive Board full of Past Presidents who are still very active in this chapter’s operations. Ample electronic records exist to provide background on local chapter events. Additionally, MOAA National has various programs in place ranging from guides to regional conferences to monthly webinars to provide training for new leaders.

We have a plan, we just need someone to step forward to put it in play. Please contact the Chapter President at [ku.baggett@comcast.net](mailto:ku.baggett@comcast.net) to discuss further.

**President’s Letter**

I am definitely ready for crisp Fall weather and the beautiful changing leaves! I hope you and your family are enjoying the cooler temperatures and getting ready to pull your sweaters and jackets out.

Thank you to all the chapter members who joined us at the September luncheon where we concluded our examination of the three distinct components of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Edward Payton, Associate Director of the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS), York Campus, joined us for a free-flowing discussion of the Veterans Healthcare Administration. We learned about developments impacting the two main TVHS campuses and its 19 community-based outpatient clinics, which include new clinician hires to meet the growing veteran population and a new Nashville medical facility in 5 years. The TVHS recently received a four-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services., which makes TVHS one of 19 Tennessee hospitals to receive this high assessment of medical care.

October’s luncheon will feature a visit from a member of MOAA’s Board of Directors (BoD). Captain W.G. “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG, Retired, is our guest at the Tuesday, October 24, 2023, luncheon, which will be held at Operation Stand Down Tennessee. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what MOAA’s priorities are as a new fiscal year begins and the 118th Congress continues its work. I hope that you can attend this important luncheon!

The October 2023 edition of Military Officer magazine featured an article entitled, “Chapters Are Influencing Their Communities” and we were fortunate enough to be featured! The article focused on our chapter’s intentions for its two 2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grants. It was wonderful to be featured along with our sister Chattanooga Chapter, the Solano County, California Chapter, and the Central Florida Chapter. Additionally, it is important to note that our chapter was recognized as a 5-star Levels of Excellence award winner for the 10th consecutive year! This is a truly outstanding achievement and indicative of the commitment our chapter members and past chapter presidents have to the MOAA mission to “never stop serving”.

Finally, I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the chapter and family members who participated in our recent food bag packing project at Operation Stand Down Tennessee. Your voluntary efforts will help alleviate military food insecurity in 20 Tennessee counties—well done!

*Karon Uzzell - Baggett*  
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 248th Birthday to the United States Navy (October 13, 1775)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**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

#### **"Women United in Service"**

**This event has been Postponed.**  
**Will advise new date/time when available**

**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

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"Speaker TBA"**

Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**\*\* Please note date Change\*\***

**28 November 2023; 11:30 AM**

#### **"MTC Annual Toys for Tots Collection"**

Collection at our November meeting.

**7 December 2023; 7-8:00 AM**

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

Zoom

**\*\* No Meeting December 2023\*\***

**"Happy Holidays"**

### Legislative Update

Do you remember in November 1948 how the newspaper had to go on the street by a deadline and announced how Governor Dewey of New York had defeated President Truman? Just the famous photograph of Truman holding up the newspaper tells the whole story.

As it happened a week ago, I wrote the legislative column about the impending end of the fiscal year without a new budget, and here I am writing replacement. Change happens at the **Speed of Life!**

Try writing timely material in this season. We suddenly have a continuing resolution to fund the government for 45 days to 17 November and the Speaker of the House is suddenly gone. A week ago, I didn't see any of that coming. Now I am writing and knowing not what will happen very soon.

The point is that NOW is an important time to be alert and to speak up. 45 days is not long, but it is enough time to speak up to your elected officials in Washington. The MOAA Advocacy website is always there for you at [moaa.quorum.us](http://moaa.quorum.us) – so go ahead and use it often. There is no such thing as too much. This is a particularly important time to communicate – not that other times are unimportant.

There are some items that are always on the MOAA agenda. Here are some:

- \* The Major Richard Star act – about concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits. (Major Star died earlier this year).
  - \* Restoring full Basic Allowance for Housing to our forces.
  - \* Restoring the availability of pharmacy benefits following the closure of a great many pharmacy availabilities around the country.
- Those items are long-term, and movement is very slow if at all.

It is always the time to communicate your concerns through MOAA to your elected congressional members. Just because there is so much action right now about budget and House of Representatives leadership, don't forget how MOAA national leadership keeps initiatives going that are long-term for us.

And please check out the October issue of *Military Officer* (online or print version) for the material about our chapter from our Chapter President LtCol Karon Uzzell-Baggett on page 59 and a photo of us on page 70 at the Memorial Day Ceremony. The Tennessee Chapters received several mentions in this addition.

And finally TNVET has announced the date for its annual **"Veterans Day on the Hill" to be held on Wednesday, 31 January 2024**. This is the date on which we join other veterans organizations in meeting with Tennessee State Legislators on veterans issues at a state level. More information to follow!

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison