



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



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

February 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

**MTC Monthly Meeting:**

**27 February 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"From Camouflage to Country"**

**Brei Carter**

Veteran and Vocalist

Old Natchez Country Club,

115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

Genre blending country soul singer-songwriter Brei Carter is creating her own lane. She is proof that sometimes faith, patience and time pay off.

Growing up in Monroe, Louisiana, with a solid, southern upbringing, Brei's family raised her on several authentic southern staples: the Bible, Lone Star Missionary Baptist Church's choir, Charley Pride, Loretta Lynn, Aretha Franklin, and no shortage of familial love and devotion.

However, before she became the dynamic country singer she is today, Brei was busy earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana in Monroe, a masters degree in international relations from Webster University, and a doctorate in theology from New Foundation Theological Seminary.

She is also a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army, where she served both as an enlisted soldier and as a commissioned officer.

Following her move to Nashville in 2018, Brei has quickly established herself in the songwriter's community as a smooth and sometimes edgy songstress who melds country, soul and southern pop into one fused style. Her first single at country radio "Gave Him A Girl" was immediately recognized as "cute and catchy" by country music journalist and historian Robert K. Oermann from Music Row Magazine.

Brei made her CMA Fest debut in 2022, and released her debut album Brand New Country, which included her fan-favorite cover of Charley Pride's "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin," and her life's musical story "Stronger Than That." In 2023 Brei released her latest original, "Straight Up Country Crazy," which perfectly showcases her dynamic and jovial personality and her first Holiday Extended Play recording, the critically acclaimed Twinkling Tales of Christmas.

With a new album and new shows in the works for 2024, the future is looking up and bright for Brei and her journey as a songwriter. She has quickly proven herself to be a welcomed addition to the emerging new styles of country music in today's diverse musical landscape in Nashville and beyond.

*Hope to see you at the February Meeting!*

**Officers**

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CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired

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**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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**MTC President Receives MOAA Leadership Award!**

Lt Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF Retired, now our immediate Past President received the prestigious MOAA Leadership Award at the 23 January 2024 meeting.

Karon was recognized for the outstanding leadership she provided the Chapter during her term of office as President (2022 -2024). She organized multiple events in support of veterans in our community in addition to preparing and then administering five MOAA Community Grants over a two year period; an achievement unsurpassed in the Tennessee MOAA community. To say that she took us to a new level of engagement is an understatement!

Her accomplishments as President of the Middle Tennessee Chapter personify the MOAA promise to "Never Stop Serving"!

**President's Letter**

At our last monthly meeting, and supported by Executive Board members, President Karon Uzzell-Baggett presented the annual report for the chapter's activities for 2023. We had a memorable year and received our 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence by MOAA. We could not have achieved this without Karon's outstanding, dynamic leadership across the board! At the end of the meeting Dana McLendon oversaw our "changing of the guard" where I assumed duties from Karon as President. Currently, all other Board members remain the same. We owe tremendous gratitude to Karon for the chapter's continued success. Thanks, Karon!

This month we are beginning, again, our focus on making a difference for active duty, reserve, and retired military and their families in multiple ways:

A number of MTC members joined MOAA members from four other chapters at the most recent Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill, where we met with state senators and legislators to lobby for military-related initiatives at the State level. We are also continuing the effort to support military or dependent caregivers for Alzheimer's affected loved ones by providing a weekend away for caregivers to rest and recharge.

Our annual MTC membership drive starts this month as well. The Executive Board is careful to manage the dues you provide to support multiple military-related charities in Middle Tennessee. This money is separate from the scholarship drive we conduct later in the year and is focused on charities we support and chapter operating expenses. Dues remain \$25 for the year despite increasing costs across the board, so it remains a good deal!

In addition to paying dues, it is also important that we continue to recruit new members, and we encourage your effort in doing so. Our chapter is award-winning because it is well managed and has accomplished much; but we need to continuously recruit to keep our chapter healthy.

Regarding your dues, I paid mine using the MOAA on-line option at : <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> ; It was easy! Or you can also bring a check or cash to our next lunch meeting on 27 February.

Finally, Ms. Brei Carter will present "From Camouflage to Country" at our February luncheon at Old Natchez Trace Country Club. Ms. Carter is a singer/songwriter who has achieved much in her life already—she is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army, where she served as both an enlisted soldier and as an officer. Her story will inspire us all!

I know we are all looking forward to it so please join us on 27 February!

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired  
 President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER  
Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 50252  
Nashville, TN 37205-0252



Happy 95th Birthday MOAA  
23 Feb 1929

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**27 February 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon

**"From Camouflage to Country"**

**Brei Carter**

Veteran and Vocalist

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**7 March 2024; 7-8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

*Zoom or Teams*

**10 March 2024; 4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**"U. S. Navy Sea Chanters 2024 National Tour"**

(tickets are free, but are required, max 6 tickets per)

<https://usnavyband.ticketleap.com/2024-sea-chanters-nashville/>

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
4815 Franklin Pike, Nashville, TN 37220

**9:00 AM 16 March - 9:00 AM 17 March 2024**

MOAA -TAAMAC Grant Event

**"Operation Wind Down"**

Sign Up Link: <https://forms.gle/jSLA1TheDBJC2ene7>

**26 March 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon

**"SCORE Nashville"**

**Lisa O-Dell**

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**4 April 2024; 7-8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**23 April 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

**"Tennessee State Veterans Homes Update"**

**Ed Harries**

Executive Director

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**Legislative Update**

The subject is Advocacy. It is a major activity of MOAA at the national level in Washington to be active in lobbying Congress to support initiatives that impact veterans and serving service members. That's not a new thing, and we speak of it often.

Advocacy at the state level was the subject of Veterans Day on the Hill – an annual advocacy day in Nashville organized by ten Veteran organizations under the umbrella of TNVET, including MOAA and our Middle Tennessee Chapter. This year the event was on 31 January, and several of us were there. Right now, TNVET is advocating four things: Tax Equalization property tax relief for qualified 100% disabled veterans, Medical Cannabis, Electronic Voting for active duty and families serving overseas, and restoration of the 2nd free auto license plate for 100% disabled veterans. There is controversy involved with some of these matters – as one would expect.

One of our members picked up that matters concerning voting will have no traction in the 2024 election year but may do well in 2025. Probably most of us have voted absentee by mail and wondered how well it worked out; now, electronic technologies may improve that if security can be assured.

Attendance was stronger from Middle Tennessee than from the far extremes. Doug Minton organized some of us to determine which representatives had no constituents attending and split up that list so we could call on those representatives in their offices. This worked out quite well, and it turns out that it has been done in the past; hopefully it will make the plan for next year. We could make an even greater impact if every representative had someone call on them in their offices to remind them of veteran presence throughout Tennessee and what matters to them. I drew the ones from the northeast and southwest corners, and they both told of how rarely someone comes to visit in their offices at the Cordell Hull Building.

Finally, I was struck by two things: 1- How much the representatives appreciated being visited by concerned veteran citizens, especially those with serving family members. 2- How little some knew and how strongly they knew it when speaking about the relationship of the National Guard and the President's ability to mobilize them for federal service needs.

Both an informed citizenry and informed representatives are a constant need in our government at all levels– a need that never goes away. Advocacy...

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired  
MTC Legislative Liaison