

# **2024 Report to Members**

**Military Officers Association  
of America**

**Middle Tennessee Chapter (MTC)**



# MOAA Levels of Excellence 5 Star Chapter

- On 18 April 2024, MTC was designated a MOAA 5 Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Chapter for the year 2023. This is our eleventh consecutive year to receive this award!!





# **2024**

# **Annual Financial Report**

# 2024 Annual Financial Report

|                         | <b>2022</b>        | <b>2023</b>        | <b>2024</b>        |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>           |                    |                    |                    |
| Dues (Online & local    | \$4,275.00         | \$3,745.00         | \$3,355.00         |
| MOAA National Incentive | \$140.00           | \$30.00            | \$30.00            |
| Scholarship Donations   | \$12,954.92        | \$6,489.20         | \$7,849.20         |
| MOAA Grants/sponsorship | \$8,228.00         | \$4,550.00         | \$3,800.00         |
| Miscellaneous Donations | \$1,636.26         | \$1,100.01         | \$1,139.82         |
| Luncheon                | \$2,915.00         | \$3,745.00         | \$2,320.00         |
| Interest                | \$12.98            | \$15.23            | \$13.36            |
| <b>Total Income</b>     | <b>\$30,162.16</b> | <b>\$19,674.44</b> | <b>\$18,507.38</b> |



# 2024 Annual Financial Report cont.

| <b>Operating Cost</b>            | <b>2022</b>       | <b>2023</b>       | <b>2024</b>       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Luncheons (net of cash received) | \$3,352.99        | \$3,936.14        | \$3,418.05        |
| Administrative                   | \$4,426.02        | \$4,540.45        | \$2,241.52        |
| Donations/Grants                 | \$9,886.02        | \$5,800.00        | \$3,228.06        |
| Scholarships Given               | \$10,779.92       | \$5,175.00        | \$7,849.20        |
| Total Operating Cost             | \$28,444.95       | \$19,451.59       | \$16,736.83       |
| Bank Balance Forward Jan 1st     | \$5,558.17        | \$7,275.38        | \$7,498.23        |
| Net Gain/(Loss)                  | \$1,717.21        | \$222.85          | \$1,770.55        |
| Ending Bank Balance Dec 31st     | \$7,275.38        | \$7,498.23        | \$9,268.78        |
| Obligated amount                 | \$0.00            | (\$3,739.20)      | -\$4,349.20       |
| <b>Unobligated balance</b>       | <b>\$7,275.38</b> | <b>\$3,759.03</b> | <b>\$4,919.58</b> |

# Legislative Updates – Surviving Spouses

- MTC Surviving Spouse Members
  - 26 (12 Regular and 14 Emeritus)
  - 70-101 years (Median age: 86.9 years)
- Three Bills to Be Reintroduced in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress:
  - “Respect for Grieving Military Families Act”
  - “Caring for Survivors Act of 2023”
  - “Love Lives on Act 2023”



# Legislative Affairs



# Legislative Liaison

## • State

- The 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee failed to take any action on the issues being promoted by the TN Veterans coalition (TNVET) in 2024.
  - Electronic Voting for Active Duty (Test in Montgomery County in 2024).
  - Medical Cannabis
  - Restoration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Free Auto License Plate for 100% Disabled Veterans.
  - Document that the state is in fact hiring qualified veterans within its departments.
  - Tax equalization involving changes to state law calculations to stop penalizing 100% disabled veterans for property tax relief based on yearly market value fluctuations
- TNVET “Veterans Day on the Hill” for 2025 is scheduled for January 29 to promote the following initiatives:
  - Disabled veteran property tax exemption/reimbursement (Item #5 above).
  - Establishment of a state dedicated method or program that raises money to address veteran needs/programs (similar to State Education Lottery).
  - Modification of the eligibility terms of the State of Tennessee sponsored “Helping Heroes Grant” for TN Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATS) programs.
  - Exploring state support of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for PTSD and brain injury.





# Legislative Liaison (cont.)

- **Federal**

- FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act was passed and signed on Dec 23, 2024
  - \* Highlight: 4.5% pay increase for junior enlisted servicemembers.
  - \* Not Included: Restoration of BAH to 100% of anticipated housing and utility costs. Expanded flexibility for military spouses that work for the Federal Government and are experiencing PCS moves. A TRICARE dental program for Selected Reserve members. (This is only a sample, there were many more items not included.)
- Continued action will be needed as the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress gets underway:
  - \* Defending service-earned burial benefits and Arlington National Cemetery access.
  - \* Continuing the ongoing push for passage of concurrent receipt for combat wounded ([Major Richard Star Act](#)). Support continues to grow, but bill will have to be reintroduced for 2025.
  - \* Caregiver support for veteran's families.
  - \* Prevent TRICARE cost-sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA, or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.

# Chapter Outreach



# 2024 Scholarships

- Chapter Scholarship 2024 donations totaled \$7849.20
- MTC MOAA Veteran Scholarships raised to \$1,500 each
  - \* Belmont University
  - \* Lipscomb University
  - \* Tennessee State University
- Donation to MOAA National Family Scholarship Fund \$3349.20
- Fully Funded MTC MOAA Scholarships
  - Lipscomb University Endowed Veterans Scholarship
  - 4 Endowed MOAA National Family Dependent Scholarships including LTC Charles A Flemming, USA Retired Scholarship



# 2024 Scholarships

## Noteworthy Donations

- Mrs. Nancy Willems (executor of the LTC Charles A. Fleming, USA, Retired Trust) donated \$2,000
- One Chapter member donated \$1000 (Qualified Charitable Donation from a Retirement Account)
- Twenty one members donated \$100 - \$250



# Reserve Officer Training Corps Support

- 2024 MOAA Outstanding Cadet medals and certificates awarded to three cadets from the respective four-year ROTC programs



Army ROTC (Vanderbilt)  
11 April 2024



Air Force ROTC (Tennessee State)  
20 April 2024

Navy/Marine Corps ROTC (Vanderbilt)  
22 April 2024



# Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Support

## ➤ 2024

- \* Supported 13 JROTC units in 2023
- \* Chapter members presented 12 awards to cadets at the JROTC units in Middle Tennessee high schools



## ➤ 2025

- \* Continuing to support 13 JROTC units in 2024
- \* First presentation will be in early February



# MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grants

## ➤ 2023 Community Service Projects

### \* Alzheimer's Association Operation Wind Down:

- Held Mar 16-17, 24 at Wildwood Resort and Marina
- Educational and self-care retreat for military-involved dementia caregivers



## ➤ 2024 Community Service Projects

### \* OSDTN Second Annual Holiday Market:

- Held December 18, 2024, at OSDTN Main Campus
- Grocery store gift cards in \$50 denominations given to 30 veterans and veteran families



### • Military Spouse Employment Seminar:

- Scheduled for February 7, 2025, and sign-ups underway
- Held at OSDTN Clarksville campus
- Designed to empower active-duty and veteran military spouses with employment strategies and entrepreneurial information



# Additional Chapter Outreach Opportunities & Events

- MTC Memorial Day Service at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery
- Participation in Congressional Academy Selection Committees
- Transition Assistance
- TN Veterans Day on the Hill
- Centerstone Military Services
- Matthew 25 Foundation (Homeless Veterans)
- MOAA Military Family Initiative
- Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN)
- USO Nashville/Ft. Campbell
- Tennessee Fisher House
- Bob Woodruff Foundation Vet Fest
- USMCR Toys for Tots Program
- Wreaths Across America – MTSV Cemetery





# MTC Programs



# 2024

## MTC Programs

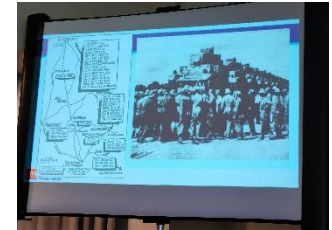
- **January** – Annual Program Update
- **February** – Black Women during World War II (A Presentation from the Military Women’s Memorial) – Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF, Retired (substitute when speaker cancelled due to illness)
- **March** - SCORE Business Mentors – Mrs. Lisa O’Dell
- **April** – Tennessee State Veterans Homes – Mr. Ed Harries
- **May** – My Four-Dimensional Life (Reflections from Nazism to Democracy) – Mrs. Dietlinde Spears



# 2024

## MTC Programs

- **June** – 77 Letters (Reflections on the Vietnam War) – Mrs. Susan Hunter
- **July** – Tennessee Council of Chapters President – Lt Col Pete Warner, USAF, Retired
- **August** – Tennessee Maneuvers– Mr. Benjamin Nance
- **September** – Tennessee Department of Homeland Security – Captain Gregory Mays, USN, Retired
- **October** – Battle of Shiloh – Mr. Richard White
- **November** – The Lamia Afghan Foundation – Lieutenant General John Bradley, USAFR, Retired



# 2025

## MTC Programs

- **January** – Annual Program Update
- **February** – Reflections on Leadership – Lieutenant General Jason Evans, USA Retired
- **March** - State of Tennessee Veterans Affairs – Major General Tommy Baker, USA, Retired
- **April** – Conservatorship in Tennessee – Ms. Amy Bryant
- **May** – Military Spouses and Surviving Spouses Issues – Mrs. Patricia Bergquist



# Membership



# MTC Membership

- As of December 31, 2024, our membership totaled **221**.
- In 2024, we added **14** new members; however, we lost **5** members who moved, **9** requested to go inactive or ceased responding to emails/calls (2 were in their Free Year of Joining 2023), and 7 who passed away.
- The breakdown of the **224-membership** number is: **170** Officer Members, **12** Surviving Spouses, **5** Complimentary Members (ROTC & JROTC), **1** Honorary Member, and **33** Emeritus Officers and Surviving Spouses (Emeritus due to age or physical issues, resulting in inability to participate).
- Chapter Membership is every members responsibility!



# MTC MOAA Chapter Website

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>



# 2024

## MTC Officers & Directors

- President – CAPT Larry Cotton, USN, Retired
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Vacant
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Vacant
- Treasurer/Director – LCDR Bea Henderson, USN, Retired
- Past President/Secretary/Director – COL Doug Minton, USA, Retired
- Past President/Director – CDR John Ohlinger, USN, Retired
- Past President/Director - LTC Wanda Bruce-Graham, USA, Retired
- Past President/Director – CAPT Larry Cotton, USN, Retired
- Past President/Director – CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN, Retired
- Past President/Director – LTC Mike Patenaude, USA, Retired
- Surviving Spouse Liaison/ Director – Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
- Legislative Affairs Liaison/ Director– CDR Ted Edwards, Retired
- Transition Services Liaison – Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF, Retired





# President's Comments



**2025**  
**Officer Installation**  
**and**  
**President's Remarks**

