



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2025 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Web: https://www.mtcmoaa.org			September 2026			Editor: Doug Minton		
Next MTC Monthly Meeting: 22 September 2026; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting “Disaster - Financial Preparation” MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret) Retired Financial Planner & MTC Member - ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 - Gary earned a bachelor’s degree in political science (Arms Control and International Terrorism) from Lafayette College. He was commissioned through ROTC as a 2LT in the Infantry. He is a graduate of the Airborne School. Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification Course and the Civil Affair Officer Qualification Course. He is a combat veteran of Operation Just Cause. He is also a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Courses ICS 100, 200, 300, 700 and 800. Gary recently retired after 29 years in the financial planning industry (Ameriprise Financial) earning designations of the Certified Financial Planner (CFP)®, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC)® and Certified Military Financial Advisor (CMFA)®. Additionally, he volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), USAF Auxiliary as the Emergency Service Officer for the Music City Composite Squadron and a Liaison Officer to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). He was the primary liaison between CAP and TEMA during the State’s response to Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Tennessee Floods. Following the 2010 Floods, he was asked to become the Emergency Liaison Officer for Tennessee Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (TNVOAD). He subsequently served at the President, Vice President and the Treasurer for TNVOAD. (TNVOAD is the primary coordinating agency for managing disaster response efforts from national, state and community based voluntary organizations). He has served in every major disaster from 2010 to 2025, including Gatlinburg Fires, Middle Tennessee Tornadoes (Clarksville, Nashville, Green County, Mt Juliet) Waverly Flooding, Winter Ice Storms and COVID response. Please join us for this very interesting presentation!			<u>Officers</u> <u>President</u> Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret) <u>1st Vice President</u> LCDR Majella Stevenson, USN (Ret) <u>2nd Vice President</u> MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret) <u>Secretary and Membership Chair</u> COL Doug Minton, USA (Ret) <u>Treasurer</u> LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (Ret) <u>Directors</u> Mrs. Patricia Bergquist CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret) CDR John Ohlinger, USN (Ret) LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA (Ret) CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (Ret.) LTC Mike Patenaude, USA (Ret) Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret) CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (Ret) <u>Surviving Spouse Liaison</u> Mrs. Patricia Bergquist <u>Chaplain & Legislative Liaison</u> CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret) <u>Transition Services Coordinator</u> Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret)			<u>Presidents Letter</u> At the July 2026 luncheon, chapter member Tom Avery was talking with me about the upcoming scholarship fundraising. He stated that the three \$1500 local scholarships (\$4500 in total) are nice, but not significant. He went on to say that with the cost of inflation that has occurred, a more meaningful scholarship to reach for would be \$5K each (\$15K total) and suggested we should set that as a new fundraising goal for ourselves. What do you think? Is this a worthy and achievable goal? Dean Wegner sold some Authentically American garments in conjunction with his address to the chapter at the August luncheon. He donated 20% of the sales proceeds towards our scholarship fund, raising \$206.00. Thanks to Dean for his company’s contribution and congratulations on his eldest daughter’s marriage on 29 Aug 2026! A personal affairs note. During a recent national MOAA webinar, it was mentioned that many MOAA members do not have accurate information about their spouse on their MOAA profile. This hinders the ability for MOAA to support surviving spouses. Please ensure that both you and your spouse’s profiles are current with national MOAA. Upcoming community involvement opportunities follow: Operation Commissary is scheduled from 1100-1300 on Friday 25 Sept. Our chapter is signed up to complete this event. We need at least 10 volunteers. Volunteers can register here: Operation Commissary Registration Please join us at Operation Stand Down Tennessee and help us prepare grocery bags for delivery to local, needy military and veteran families. Lt Col. Pete Warner, the Council of Chapters President, made me aware of ZeroMils. This is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business with a mission to create “military thriving” cultures and communities that go beyond being “military friendly” and bring change to the “broken veteran” narrative. ZeroMils is having an <u>in-person</u> event on Tuesday 13 October at Nashville State Community College from 0800-1500. The event is the Military Thriving® Regional Change Forum Nashville. They are looking for our chapter members to participate, get more information and sign up here: http://www.zeromils.com/ Dale Kiser, Chapter President		
			Please make note of the upcoming MTC schedule changes: Our November meeting is always scheduled to avoid the Thanksgiving Holiday; however, this year, it is also going to be re-scheduled to allow our Officers and several members of our Board to attend the MOAA National Affiliated Council & Chapters Southeast Regional Workshop being held in Chattanooga, TN on 16 – 17 November. At this point we are not exactly sure which members of our leadership team will be attending, but we felt it best to reschedule our meeting for 10 November. We will still meet at ONCC. This schedule change also means that our Annual Toys for Tots Collection will be held on 10 November. Most years several of our members forget this event and arrive at the meeting without a toy so please make note of this event, and plan on bringing a new, unwrapped toy to contribute to the local Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Collection (no bikes or large toys please).					

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
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Let Us Never
Forget

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<u>Upcoming Programs & Events</u> 11 September 2026; 7 – 11:00 AM <i>“2nd Annual OSDTN Columbia Heroes Breakfast”</i> https://www.osdtm.org/colhb The Mule House, Columbia, TN - 19 September 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM <i>"Ft. Campbell, KY Retiree Appreciation Day"</i> Soldier Support Center 2702 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY - 22 September 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting <i>“Disaster - Financial Preparation”</i> MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret) Retired Financial Planner & MTC Chapter Member ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069 - 25 September 2026: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM <i>"MTC Operation Commissary"</i> MTC Volunteer - Food Bag Packing Event OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 - 1 October 2026; 7-8:00 AM <i>“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”</i> NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204 - 3 October 2026; 9:30 AM – 4 PM <i>“9th Annual VETFEST”</i> www.VetLinx.org Granny White Park, Brentwood, TN - 27 October 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting <i>“Operation Stand Down Tennessee”</i> (Speaker TBD) OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 - 4 November 2026; 7-8:00 AM <i>“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”</i> NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204 - 5 November 2026; 7 – 10:00 AM <i>“16th Annual OSDTN Nashville Heroes Breakfast”</i> https://www.osdtm.org/nhb	<u>Legislative Update</u> Is Summer really over? Nobody told the weatherman. It is still hot enough to drink lots of iced tea and wear seersucker jackets. It may still be really hot in Washington, but the sure sign of summer passing is that both houses of Congress are back in session. And there is a LOT to do. Over the summer, MOAA and members were active with a summer session of Advocacy-in-Action – the activity that we engage personally in April with direct visits to congressional offices in Washington. The summer session was primarily engaged through the Legislative Action Center of the MOAA website. That availability is with us all the time, but it got really busy over the summer months. Have you been busy with that advocacy activity lately? Our MOAA National President, Lt Gen Brian Kelley, has identified three major initiatives of the many available and asked for us to go to the site often and keep the letters coming in at Congress. Those three are: * The Major Richard Star Act. H.R.2102 and S.1032 * Adding military spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. H.R.2023 and S.1027 * Restoring TRICARE For Life coverage of GLP-1 medications. H.R.5304 Getting these three through is important as the biennial deadline approaches – the end of the 119th Congress and convening of the next Congress in January. Unpassed and incomplete legislation does not survive that shift in time, so it all has to start anew. September is always such a busy time with the elections coming up on 3 November and the annual federal budget now expiring on 11 December (continuing resolution) – and then, there is the usual work to be done as well. Staying in focus really matters, and what drives the focus is the quantity of constituent traffic coming into the office. This is the opportune time to be filling their in-box with your concerns in written form. Time to be writing. They do pay attention on Capitol Hill. CDR Ted Edwards, USN Ret MTC Legislative Liaison
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