



## GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (GAJMOAA)

**3 April 2025**

The General Andrew Jackson Chapter Meets the First Thursday each month at McKendree Tower, 4343 Lebanon Pike, Hermitage, TN at 11:30 a.m....We will be meeting in the activities room which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

The officers and board meet at 10:45 am.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the rights & improve the lives of active duty, former & retired military service members, to include the Guard & Reserves, and their families through sharing of information & advocacy at the state & national level.

Pete began his career as an enlisted airman in 1978, first in the medical field as a medical laboratory specialist, then as an air traffic controller. Upon graduating Officer Training School and completing Undergraduate Missile Training, he was assigned to the 321st Strategic Missile Wing (SAC) as a missile launch officer. Subsequent assignments throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East in various levels of command cumulated in his last assignment on the Air Staff at the Pentagon as Deputy Division Chief, Senior Leader Development. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 30 years of honorable service. He is a life member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and recently completed a two-year term as President of the Stones River Chapter/MOAA, Murfreesboro, TN. Pete also serves as the current President of the Tennessee Council of Chapters/MOAA. Additionally, he is a life member of the Disabled Veterans of America. Pete, his wife, Sandy, and their daughter, Dani are considered transplants from TX and proudly reside in Winchester, TN.

### 2025 Officers & Board Members for the GEN Andrew Jackson Chapter of MOAA:

### Our April Program is

**LtCol Pete Warner  
USAF Retired**



Pete received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1985 from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. He completed his first master's degree in aerospace science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1987. While attending Webster University in San Antonio, he completed a Masters' Degree in Procurement and Acquisition Management in 2013 and an MBA, in 2016. Pete's professional military education includes Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership School, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

- President** Bobbie Bell, COL
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP** Dan Sullenger, MAJ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP** Mickey Ponder, CPT
- Secretary** Jim Perkinson, Col
- Treasurer** Al Snyder, LTC
- Chaplain** Tom Sarver, COL
- Board** Don Deering, COL  
Bill Moss, CPT  
Rich Neal, Ltc  
Phil Ponder LtJG  
Jeff Rice, Col  
Barry Sprouse, LTC
- Past President** John Wade, CW5
- Legislative POC:** John Wade
- Membership Chair:** Dan Sullenger
- Surviving Spouse:** John Wade

Let's make him feel welcome!

### Upcoming meeting dates:

***1 May  
5 June  
3 July***

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



**Psalm 100:1-5**

### **CHAPLAINS CORNER:**

Psalm 100: 1-5 KJV 1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.  
2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**

My parents spent a lot of time at church. My mother was head of missionaries; my dad was head of the Sunday School Department so when I acted up, I had to sit in the front row. My dad loved to sing hymns, loudly and with great joy. However, he was tone deaf, so it sounded good to him AND to everyone else because he was loved by all.  
Semper Fi and a big oorah,  
Tom

CH Tom Sarver, COL, USMC

## SICK CALL

A couple of our members have had some health issues lately & they gave me permission to share this information with you.

Jim Henderson fell off 3 steps backwards in his garage onto the concrete floor on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. He was transported to Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital where he was admitted with a broken pelvis & a bone in his back. Further testing has revealed 4 broken bones as well as bilateral aneurysms in the frontal lobe. He continues to undergo physical therapy at the Pavillion here in Lebanon, & according to Bev, he is slowing improving. He does get frustrated with not being able to do everything he wants & not being able to

go home. I can certainly appreciate that! Bev has asked for your continued prayers.

Margaret Jones (wife of Gordon Jones) continues to recover from her surgery in January & is planning on being at the meeting in April. We've missed you, Margaret, & look forward to having you both back at the meetings.

Let's keep Jim & Bev in our prayers.

If you know of a member or their spouse/significant other who is ill, please let me know.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL

Bev Henderson	4
Lt JG Phil Ponder	6
COL Bobbie Bell	19



## PRESIDENT'S WORDS OF WISDOM:

There is a reason it is called March Madness & I LOVE IT! I have been going to games, yelling my foolish head off, booing the referees, & suffering with each missed 3 pointer. I admire these athletes so much! I thought working fulltime & going to nursing school was tough. These young athletes go to school fulltime, practice many hours a week, travel from school to school to play, & then play in front of absolute nuts that are called fans! These fans lose their minds on

Facebook, critiquing every move & call. But how we love it!

I want to brag for a moment on my Tennessee Vols & Lady Vols. Both teams are going to the Sweet Sixteen. I went to Lexington & Columbus to watch games in person for both & am traveling to Birmingham to cheer on the Lady Vols on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully I'll be there on the 31<sup>st</sup> as well. GO BIG ORANGE!

I would like to think I put in as much energy to our chapter as I do my support of all things Tennessee Orange. I would hope I get as worked up over a good meeting & a good speaker as I do a critical drive to the bucket. I am going to try to do better. I hope each of you re-evaluates your membership & will strive to help make our chapter better.

I want to take a moment & thank COL Tom Sarver for serving as our chapter chaplain. Today is his last Chaplain's Corner. Due to health reasons, he feels it is time to step down from this post. We have been so lucky to have Tom (& Nona, his precious wife) as our chaplain. It is quite unusual to have a USMC as a chaplain – they usually let the Navy handle those duties! Tom has had & continues to have some health challenges. I will tell you, had I been in his place, I would not have been as faithful to our chapter as he has. I am so sad he feels it is time to step away, but he & Nona will ALWAYS be members of this chapter. He has been a good & faithful servant of God & we have been blessed to have been a part of his & Nona's ministry.

*Bobbie*

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

*The following is a statement MOAA National has released:*

### Statement on Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions March 2025

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has always advocated for a strong national defense, with a particular focus on the people whose service and sacrifices make it possible. Maintaining this strength requires both sufficient funding and a capable workforce. However, the nation's growing debt and fiscal challenges pose a significant risk to future prosperity and place increasing pressure on our ability to sustain a robust force.

Given this reality, ongoing budget scrutiny to find efficiencies and savings is not only appropriate but necessary. However, early results from these exercises and actions have highlighted the need for thoughtful implementation and greater caution as budget reviews continue. There have been opportunities to reconsider and reverse rapid decisions when their negative consequences became evident; a prime example came in the protection of military spouses with existing remote-work arrangements from a return-to-work directive that would've significantly harmed military families. We must balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining a strong and prepared all-volunteer force, ensuring the nation upholds its promises to those Americans and their families who commit themselves to uniformed service and sacrifice for their country.

Those who serve and have served in uniform make extraordinary commitments and sacrifices — not only for our national defense, but for the very ideals that define America: freedom, security, and prosperity. Military members uphold the foundation of economic prosperity and freedoms all Americans enjoy — foundations built by veterans. These servicemembers swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, many putting their lives on the line, to make this happen. They don't join to get rich or receive accolades, they join to defend and protect liberties often taken for granted. In return, they expect the nation to honor its commitments and uphold promises made to care for them and their families both during and after their service. Fulfilling these promises is essential to ensuring those who wear the uniform — and their families — continue to encourage future generations to serve.

Despite statements to the contrary, some of the cuts made to the federal workforce and budget have negative consequences for the uniform services community, veterans, and families. Veterans, who make up approximately 30% of the federal workforce, are being dismissed. The speed of current actions is preventing recognition of the previous commitments made by the nation through veterans' hiring preferences. Similarly,

military spouses who are granted a federal hiring preference are also being let go. For military spouses, the impact extends beyond household income—their job loss directly impacts the readiness and retention of their uniformed partners. Military families increasingly rely on dual incomes, and the loss of that second income stream plays a significant role in the decision to remain in service. These preferences were not established as handouts, but as a strategic investment recognizing the vital role of these workers in supporting recruiting, retention, and overall warfighting readiness.

Unfortunately, in the rush to make reductions, broad assumptions have emerged that veterans and spouses are simply being handed employment. In reality, their unique skillsets, experience, and dedication are highly valued and difficult to replace. Many of these individuals sought federal jobs so they could continue to serve the country and, in some cases, keep their military family together, when they could have commanded higher salaries in the private sector. As demonstrated in previous reversals and during DOGE updates that have highlighted a need to clean up the inevitable mistakes, some of these actions should be reversed quickly to eliminate inadvertent impacts on national defense.

The pace of current actions underscores the need to apply lessons learned and proceed with greater caution as budget reduction efforts, such as those announced for DoD, take place. As in previous budget-cutting exercises, it is not unusual for operations and maintenance and military personnel accounts to receive the most scrutiny. These tend to be the easiest areas to generate quick savings, free from the political or contractual concerns associated with other parts of the budget.

Once again, the right statements about supporting the uniformed service members and families who bear the burden are being made. But history tells us budget discussions often lead to reductions in "people programs" — housing allowances, healthcare benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, compensation, and manpower reductions themselves. These cuts may appear to offer immediate savings, but they have often proven more expensive thanks to unintended long-term costs:

- **Retention and Recruitment**

**Risks:** Reductions in benefits make military service less attractive, weakening our ability to maintain a skilled and ready force.

- **Readiness Degradation:** Morale and stability among servicemembers decline when financial security is undermined.

- **Historical Lessons Ignored:** Past budget reductions, such as those seen during the 2014-2016 sequestration period and after Operation Desert Storm, led to force management challenges and cost more to correct. The costs to hastily reverse force reductions made without connections to actual defense strategies were significant. Even

more costly was the extensive loss of experience, as new recruits replaced experienced members (who were in many cases paid to depart).

If increasing focus on war-fighting and meritocracy is a target, then addressing harder but more lucrative places to generate savings should be in the plan. Though more difficult given the amount of associated political considerations, there are opportunities to generate savings through responsible defense budget reform:

1. **Efficient Program**

**Management:** Allowing defense leaders to shutter outdated programs, weapon systems, and infrastructure through a BRAC would free up significant funds.

2. **Acquisition Reform:** Addressing inefficiencies in the procurement process would reduce costs.

3. **Long-Term Fiscal**

**Planning:** Instead of making hasty cuts to meet short-term budget targets, policymakers should focus on sustainable financial strategies that prevent costly course corrections.

The men and women in uniform understand their duty to serve and protect this nation. It is the nation's duty to ensure their sacrifices are honored — not just with words, but with policies that reflect the value of their service. Budget constraints must be addressed — even within DoD and the VA, but cuts should not come at the expense of those who have given so much. By working together — lawmakers, advocacy groups, and the American public — we must find fiscally responsible solutions that uphold our commitment to those who serve.

MOAA stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we, as a nation, fulfill the promises made to those who serve and have served — along with their families. Now is not the time to erode our service members' earned benefits. Rather, it's time to find solutions.

**To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and [register as an advocate](#) at our [Legislative Action Center](#). Don't know how? [Goggle MOAA & follow the prompts](#).**



## East TN Chapter Back Up!



The East Tennessee Chapter Rebuild Team!

Saturday, 1 March at Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut, TN the East TN Chapter Rebuild Team held a kick-off meeting to revitalize the East TN Chapter of MOAA in the Knoxville area. The postcard campaign and word of mouth attracted approximately 58 members to sign up and express their support for the chapter. Of the 58 potential new members, we were able to nominate 5 board members on the spot and have them officially installed by none other than MOAA's Senior Director of Affiliate Councils and Chapters, Frank Michael, CAPT, USN (Ret)! Following are the names of the new officers:

President - Doug Goins, LTC, USA (Ret)  
First Vice President - Steve Meyers, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Membership Chair - Tom Peck  
Treasurer - Eric Nicholls  
Secretary - Daniel Steiger

## Veteran's Crisis Line

988 → press 1

**This line serves veterans, service members, National Guard & Reserve members, & those who support them.**

**24/7 365 days of the year**

## ID CARDS:

### CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

➤ Smyrna Training Site  
615-267-6300

➤ Berry Field  
615-660-8607

## PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in joining our chapter or have questions about MOAA, feel free to talk with any officer, board member, or member of the chapter. The president's phone number is 615-308-8770 & email is [superbee1@charter.net](mailto:superbee1@charter.net). The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair's phone number is 615-347-2655 & email is [dansullenger@aol.com](mailto:dansullenger@aol.com).

## CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### LTC T. STEVE LANNOM, USA (RET)



- Born and raised in South Nashville, graduating from Glencliff High School in 1980.
- Joined the Tennessee Army National Guard as a Finance Specialist E1 in July 1980
- Attended Basic Training at Ft Knox, Kentucky before attending Finance Specialist AIT at Ft Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.
- Hired as a Full Time Guardsman in the Military Pay Branch in 1981.

- After obtaining the rank of Sergeant E5, decided to attend Officer Candidate Course at the Tennessee Military Academy, graduating in 1987.
- Graduated Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in general studies and theology
- Was commissioned as a 2LT in the 4/117th Infantry (Mech) Battalion, 30th Separate Armored Brigade as the Battalion Training Officer
- In 1990 was transferred to the 473rd Support Battalion, 30th Separate Armored Brigade serving as the Brigade Maintenance Officer, Brigade Property Book Officer and Battalion Training Officer
- In 1998 was transferred to the State Medical Command as the Administrative Officer, retiring in 2004 as the State Medical Readiness Officer at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.
- Was awarded the Legion of Merit at retirement
- After retirement I umpired little league baseball before accepting a position as a Patient Administrative Specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Retired from the VA after being promoted to a Contracting Officer.
- Active member of Heartland Baptist Church, Corinthian Lodge #8 Free and Accepted Masons, Al Menah Shriners and American Legion Post 141 serving as the Service Officer.
- Father of two, a son and a daughter and four grandsons

Welcome to our chapter, Steve!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. NAVY!**



On 30 April the USN, founded in 1798, will turn 227 years old!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION**



March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Happy 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

**CHOW LINE**



**Our meal will be catered by Houston's of Mt. Juliet. We will be having roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans with rolls & cookies.**

**Please pay the Treasurer **\$15** when you arrive.**



National MOAA & the General Andrew Jackson Chapter are nonpartisan entities.