



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

May 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

27 May 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Meeting
“Spouses/Surviving Spouses”
Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
MTC Surviving Spouse Liaison
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist is a member of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of MOAA, serving as the MTC Surviving Spouse Liaison and a member of the Board of Directors since 2009. Since 2011, Patricia also serves as the TN Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison educating, encouraging, and empowering the Surviving Spouse Liaisons from each of the ten MOAA Chapters in the state.

In October 2010, she was appointed to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) at MOAA National and fulfilled the role of committee chairman two consecutive years. She served eight (8) years on the six-member committee that worked with MOAA National on issues impacting surviving spouses and families. The committee was integral in the successful repeal of the “SBP/DIC Offset” and advocated for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) parity with other federal survivor programs, health care, education and other issues that impact surviving spouses and dependents.

While serving on the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee at MOAA National, Patricia was presented the “MOAA Leadership Award” by Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, MOAA President, for her leadership in the Cell Phones For Soldiers Campaign, and the “Chairman’s Award” by General John Tilelli, Chairman of the MOAA National Board of Directors, for her leadership on the SSAC. In October 2022, Patricia received the “MOAA Surviving Spouse Level of Excellence Award for Councils”.

Patricia serves as a resource and consultant who works “one on one” with spouses and surviving spouses on a national level, dealing with complex issues involving DFAS Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and other related issues.

She is the surviving spouse of CDR Melvin D. Bergquist, Jr., USN (Ret.) who served over 34 years in the United States Navy. She is a native Tennessean and has resided in Nashville since 1976. She is a cum laude graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, TN. She worked in a variety of administrative, sales and customer service positions prior to her retirement in 2010.

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- Surviving Spouse Liaison
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- Chaplain & Legislative Liaison
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- Transition Services Coordinator
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Chapter Contact Information

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Nashville, TN 37205-0252

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Contact Email: **info@mtcmoaa.org**

**Special Offer
for Spouses and Surviving Spouse
Members for the May Luncheon.**

In honor and recognition of our members’ spouses and our surviving spouse members, the MTC Executive Board has elected to offset the cost of each spouse’s or surviving spouse’s lunch by \$15 for their attendance at the May Luncheon Meeting! So, Members please bring your spouse, and Surviving Spouse Members please attend to hear a very important message and enjoy a very good lunch for only \$10!

As you can imagine this offer will increase our turnout at ONCC, so it is more important than ever for you to submit your RSVP if you and hopefully your spouse will be attending this meeting.

The RSVP link for this month’s luncheon follows: <https://forms.gle/Qjh9VbmhZxS7JEB28>

President’s Letter

Designated the “Military Appreciation Month,” May includes multiple appreciation days, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day (May 9th), Children of Fallen Patriots Day (May 13th), Armed Forces Day (May 17th) and finally Memorial Day (May 26th) honoring those who died while serving in the military. These days celebrate and commemorate the service and sacrifice the individuals, and their families have made in support and defense of our nation.

Our chapter will participate in this celebration and commemoration of military members and their families at two events this month. On Saturday, May 24th, we will honor all those who died in the service of the country at a Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on McCrory Lane. It’s a short, solemn ceremony where we recognize the losses for each military service with a wreath-laying and we remember our chapter members who died during the last year. At our May luncheon (May 27th), we will discuss some of the realities which each military member will need to address to ensure that their families receive the benefits the service member earned.

While we were not successful at the state level with the initiatives supported by Tennessee Veterans (TNVET) this year; we still have an opportunity to advocate for military members and their families at the national level. We encourage you to lend your voice to the advocacy effort through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at <https://moas.quorum.us> as the easiest way to make your support known to your individual members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

At our April meeting, I announced that the chapter had been awarded its 12th consecutive Five-Star Level of Excellence recognition and a Four-Star Communications award for its website. We were also awarded a community engagement award for \$2,000 that we will use to help alleviate food insecurity for veterans at Operation Stand Down Nashville’s annual Holiday Market in December. To support these efforts, we ask you to continue your membership in our chapter by paying your dues at “MTC MOAA, P.O Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205” or use the new Dues Portal on MOAA’s site at <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/> (be sure to scroll down to “Tennessee” for “Middle Tennessee Chapter”). Or you can bring the \$25 to our next luncheon..

We had a great luncheon at OSDTN last month and are anticipating another one at Old Natchez Country Club, on May 27th at 11:30 am. Our own Patricia Bergquist will present a program on “Spouses/Surviving Spouses” and we encourage you to bring your spouse! See you then!

Larry Cotton, CAPT, US Navy (ret.), President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

24 May 2025; 10:30 AM

“MTC Memorial Day Ceremony”

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery
(At the Flag Pole)

7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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27 May 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Spouses/Surviving Spouses”

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

MTC Surviving Spouse Liaison

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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5 June 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM

‘MTC Monthly Board Meeting’

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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24 June 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“118th Air Wing Operations”

Col. Ted Geasley, TN Air National Guard

118th Air Wing Commander,

MTC Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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10 July 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting (ZOOM)”

(Contact a Board Member if you desire to participate.)

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16 July 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”

Sammy B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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22 July 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“The Brown Water Navy in Vietnam”

CAPT Dana McLendon, USN (Ret.)

MTC Past President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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7 August 2025; 7 - 8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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Legislative Update

Every year in early April, the state council presidents and some other leaders gather in the Washington area for Advocacy in Action Week which we just call by the acronym AiA. We just can’t be a military group without acronyms! The week involves becoming very familiar with chosen legislative initiatives and going as a group of state delegations to the Senate and House Office Buildings with appointments to meet with our own state members and/or their leading staffers.

I went representing the Chaplains Virtual Chapter but traveled to Capitol Hill with the Tennessee delegation. The other two members were Pete Warner as Tennessee Council President and Karon Uzzell-Baggett as a MOAA national board member. We visited both senators and five of the nine house members, and we left materials for those we could not visit.

Every team advocated for the Military Spouse Hiring Act. The Ask: Adding military spouses as a target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Act. The Tennessee Team followed the VA Track of two pieces of legislation: *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans* with the ask to pass legislation to shorten the long waits before earning service-earned care and benefits and the *Support for Veteran Caregivers* with the asking to champion or cosponsor the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. Each of us on the Tennessee Team specialized in one of those three items, and mine was the veteran caregiver’s item

What was learned about the legislative process that we can all use? One item is that Capitol Hill is a VERY busy place with more going on than individuals can keep current about. This means that their leading staffers are far more important than I had realized. Between their legislative sessions and hearings going on all the time, the demands on time are very high. Security is also a LOT higher than I had seen in the past.

A major item when meeting or writing to members is the simple item of knowing and having handy the assigned bill numbers. They will ask you for the number as well as the name, and when you know the number, it tells them that you know what you are talking about and are showing some expertise. Take than thought onboard, when you write or speak to a representative or senator make sure to say the bill’s number. It REALLY increases your impact and tells them to take what you say seriously.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.) MTC Legislative Liaison