

TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS ~ REFLECTIONS ~

Volume 1 / Issue 1 FURTHER THE MISSION OF MOAA IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE



DECEMBER 2025

THE NATIONAL MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA IS A NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION

A RECENT SUCCESS

East Tennessee Chapter, located in Knoxville, TN successfully filled chapter officers at the Revitalization Meeting March 01, 2025. Support from MOAA members Council of Chapters; Pete Warner President, Sandy Warner Secretary, Chattanooga Chapter; Ray Mitchell President, Scott Hardin Past President, Mountain Empire Chapter; Don Thompson President, John Rice Past President, Stones River Chapter; Larry Ellis Membership Chair, Upper Cumberland Chapter; Robert Martin Vice President, Nick Marotta, and MOAA Affiliated Councils and Chapters Frank Michaels.

The Tennessee Council of Chapters MOAA began a new term for 2024-2025

The meetings are held in person at Sammy B's in Lebanon, TN.
705 Cadet Ct. Lebanon, TN 37087-2648

TN Council Board

CoC President Pete Warner Stones River Chapter
CoC Membership Chair Doug Minton Middle Tennessee Chapter
CoC Secretary Sandy Warner Stones River Chapter
CoC Treasurer Monroe Gildersleeve Fort Campbell Chapter
CoC Surviving Spouse Liaison Patricia Bergquist Middle Tennessee Chapter
CoC Chaplain Eddie Sumbler Fort Campbell Chapter
CoC Legislative Liaison Bill Summers Fort Campbell Chapter
CoC Legislative Liaison Steve Singleton Fort Campbell Chapter
CoC Past President Ivan Adames Fort Campbell Chapter

Chapter Presidents

Chattanooga – Ray Mitchell, President
Smoky Mountains – Steve Meyers, President
Memphis – Kathy DesJarlais, President
Middle Tennessee – Larry Cotton, President
Mountain Empire – Donald Thompson President
Upper Cumberland – Scott Jacobsen, President
Fort Campbell – Brian Lynch, President
Stones River – Keith Prather, President
Sumner County – Stewart Reeves, President
Gen Andrew Jackson – Bobbie Bell, President

tncoc-moaa.org



East Tennessee Chapter Officers sworn in by Frank Michael ACC MOAA, Doug Goins President, Steve Myer Vice President, Eric Nicholls Treasurer, Daniel Steiger Secretary, Tom Peck Membership Chair

March 01, 2025. East Tennessee Chapter MOAA Rebuild team came together with military officers in the area; to establish the membership for this chapter. Larry Ellis Membership Chair from Stones River Chapter MOAA, and Sandy Warner Secretary from TN Council of Chapters worked the registration table making sure each member received an application for this chapter and a thank you pen from the TN Council of Chapters. A good showing of support and interest from the community of Knoxville, TN.

Mary Boring Office Manager at Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut, TN had refreshments set up in the back of the room for the meet and greet and had added to the refreshments brought in. A great addition to this meeting and could not have been done without her.

“Advocacy In Action (AIA)” was nothing new for the council President as he has spent 5 years pounding the hallways of the capitol advocating for Veterans.

Swearing In January 24, 2024



AIA Tim Burchett



AIA 2024 Chuck Fleishman



AIA Dr. Diana Harshbarger



AIA 2024 Mark Green



AIA Marsha Blackburn

MOAA.QUORUM.US

SE Regional workshop



Branding the Council with coins, pens, caps, and a Council Flag and banner,



TN Council of Chapters coin



Dena Kilgore Program Director ACC from MOAA National receives a TN CoC cap



Of all the people to choose from, MOAA National decided Pete looked to be the best match with Gen Kelly for the MOAA magazine.



Photo bombed by Susan Short of Stones River Chapter at the Air Force Ball Arnold Air Force Base Sep 13, 2025



Left to right: Frank Michael, Gen. Kelly, Pete Warner, Jay Garbus



COUNCIL RECOGNITION

40-year Anniversary 2025 Presidents Award

2024 Level of Excellence Awards

Five Star Level

TN00 - COC

TN01 - Chattanooga

TN03 - Memphis

TN04 - Middle TN

TN05 - Mountain Empire

TN10 - Stones River

Four Star Level

TN11 - Sumner County

2024 Harris Communications Awards

Five Star

TN00 - COC/Website

TN01 - Chattanooga/Print/E-Newsletter

TN01 - Chattanooga/Website

TN05 - Mountain Empire/Print/E-Newsletter

TN05 - Mountain Empire/Website

Four Star

TN04 - Middle TN/Website

TN10 - Stones River/Print/E-Newsletter

TN11 - Gen. Andrew Jackson/Print/E-Newsletter

Congratulating our 2024 MOAA Council and Chapter Award Winners:

TN00 CoC	TN01 CC	TN02 SMC
TN03 MC	TN04 MTC	TN05 MEC
TN06 UCC	TN07 FCC	TN10 SRC
TN11 SCC	TN12 GAJ	



CC Christmas dinner Dec 2024



ETC/SMC swearing in Mar 01, 2025, Frank Michaels from National MOAA, Doug Goins ETC President, Steve Myer VP, Eric Nicholls Trea, Daniel Steiger Sec, Tom Peck MC, John Woods Chaplain.



MEC swearing in



MEC swearing in ceremony Jan 2025

Chattanooga Aquarium held a Medal of Honor Reception



Medal of Honor Reception Oct 02, 2025



Chattanooga Navy Ball Oct 1, 2025



Medal of Honor Reception Oct 02, 2025



Chattanooga Navy Ball Oct 1, 2025



ROTC Honor Guard Chattanooga Navy Ball
Oct 1, 2025



Missing Man Table of Honor
Chattanooga Navy Ball Oct 1, 2025

Honoring the Fabulous Five at
Chattanooga Navy Ball Oct 1,
2025

TN01 CC Chattanooga's Legacy of Service: Honoring Korean War Veterans



General B.B. Bell presents
award to Mr. Jack Martin for

Chattanooga, Tennessee, has long been home to many distinguished Korean War veterans whose service spans all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Among them are Air Force veteran **Wilbourne Markham**, who served alongside his twin brother and later became a medic; **Doyle Cox**, an Army soldier awarded Bronze Stars for his bravery during the Battle of Osan; and **Don Lee**, a Navy veteran who took part in the historic Battle of Inchon. These individuals represent the many Chattanoogaans who served with courage and dedication during the Korean conflict.



Korean Ambassador
Peace Medal

Continuing this proud legacy, the Chattanooga Chapter of MOAA recently recognized its one remaining living Korean War veteran. At the Chapter's August 2025 dinner meeting, **Mr. (CPT) Jack Martin** was honored on the **75th Anniversary of the Korean conflict** with the **Korean War Ambassador for Peace Medal**, awarded by the Government of the Republic of Korea. The medal was formally presented by **General Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army (Ret.)**, a longtime Chapter member and former commander of Korean forces from 2006 to 2008.

Mr. Martin served from 1953 to 1955 and played a vital role in rebuilding the railroad infrastructure in Korea—an effort critical to the nation's recovery and stability. Both he and General Bell have been dedicated members of the Chattanooga Chapter for many years, and their continued commitment to service stands as a testament to the enduring bonds forged between our veteran community.

TN02 ETC / SMC Swore in their board March 01, 2025. Then proceeded to take steps to gather veterans from the area and build from there. To create a strong foundation in which to grow, a name change to Smoky Mountains Chapter has been submitted and accepted. Meetings are held monthly in Mimi's Café at Turkey Creek @ 6pm EST, taking Nov. & Dec. 2025 off for the holidays. To further along the "get to know each other process" most members have purchased their Smoky Mountains Chapter nametag. Additionally, for those moving to the Knoxville area and interested in joining the chapter their mailing address is: Smoky Mountains Chapter, PO Box 30984, Knoxville, TN 37930.

Chattanooga Tennessee: 2025 SROTC and JROTC Chattanooga Chapter MOAA Scholarship Winners

Pictured from left to right: President Raymond Mitchell, UTC Cadet Daylan Dockery, Hixson High School Cadet Andrew Price, Hixson High School Cadet Anthony Rimback, Ooltewah High School Cadet Owen Wilkey, Sale Creek High School Cadet Seth Green, MOAA Chapter's JROTC Awards Coordinator LTC Ron Green, and MOAA Chapter's Scholarship Board Director LTC Bill Brooks.



One of our Chapter's core missions is to provide scholarship opportunities for outstanding senior-year Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) cadets across the region, as well as Senior ROTC (SROTC) cadets attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

At our April 2025 Chapter dinner meeting, we proudly awarded five \$1,500 scholarships—four to High School JROTC Cadets and one to a UTC SROTC Cadet. These recipients represent some of the finest young leaders from the 14 JROTC and ROTC programs we support. It is both an honor and a privilege for our members to recognize such exceptional students who are committed to advancing their education and pursuing future military service.

Each year, our Chapter works diligently to raise funds for these scholarships. Thanks to the generous support of our members and community partners, we were able to increase both the number of awards and the amount of each scholarship this year.

TNO3 MC – Kathy Desjarlais Memphis is most proud of its outreach to the local VAMC. We supported the Holiday food boxes for those less fortunate. Throughout the year we provided snack foods, mans the coffee and snack cart several times, and supported the clothes closet with various clothing items.

The following are program's the Memphis chapter supports. The chapter has made specific donations to these as well as several our chapter members have made personal donations.

We have 6 Beneficiaries:

1. ROTC Scholarship

The MOAA Memphis Chapter awards a scholarship to a selected JROTC cadet each year who is enrolled in a ROTC program. The cadet can re-qualify each year for 3 succeeding years.

The Chapter has a scholarship fund, separate from other chapter funds.

2. ROTC and JROTC Units

The MOAA Memphis Chapter supports ROTC and JROTC schools/units by working with the detachment senior instructor to select a deserving cadet for outstanding accomplishments. Our chapter is aligned with over 40 units in Tennessee and Mississippi. We encourage funding from our members to help cover the cost of the medals and certificates which are presented every Spring.

3. Alpha Omega Veterans Services

Alpha Omega Veterans Services is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that provides displaced and homeless veterans with the social services needed to totally reintegrate them back into society. Such services are food, shelter, clothing, referrals for training in vocational, educational and job placement goals, community service referrals, individual and group counseling and other such services and facilities designed to meet their physical, social, and psychological needs and to promote their health, security, happiness and usefulness in society.

4. Toys for Tots

This US Marines program is supported every year by this chapter. We collect funds and toys to be forwarded to a local Marine contact. Toys are collected at the November Membership meeting.

5. VA Christmas Programs

The Memphis MOAA Chapter supports several programs at the VA. The VA Food Basket will provide fresh food and staple items to Veterans in great need. The Parade of Rooms provides a goody basket for those Veterans who will be in the hospital over Christmas.

6. Memphis VA Fisher House

The Memphis VA Fisher House provides a home away from home for families of veterans receiving extended inpatient services at the Memphis VA Medical Center.

TNo4 MTC – Larry Cotton

Our chapter has two external facing focuses that carry weight with our members. Of course, there are smaller activities, like contributing to the USMC Toys for Tots program and participating in the annual Wreaths across America campaign, but the below should be of note.

Our Scholarship program continues every year with many members contributing directly to our campaign through generous gifts. So far this year, we have received over \$5,000 in donations and we may get more.

- Three local veterans' assistance scholarships are funded annually. This year the Executive Board has approved \$1,500 for each of the scholarships at Belmont, Lipscomb, and TN State Universities.
- One local scholarship is fully funded at Lipscomb University.
- Four MOAA National scholarships are fully funded. Our Executive Board has approved distributing any additional donations from our local scholarships to MOAA National's scholarship funds.

To provide some direct support for veterans that allows individual members to interact with other veterans and supporting organizations. We engage in three events:

- Our members participated in an Operation Stand Down Tennessee Food Bag packing event on September 20th.
 - Many of our members (17) attended the OSDTN Heroes Breakfast that raised money for OSDTN's operations.
- Again, this year, our members will distribute \$50 Publix gift cards directly to needy veterans and their families at the OSDTN Holiday Market from a \$2,000 MOAA Community Engagement grant.



MTC commemoration was held at the Middle TN Veterans Cemetery 24 May 2025

TN05 MEC – Don Thompson
Because of your continued efforts to make the Mountain Empire Chapter and our communities great, MOAA recognized us with the 5-star Levels of Excellence Award for 2024! This award honors Councils and Chapters for their efforts across the full scope of MOAA's mission. We also garnered 5-star recognition for this newsletter and our website through the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award.



Mountain Empire Chapter



MTC members packed food bags at OSDTN 19 Sept 2025



COL Doug Minton, LTC Thad Vann, Lt Col. Pete Warner (TN CoC President), CDR Ted Edwards and COL Larry Cotton in the Cordell Hull Building at the TN State Capital 29 January 2025.



TNo6 UCC Doyle Winters was presented with a Quilt of Honor by The Fantastic Quilters of FFG in a moving ceremony honoring his military service.



MEC swearing in ceremony Jan 2025



Mountain Empire Chapter June 2025 At our May brunch, we not only recognized our upcoming community and military leaders, but we gave a round of applause and “Welcome Home” to our MECMOAA members who served either in-theater or elsewhere during the Vietnam War. 2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of the official end of the Vietnam War.

Pictured (left to right): Brig Gen Bill Richardson, USAF; COL Jack Woolley, USA; LCDR Tom Shafer, USN; LCDR John Rice, USN; CPT Jack Butterworth, USA; LTC Mary Ward, USA; LTC Ed Champion, USA; and Maj Keith Thompson, USMC. Thank you all—you have Never Stopped Serving.

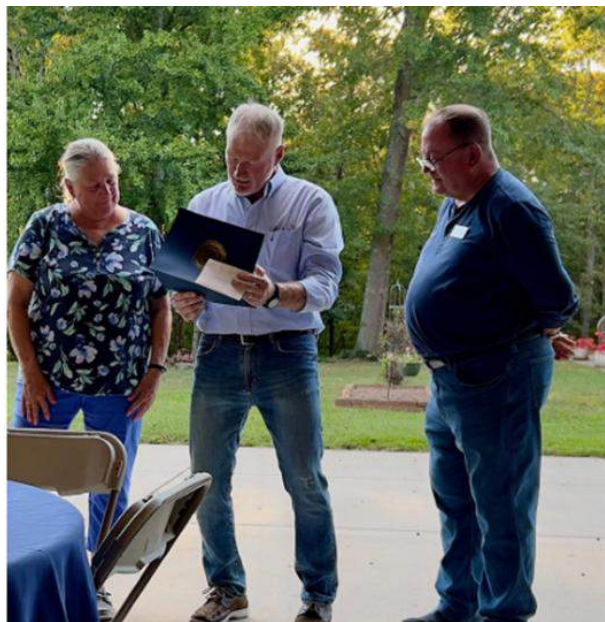


At the May 1, 2025, Tennessee Technological University Golden Eagle Army ROTC Battalion's Spring Awards Ceremony,

CAPT Scott Jacobsen presented Cadet McKinley Westfelt with the MOAA Medal and Certificate. The MOAA Medal is presented to a Junior ROTC cadet who is chosen by the Senior Military Instructor for exceptional potential in military Leadership.

TN07/KY03 FCC Ivan Adames Retiree Appreciation Day 2025

Fort Campbell Directorate of Human Resources hosted annual Retiree Appreciation Day on September 20, 2025, at the Soldier Support Center, 2702 Michigan Avenue. The event informed retired service members about the changes to their benefits and privileges. About 560+ military retirees and families participated, including those who were medically retired or who served in other military branches. "Retiree Appreciation Day is a highlight of each year, and we greatly value the opportunity to connect with our local retirees," said Shawn Pollack, Director of Human Resources for Fort Campbell. "This year's event will feature a variety of organizations offering valuable benefit information, as well as direct access to services supporting their health and well-being. Our retirees are a vital part of the Fort Campbell community, and we are honored to express our appreciation and gratitude for their dedicated service." The opening ceremony featured speaker Maria Bentinck, Director of Army Retirement Services, and Col. James A. McWherter, Blanchfield Army Community Hospital Commander. MOAA member, Ivan Adames and Honorary member Jimmy Wiesner were manning the tables at the RAD. Honorary member Sherry Pickering and LTC Ray Atkins & his wife from the MOAA Chattanooga Chapter stopped by a visit.



TN10 SRC September Annual Picnic Jim and Lorraine Heuberger receive outstanding service award from the CoC President at the Stones River Chapter annual picnic hosted by Royce and Susan Taylor. They welcomed us to their beautiful home. They provided the tables, chairs, tablecloths, coffee, and wine. Our members brought many delectable desserts. They were delicious! The food from Slick Pig was equally appetizing. It was nice to be out in the open air and enjoy the company of our members. Royce provided a special treat for those who decided to go for a ride along his property to the Stones River. The members commented how vast and beautiful their property was and said how big the river was there.



Thank you again, Royce and Susan!



TN11 SCC – Stu Reeve

(Photo caption) Secretary Dave Moomy, at right, presents the Sumner County Chapter's \$500 scholarship to graduating senior Cadet LCDR Clayton Simpson at the Gallatin High School's Naval JROTC awards ceremony in May. The Sumner County Chapter provides a scholarship to each of the three JROTC programs in Sumner County and presents MOAA medals to juniors in each of these programs and to a junior in the Springfield High School JROTC program. In addition, our chapter supports the Sumner County Veterans Home. We meet in January, March, April, May, June, September, October, and December. Dinner meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at VFW Post 9851, 73 New Shackle Island Road, Hendersonville.

TN12 GAJ – Bobbie Bell

GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON CHAPTER

We are a very small chapter of currently less than 40 members with an average monthly attendance of about 25. Our meetings are luncheon ones because most of us do not see too well & driving at night is dangerous for all concerned. Most of us are just not physically able to go out & tackle physically demanding projects. We have interesting programs each month & enjoy the company of other veterans. We work with the instructors of 6 high school JROTC programs, giving awards at the end of each school year & presenting 1 small scholarship.

But where we really shined last year was in our Christmas project. We “adopted” the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Murfreesboro. Per the suggestion of their activity’s director, we gave tee shirts, socks, stocking caps, & gift cards, enough so that each resident got at least one gift. Everyone also got a Christmas card. We heavily supported a local food bank that services our community – the back of my SUV was filled up! And we signed about 100 Christmas cards for area veterans & service men & women on active duty that was distributed by the American Red Cross.

The American Legion Post 17 in Gallatin maintains a former roadside motel as housing for veterans on a reduced income. Our chapter has “adopted” these 22 men & women for Christmas this year. We surveyed each resident on sizes, favorite snacks, & asked for their Christmas wish list. We have already got members to cover 100% of their snack lists & will be about 95% able to cover all the items on their wish lists. The resident who asked for toilet paper & paper towels for Christmas will get her wish fulfilled & then some! Additionally, this year, we will again bring food items in for a local food pantry.





Council coin

Contact Us

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GET CONNECTED WITH MOAA IN TENNESSEE

If you are an officer, veteran, or surviving spouse in Tennessee and are not yet connected to a local MOAA chapter, contact us. We will help you find a chapter home—or explore starting one in your area.

Never Stop Serving.

TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

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