



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

April 2026

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

28 April 2026; 11:30AM - 1:00PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Combat & Medevac; Helicopters in Vietnam"

CPT Art Jacobs, USA

MTC Member & Vietnam Dustoff Pilot

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

(the following is only an excerpt of Art Jacob's bio, please go to <https://www.mtcmoaa.org/chapteractivities/monthlynewsletter.html> for the entire bio.)

Art enlisted in the Army out of high school at age 17 in 1964. He was initially assigned to Field Artillery and spent a year in Korea on the DMZ on a Forward Observer Team. He was promoted to Sergeant E-5 after only 20 months service, and was subsequently accepted to Flight School, where he graduated as a Warrant Officer in October 1967. After attending the Air Rescue School, he was sent to Vietnam as a Medevac pilot in the 15th Medical Bn, 1st Air Cavalry Division. He flew rescue missions during the Tet Offensive, where he was wounded on 7 April. He was promoted to Aircraft Commander after only three months, then promoted to Chief Warrant Officer, and wounded again on 24 July. He received a battlefield promotion to First Lieutenant at end of his tour.

Art and his Medevac crew members are recipients of the DUSTOFF CREWS OF THE VIETNAM WAR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT award, approved on SEPT. 26, 2024.

The following is an excerpt from the documentation supporting the award of the Gold Medal:

On 24 July 1968, Warrant Officer Jacobs, while attempting to rescue 11 wounded soldiers and retrieve 5 KIA's from Bravo Company, 2/8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Division, had three aircraft shot out from underneath him over a four-hour period in the mountains on the Vietnam border with Laos. After two emergency landings, on his third flight, his engine failed due to damage caused by the intense enemy automatic weapons fire from less than 50 meters away. Warrant Officer Jacobs managed to crash land his aircraft, but he and the crew found themselves immediately surrounded.

Deploying his men into a defensive position and successfully fighting off the attack, Warrant Officer Jacobs, despite two bullet wounds, led his crew under fire through the jungle to a small jungle clearing where they were eventually rescued.

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Chapter Contact Information

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23 May 2026; 10 - 11:00 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Observance"

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

Saturday 23 May 2026 at 1000 at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, our MTC MOAA will be conducting a Memorial Day Ceremony. We want as much participation as possible with the wreath ceremony. **We have a separate wreath for each service; we would like a veteran or retiree from each service to participate in the ceremony.** The cemetery is not far and if you have not visited this will be the prefect opportunity to do so. This newsletter is about the last opportunity to put the word out, as our 26 May luncheon is a few days after. Please join us and share about 30-45 minutes of your time, guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

President's Letter

Spring is finally here. Thank goodness; the Fern winter storm and aftermath were not fun.

Please join us at this month's luncheon to hear our chapter member Art Jacobs speak about being a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

MOAA National's annual Advocacy in Action event is April 15th in Washington, D.C.. Our chapter's own Ted Edwards will participate, see his column in the newsletter for more on the issues for 2026. The Issues for 2026 are:

- * Ending the 'Wounded Veteran Tax'
- * Protect Pay of ALL who serve during Federal Shutdowns
- * Protect Veterans from 'Claim Sharks'
- * Improve Access to Care at Military Facilities

These issues are now populated on the MOAA website, you can now easily 'Take Action'. See the Legislative Action Center and use your voice to advocate for all veteran issues that are important to you: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

Please verify and update your MOAA member profile too while you're on the MOAA website. We have several members whose information (mailing address, email, phone) is not current. Please consider upgrading your membership to either paid or lifetime. There are about 3000 MOAA members nationwide that have a basic membership. MOAA national has a small number of staff members and 13 paid lobbyists to advocate for all ranks of active duty and veterans; they can use your support to continue their efforts.

Jennifer and I just returned from our third vacation booked through MOAA Vacations. We are already booked for three more; one this July and two in 2027. If you are looking for a great vacation at a competitive price, check them out: <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/exclusive-discounts/travel/moaa-vacations/>. You get to travel with and meet other MOAA members, you will quickly bond with other travelers and make new friends. As a bonus, a small percentage (1%) of your vacation package comes back to support our Middle Tennessee Chapter (MTC MOAA); if you book with them, let them know you're a MTC member. Come ask me sometime about our trips.

It's graduation season. Talk with Ted Edwards and Larry Cotton about ROTC and JROTC graduation events, these are some of our chapter's community outreach efforts. I'm sure they would welcome others to tag along to support the cadets and network with the programs. We can also use the help to support some ceremonies where conflicts have arisen.

Hope to see you soon,

J. Dale' Kiser, Col, USAF, Ret
MTC President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

22 April 2026; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"
ZOOM

28 April 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Combat & Medevac; Helicopters in Vietnam"
CPT Art Jacobs, USA

MTC Member & Vietnam Helicopter Pilot
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

14 May 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

23 May 2026; 10 - 11:00 AM

"MTC Memorial Day Observance"
Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

26 May 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Service Academy Selection Process"
Tom Forsythe
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

4 June 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

23 June 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Annual Personal Affairs Program

2 July 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

15 July 2026; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"
Sammy B's Restaurant, 705 Cadet Court, Lebanon, TN.

28 July 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Williamson County Law Enforcement"
Sheriff Jeff Hughes
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Legislative Update

MOAA Leaders go to Washington this month as a group to ask our representatives and senators to support legislation of interest to our community at the national level. There a LOT of issues going on all the time, but MOAA identifies a few for special attention. I wrote about the chosen four bills last month; now comes my asking for you to visit the Advocacy-in-Action section of the MOAA.org website and send them some mail. To support our visits, mail in quantity makes significant impact.

Last month I wrote about the contents, and this article is about sponsorship and co-sponsorship.

Shutdown Fairness Act (S.3168) is sponsored by Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin with 7 cosponsoring senators (none from Tennessee) and matches H.R.5801 sponsored by Rep. Dusty Johnson with 17 cosponsors (none from Tennessee). When you write, please do request for Cosponsorship.

Military Care Act (HR.6796) is sponsored by Rep. Stephen Hersford of Nevada and has 9 cosponsors but none from Tennessee. There is no matching bill in the Senate.

Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act, acronym is **GUARD, (HR.1732)** is sponsored by Rep. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire and lacks a matching bill in the Senate. Of 121 cosponsors, 3 come from Tennessee but none from Middle Tennessee.

Major Richard Starr Act (S.1032 & HR.2102) has been around for years and never quite gets across the finish line. It is sponsored by Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut with 78 cosponsors including our Sen. Blackburn but not Sen. Hagerty and by Rep. Gus Bilitakis of Florida with 319 cosponsors with 4 from Tennessee but not including ours from Middle Tennessee.

You can always track legislation using the congress.gov website – very handy!

When you visit the Advocacy section of the MOAA.org website, please make special visits to the Advocacy section in of the website this month to help make greater impact. When you write do mention the bill numbers that are shown, because legislators and staffers understand that you have done your homework when they see that you know the bill numbers. I will report back on our visits in the May column.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret)
MTC Legislative Chair