



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

June 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

27 June 2017; 11:30 AM

"My Enemy—My Friend"

Brigadier General (Ret.) Dan Cherry,
 USAF

*Old Natchez Country Club
 115 Gardengate Drive
 Franklin, TN 37069*

Dan Cherry entered the Air Force in 1959 as an Aviation Cadet, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1960. His military credentials include flying 295 combat missions during the Vietnam War and shooting down a North Vietnamese MiG-21. During his Air Force career, he held the positions of Commander and Leader of the Air Force Thunderbirds; Commander of Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; Inspector General of the Pacific Air Forces; Commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing flying the F-16 and Commander of the Air Force Recruiting Service. He earned several military awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with nine oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with thirty four oak leaf clusters. He completed his service in the Air Force with the rank of Brigadier General.

He is a graduate of the Florida Southern College, the University of Southern California, and the National War College and Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Dan also served in Kentucky state government as Secretary of the Kentucky Justice Cabinet. He is a member of the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame, the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame and the Western Kentucky University Hall of Distinguished Alumni. He is also Director Emeritus of Aviation Heritage Park, an educational facility in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

He is married to the former Sylvia Cooper of Smyrna, GA. They have two daughters and four granddaughters.

Brigadier General (Ret.) Cherry is the author of, *My Enemy...My Friend, a story of reconciliation from the Vietnam War*. This inspiring book chronicles an intense 1972 dogfight between Dan's F-4 Phantom and a North Vietnamese MiG-21 and his subsequent meeting and friendship with the MiG pilot, Nguyen Hong My.

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

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Our Surviving Spouses

We don't often think of the phrase "*continue the mission*" when we think of our military families; however that is exactly the order that confronts our Surviving Spouses, as they continue to keep their (family) unit moving forward.

Our Chapter is blessed to have a number (36 to be exact) of Surviving Spouses as members; many of which allow us the honor of being their ongoing connection to the military family which played such a significant role in their lives. And it is always a great pleasure to see those that continue to participate (Mrs. Lynne Womack, Mrs. Imogene Maddox, Mrs. Julia DeHart, and Mrs. Maureen Edick -to name a few) at our monthly meetings; and of course we are most appreciative of the ongoing leadership of Mrs. Patricia Bergquist, who continues to serve at Chapter level (Surviving Spouse Liaison & Board Member), at State level (MOAA TN Council of Chapters Secretary & State Surviving Spouse Liaison) and at the National MOAA level having led the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, and still participating as one of its most active members.

Our Surviving Spouse members bring a quality of strength and a level of dedication to the greater military family that is sincerely appreciated.

President's Letter

Summer is here and, while the news focus continues to be about party competition and repeated Islamist terrorist acts, important legislative and administration activity is going on. Sequestration still limits flexibility by the services to manage their personnel, TRICARE Standard changes will become effective 1 January 2018, and the VA Secretary is planning to overhaul the "Veterans Choice Program". I recommend you keep informed—and take action when you feel so moved—by visiting www.moaa.org and scrolling down to the daily updates to the legislative section.

Our chapter's pre-Memorial Day remembrance ceremony was held on Saturday, 27 May at 10:00 am at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on McCrory Lane with a small group attending. We avoided the rain and the dark clouds provided an appropriate backdrop for the somber but moving ceremony. I have to thank the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Smyrna support with an honor guard and bugler; their participation added a critical, military tone to the day.

At May's monthly luncheon, we had a small crowd enjoy a highly professional story-telling presentation of "Sea Stories: A Memoir of a Naval Officer" by LT Gary Slaughter, USN, about his front-line participation in the Cuban Missile Crisis and other more personal events.

On 27 June, BG (ret.) Dan Cherry will deliver "My Enemy, My Friend" about his reconciliation with a North Vietnamese fighter pilot 36 years after meeting in combat over the skies of North Vietnam in 1972. "The South China Sea: Flashpoint between the United States and China" by LCDR (ret.) Patrick Ryan, USN, will headline our monthly meeting on 25 July—North Korea's frequent rocket launching demonstrations trying to get attention is not the only critical national security issue in Asia.

Please mark your calendars to join us on 27 June!

L. S. Cotton, Jr.
 CAPT, U. S. Navy (Ret.), President, MTC

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
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Happy 242nd Birthday to the U. S. Army 14 June 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

27 June 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"My Enemy, My Friend"

Brigadier General (Ret.) Dan Cherry, USAF

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11 July 2017; 7:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville

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25 July 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"The South China Sea; Flashpoint between the United States and China"

Lieutenant Commander (Ret.) Patrick Ryan, USN

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18 August 2017; 7:00 AM

"7th Annual Heroes Breakfast"

(Fundraiser for Operation Stand Down TN)

Omni Hotel, Nashville, TN

-

22 August 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Annual Legislative Meeting"

(Senator Corker, or a Military Member of his Staff)

-

21-23 September 2017

"Military Retiree Appreciation Days"

Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL

-

26 September 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Country Music Hall of Fame"

(tentative)

Ben Hall

-

30 September 2017

"Military Retiree Appreciation Day"

Ft. Campbell, KY

-

2017 MTC MOAA Meeting Dates (not shown above):

24 October, 2017

28 November, 2017

No Meeting December 2017

Legislative Update

Federal.

Budget: Last week, DoD released its 2018 budget proposal. According to MOAA, the document included large increases in TRICARE fees across the board. The proposed fee increases will be directed towards Retirees under the age of 65 and their family's active duty family members who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime. MOAA believes these fee increases are disproportional as DoD's healthcare costs continue to decrease and do not reflect the service and sacrifice of the beneficiaries who have earned the health care benefit. - See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/>

VA: The White House unveiled its Veterans Complaint Line, to give veterans direct access to the Trump administration. Veterans can voice their concerns or individual complaints by calling (855) 948-2311. The call center will be fully operational in August. Then, veterans can expect 24-hour continuous coverage. The complaint line is a vehicle for the VA to start collecting, processing, tracking, and responding to complaints in a more responsive way. The VA will use the data to improve the delivery of high quality health care and benefits to veterans and their families in a measurable way.

State.

Tennessee's budget for the coming year is just above \$37 billion, an increase over previous years. Monday, Governor Haslam held ceremonies in three different areas of the state to sign the [IMPROVE Act](#). This legislation also restores the property tax exemption to \$175k for 100% permanently and totally service disabled veterans was a success. In addition to the IMPROVE Act, lawmakers this session approved the Governor's plan to offer tuition-free community college to eligible members of the Tennessee National Guard.

-State Sen. and MOAA member Mark Green says he will not resume his bid for Tennessee governor. Green said he will remain in the state Senate, but focusing his future towards DC where he feels there is opportunity to make significant improvements.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ COL Kent Crossley, USA Retired
Board Member, Legislative Affairs Liaison