



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmoaa.org

July 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

25 July 2017; 11:30 AM

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

Lieutenant Commander (Ret.)
Patrick Ryan, USN

*Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive*

Patrick Ryan enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17 beginning a 26-year career, assigned first in the Persian Gulf in 1973 followed by assignments in the Submarine Service aboard nuclear powered attack and ballistic missile submarines where he attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer. In 1981 he received a BA degree at the University of South Carolina, through the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program, majoring in International Studies. He was commissioned in the Navy as an Ensign in 1982.

He served aboard numerous ships, headquarters staffs and overseas assignments before retiring in 1998 as a Lieutenant Commander. Among his assignments were the guided missile cruiser USS Reeves based in Yokosuka, Japan and the carrier USS Constellation based in San Diego. He also served at the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, the Center for Naval Analyses, and US Central Command headquarters. At CENTCOM he oversaw analyses of threats against US forces in the areas of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and other transnational issues in a 23 country region including the Middle East, northeast Africa and southwest Asia. In 1997 he was selected for a one-year project as a Central Intelligence Exceptional Intelligence Analyst Program fellow to research the roots and threat of Al Qaeda.

He has lived and worked in Bahrain, Italy and Japan and has traveled to about 50 countries for work and leisure. In 1999 he founded a publishing business that developed newsletters and web sites addressing international affairs. In 2007 he founded the Tennessee World Affairs Council; a non-partisan, educational, nonprofit organization that seeks to inspire and educate people to know the world. The World Affairs Council is a partner with Belmont University.

Officers

President

CAPT (R) Larry Cotton, USN

1st Vice President

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

2nd Vice President

LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

Secretary

COL (R) Doug Minton, USA

Treasurer

Capt. Hal Sauer, USAF

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (R) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

Lt.Col. (R) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF

USAF

COL (R) Kent Crossley, USA

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

**Middle TN Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

Website:

<http://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Email: info@mtcmoaa.org

Make Your Voice Heard!

MOAA fights for the welfare of all servicemembers and veterans and their families. Our strength comes from our 355,000 members, and time and again, that voice has proven too loud to ignore. And while MOAA has a loud voice, but it does not mean that our elected representatives are listening. To get their attention; we, their constituents who have served, must speak to the issues as well. The most effective way is through direct personal contact with your elected official, and the second best way is by sending that official a personalized letter or email.

Every officer can accomplish this using the MOAA Legislative Action Center which can be addressed from their home page (<http://www.moaa.org>). **You can use this tool even if you have not yet chosen to join MOAA National!**

"Still Serving" means taking action when and where it is needed, so please let your elected representatives hear your thoughts now!

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great Independence Day last week and are ready for the remainder of the summer. Last month we took the opportunity to recognize our Surviving Spouse members and thank them for their continued important contributions. June also included the Battle of Midway and D-Day commemorations, the US Army's birthday and Flag Day. July will include an often forgotten anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day. Given the recent events on the Korean peninsula and in the Sea of Japan, it is good to remember the sacrifices of our fellow military members and their families during the "Forgotten War."

Of course, the other international events keep our attention, including developments in Europe and Syria, continuing troop losses in Afghanistan and never-ending budget battles in Washington. These fiscal battles are affecting our active duty and reserve military with pay and BAH changes and everyone with the higher TRICARE fees proposed. MOAA national continues to fight those battles for all of us but your voices to your representatives remain critical.

Locally, we continue to support some of the deserving veterans at Lipscomb and Belmont Universities with scholarships, and we continue to support the dependents of military members through the MOAA national scholarship program. We will kick off our annual request for your participation in MTC MOAA's Scholarship Program soon. Please consider contributing what you can. It is only through your assistance that our chapter can provide these scholarships locally.

I know that everyone who attended our monthly luncheon on 27 June enjoyed BG (Ret.) Dan Cherry's presentation on his book **"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. We had quite a showing for that meeting—let's keep it up for our July luncheon when LCDR (Ret.) Patrick Ryan, USN, will discuss **"The South China Sea: Flashpoint between the United States and China"**, a very timely subject of great concern to the international community. You don't want to miss it!

Please mark your calendars to join us on July 25th!

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

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

The Korean War Armistice Day

July 27, 1953

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

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

-

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

"Williamson County Crime Stoppers"

Mr. Kent McClain

-

30 September 2017

"Military Retiree Appreciation Day"

Ft. Campbell, KY

-

14-15 October 2017

"Salute to Veterans"

Presented by OSDTN and VetLinX

Ft. Negley Park, Nashville, TN

-

24 October 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Jet Pioneer; A Fighter Pilot's Memoir"

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Carl Schneider, USAF
and MTC Member

-

2017 MTC MOAA Meeting Dates (not shown above):

28 November, 2017

No Meeting December 2017

Legislative Update

Federal.

Budget - The administration released its FY 2018 budget proposal in May. It appears TRICARE fees are to be increased if included in the final budget. This would not include increases to active duty, families of those who died on active duty and those medically retired. All others may see fee increases especially for those under the age of 65. Increases would also affect pharmacy fees and catastrophic caps for retirees. The President's budget is obviously the initial step to budget development in the House. Your input to your representative can influence the final budget.

VA - MOAA and especially the MOAA Chapters in TN are very concerned about the budget request item to terminate individual unemployment benefits for disabled veterans once they reach age 62 and become eligible for Social Security. The thought from the VA is those disabled veterans typically would not be working at age 62 so why would the government pay unemployment benefits for someone not considered in the employment pool. The challenge is those "totally disability based on individual unemployability" unable to work during their employment period were unable to build a retirement portfolio adequate to cover their costs after age 62. VA Sec Shulkin explained he plans to extend benefits to pre 9/11 care givers and veterans with OTH discharges suffering from mental health issues. Although this is the current policy, at least the middle TN VA system has unclear direction and is not currently offering this service to all in this category.

State.

As of 1 July, several of this year's state legislative bills passed go into effect. These include:

-Allowing older adults without a college degree or certificate to attend community college free of charge. The law allows both full and part-time students to be eligible to participate.

-Total and permanently disabled veterans can receive tax relief on the value of the first \$100,000 of their home. This TN MOAA driven bill would increase the amount to \$175,000 which reinstates changes to the property tax relief program made several years ago.

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