



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

August 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Legislative Affairs Luncheon

22 August 2017; 11:30 AM

"Honorable Bob Corker"

U. S. Senate

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Drive
Franklin, TN 37069

In 2012, Tennesseans overwhelmingly elected Bob Corker to his second term in the U.S. Senate. He was Tennessee's commissioner of finance and mayor of Chattanooga before being elected to the Senate in 2006, but he spent most of his life in business.

It's that results-driven businessman's perspective that allowed him to make a mark early in his Senate tenure and become a pragmatic thought leader on fiscal and financial issues.

Senator Corker serves as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and is an active member of the Banking Committee and the Budget Committee.

He quickly rose to prominence on the Banking Committee, where he became known for his no-nonsense, tough questioning of witnesses during the auto industry bailout and 2008 financial crisis. Bob also is a key voice in Congress on housing finance reform. A bipartisan bill he coauthored in 2013 has been called the "blueprint" for how our nation's housing finance system should look in the future.

A key leader on our nation's fiscal challenges, Bob is one of the few members of Congress to put pen to paper and produce a bill that would set our country on a path to fiscal solvency. As one of the most fiscally conservative members of Congress, he continues to fight against Washington's all too common practice of "generational theft."

Recognizing the important impact U.S. leadership and diplomacy abroad can have on our economy and national security, Bob also is an active leader on the Foreign Relations Committee. Since taking office in 2007, he has visited more than 70 countries to gain a deeper understanding of the strategic relationships between the U.S. and other nations, and in 2015, his colleagues elected him chairman. As the lead Republican on the committee, Corker works with his colleagues to set the committee agenda and help carry out legislative and oversight responsibilities.

Bob graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in Industrial Management. He and his wife of 30 years, Elizabeth, live in Chattanooga.

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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

Good news! I have the great honor to let you know that you, members of the Middle Tennessee Chapter, have again been awarded MOAA's 5-Star Level of Excellence Award as an outstanding chapter! Congratulations to all of you for all that you do! Several board members and I will have the opportunity to attend a regional council and chapter leadership meeting in Memphis in September to receive the award (and to learn a few things, hopefully). I will be proud to hang another medal on our streamer, 5th year consecutively!

One of the ways that our chapter maintains its continued excellent support for the nation and our community is through our scholarship giving. We have funded three endowments for the national scholarship program in the past and continue to support scholarships for military dependents nationally. However, we have focused locally through two \$1,000 scholarships annually for veterans at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities. Earlier this week, I sent out a letter requesting your financial support for our combined scholarship programs and sincerely hope you can help. Please send contributions to the chapter at MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN, 37205-0252.

Each month we recognize the anniversary of one of our military organizations and, sometimes, others who have supported our military in the past and continue to support the nation through them. Happy Birthday, U.S. Coast Guard! August 4, 2017, is the 227th birthday of continuous service to the nation by what became the proud service it is today. Also the USMC Reserve celebrates its birthday on August 29th—Semper Fi!

We have really had some great programs over the last several months and have enjoyed the increased numbers of spouses who attended the monthly luncheons. They have had a very positive impact on the table conversations! You don't want to miss our upcoming luncheon that will focus on legislative affairs. Please mark your calendars to join us!

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



On 4 August the U.S.C.G
celebrated it's 227th Birthday.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

18 August 2017; 7:00 AM

"7th Annual Heroes Breakfast"

(Fundraiser for Operation Stand Down TN)

Omni Hotel, Nashville, TN

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22 August 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Annual Legislative Affairs Meeting

"Senator Bob Corker"

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19 September 2017; 7-8:30 AM

"Matthew 25 Annual Fundraiser Breakfast"

511 Union Street, 27th Floor, Nashville

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21-23 September 2017

"Military Retiree Appreciation Days"

Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL

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26 September 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Williamson County Crime Stoppers"

Mr. Kent McClain

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27 September 2017; 7:30 AM-12:30 PM

"MWR Four Man Gold Tournament"

Presented by the Naval Operational Support Center

Smyrna, TN

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30 September 2017

"Military Retiree Appreciation Day"

Ft. Campbell, KY

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4 October 2017; 6:00 PM

"NROTC National Security Symposium"

Honorable Jeh Johnson

Fourth U. S. Secretary of Homeland Security

Langford Auditorium, Vanderbilt University Campus

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14-15 October 2017

"Salute to Veterans"

Presented by OSD TN and VetLinX

Ft. Negley Park, Nashville, TN

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24 October 2017; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Jet Pioneer; A Fighter Pilot's Memoir"

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Carl Schneider, USAF

Legislative Update

Federal.

Choice Program. A lot has been said recently about the status of the VA "Choice" Program. This temporary program begun in 2014, resulted from the long wait lists and gaps in access to health care in the VA. The intent was to provide additional access to care through community providers and to help the VA rebuild and expand its capacity. Previous to this and still existing is the "Fee-based" program where Local VA's determine patient care when at capacity.

Last month, VA Secretary David Shulkin told the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees he expected Veterans Choice program funds to run out sometime in mid-August. The program is generally now more popular with veterans; however, the Government was not initially reimbursing providers for their services in a timely manner. That has improved. Since then, lawmakers have been working on a solution to keep alive the Choice program, funding it at least for the near term. MOAA, along with nine other veterans' organizations pushed to expedite a bill through Congress to fund the Choice Program during the interim. The House bill would appropriate \$2.1 billion for Choice for another six months and would reauthorize a number of urgently needed medical facility leases to expand VA's internal capacity to deliver care. House chairman Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) and ranking member Tim Walz (D-Minn.) were instrumental passing this bill in the house. The bill now needs to pass through the Senate.

Forever GI Bill. The "Forever GI Bill," is rapidly gaining bilateral support both in the House and Senate. The bill would eliminate the current time limit to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for new servicemembers entering the military beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

Veteran Complaint line. The president began a "Veteran Complaint line" for those Veterans wanting to direct their Veteran concerns with the President. Effective August 1, the line (855) 948-2311 became available 24/7 to hear any concerns you may have regarding Veteran issues. Please let us know if access was beneficial to you.

State.

State Representative visit. Board members hope to meet State Representative and MTC member Sam Whitson this month, as well as meet with personnel from Senator Corker's staff.

TVET. TVET, standing for Tennessee Veterans, is moving ahead with a goal of creating a formal coalition of veterans groups to work specifically on veterans' legislation at the state level. The organizational meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 2 September, 2017.

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