



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



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

September 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

**Next MTC Monthly Meeting:**

**23 September 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a Brutally Challenging World”**

LCDR Pat Ryan USN (ret.)

MTC Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

LCDR Patrick Ryan is President Emeritus and founder of the Tennessee World Affairs Council. In 2007 Mr. Ryan organized a group of concerned citizens to launch Tennessee’s first World Affairs Council, to bring global awareness education programs and resources to communities and schools in the state. The Council, responding to the statewide interest in its programs, moved from its first home in Cookeville to Nashville where it is hosted on the campus of Belmont University.

Mr. Ryan was born and raised in New York City. At age 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served a 26-year career, assigned first in the Persian Gulf in 1973 followed by assignments in the Submarine Service where he attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Mr. Ryan then received a BA degree at the University of South Carolina, in 1981, majoring in International Studies followed by commissioning in the Navy as an Ensign. Mr. Ryan served aboard numerous ships, headquarters staff and overseas assignments before retiring in 1998 as a Lieutenant Commander. Among his assignments were the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, the Center for Naval Analyses, and US Central Command headquarters.

He has lived and worked in Bahrain, Italy and Japan and has traveled to about 50 countries for work and leisure. He was the President and founder of Ryan & Associates, an editorial consulting firm based in Nashville, from 1999-2015, specializing in on-line global affairs information resources, especially covering developments in the Middle East.

Pat also serves as founding President of the Tennessee Submarine Memorial Association, on the National Geographic State Advisory Board and on the U.S. Global Leadership Council’s Tennessee State Committee. Pat is an active member of the Middle TN Chapter, MOAA.

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Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret).

**Chapter Contact Information**

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***“Operation Commissary Food Bag Packing Event”***

Our Chapter has a *Community Service Project* coming up in association with Operation Stand Down TN (OSDTN). On 19 September 2025 we will meet from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at OSDTN, (1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203) to pack food bags for the middle Tennessee veterans community, in conjunction with the OSDTN Operation Commissary program. There is some bending and lifting involved, and depending on the number of MTC members that participate we usually complete the project in short order. It is a casual opportunity for camaraderie with fellow members in support of a good cause.

Sign-up began earlier this month. If you intend to volunteer you will still need to complete the OSDTN RSVP form that was sent by email.

**President’s Letter**

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend, which traditionally marks the end of summer. You can already feel autumn temperatures on the way! We are planning to pack food bags at Operation Stand Down Tennessee again this year and we need volunteers to help from 11:00 am to about 1:00 pm, on September 19th. [A link to OSDTN’s sign-up form was sent to your email address on September 2nd](#)—Please join us for a good time as we help needy veterans!

September is a month for somber remembrances and one big celebration! This is National Suicide Prevention Month. Patriot Day is September 11th, marking the 9/11 attacks and everyone lost at the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and on Flight 93 that crashed near Shanksville, PA. We celebrate the Air Force Birthday on September 18th. Finally, we recognize our missing comrades and recognize their families on POW/MIA Recognition Day (September 19th) and Gold Star Mothers and Families Day (September 28th).

Over the summer, MOAA focused on advocacy for three legislative items and achieved some level of sponsorship for all of them in both Houses of Congress. Passing the Major Richard Star Act, Improving TRICARE Access for Families, and Supporting Military Spouse Employment are the targeted legislative initiatives. However, Tennessee is only well-represented on the Richard Star Act, so we need help with advocacy for the Military Spouse Hiring Act and Improving Access for Families Using TriCare. You can easily show your support for your chosen issues directly from the website: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

We are well on our way in the chapter’s annual scholarship campaign. Again, this year, we are supporting scholarships to veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities. We continue to support military dependents of any branch or rank through MOAA’s Education Assistance Program that includes loans and grants for college students of military families. You can send a contribution in the addressed envelope that was sent to you last month, or you can bring it to our next luncheon!

Last month, we learned a flood gate of information from one of our members, MAJ John Page, USA (ret.) on “VA Services Overview: How to Maximize Your Eligibility to VA Resources over a Veteran’s Life Journey.” It was especially well received and spurred many questions. [A copy of the presentation was sent to you on August 29<sup>th</sup>](#). This month, LCDR Pat Ryan, USN (ret.) will present “Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a Brutally Challenging World.” Knowing Pat, this will be a very thought provoking presentation. We will again meet at Old Natchez Country Club at 11:30 am, Tuesday, September 23rd. See you there!

Larry Cotton, CAPT, US Navy (ret.), President

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



The U.S. Air Force was created by the National Security Act of 1947 and was signed into law on 18 September of that year.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**19 September 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**“Operation Commissary Food Packing Event”**

(Sign-up will occur in late August)  
OSDTN 1125 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN

**20 September 2025; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**“Retiree Appreciation Day”**

Fort Campbell, KY Soldier Support Center  
2702 Michigan Avenue, Fort Campbell, KY

**23 September 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a  
Brutally Challenging World”**

LCDR Pat Ryan USN (ret.)  
MTC Member  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

**2 October 2025; 7 - 8 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**15 October 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”**

Sammy B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

**28 October 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“TN Emergency Management Agency”**

Director Patrick Shehan

*\*OSDTN 1125 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN\**

**6 November 2025; 7 - 8 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**18 November 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Williamson County Veterans Treatment  
Court”**

Judge Tom Taylor  
General Sessions Division II  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

### Legislative Update

It is SO good to begin to see the heat of summer pass – both here and in Washington. With the beginning of September, our members of Congress migrate back to the Capitol where there is much to do.

Awaiting them is the business of a federal budget as fiscal authorizations expire 30 September. Remember from last newsletter that Tennessee District TN-07 is not represented at all until the current election cycle produces an outcome, and that will not be until December. Primary elections for vacant seats come in October, and the election itself comes on 2 December. Both of those activities will include a period of early voting and there will be public events by the candidates and town hall events where they debate.

Not all of us live in TN-07, but for those who do this becomes a time for us to be attentive to the candidates and the process.

The other matter at hand is to take out advocacy actions and fill their mailboxes. The annual MOAA Advocacy-in-Action focused on several bills that relate to the families of those who are serving and have served in the past. These actions were not complete when the recess began, so let’s review them:

Richard Star Act HR 2102/ S1032  
Total Co-Sponsors 298 , TN Co-Sponsors 5  
Sen. (Blackburn); Reps & Districts: Desjarlais-4, Cohen-9,  
Green-7, Fleischmann-3, and Harshbarger-1 Reps.  
*Not cosponsoring: Burchett-2, Ogles-5, Rose-6, and Kustoff-8*

Military Spouse Hiring Act HR 2033/ S1027  
Total Co-Sponsors 94, TN Co-Sponsors 3  
Reps & Districts: Fleischman-3, Rose-6, and Cohen-9 Rep. *Not  
cosponsoring: Harshbarger-1, Burchett-2, Desjarlais-4, Ogles-5,  
Green-7, Kustoff-8*

Improve Access Families Using TriCare HR1699/No Senate Bill  
Total Co-Sponsors 15, TN Co-Sponsors 0

We learn as much about our congressmen and what matters to them by their sponsorship as by their voting. Maybe we also learn from what they don’t sponsor. Whether or not you live in TN-07, this is an important time to be paying closer attention. Please make use of the MOAA Legislative Action Center <https://moaa.quorum.us/> to let your elected representatives know that you support these bills.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret.)  
MTC Legislative Chair