



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

June 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

MTC Monthly Meeting:

25 June 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"77 Letters"

Mrs. Susan Hunter

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
37069

Susan P. Hunter, a born and raised New Englander, emerged as an author during the still of the COVID-19 lockdown. Upon discovering a treasure trove of letters in her mother's attic and motivated by the story therein, Susan felt a calling to share the most intimate and authentic portrayal of a soldier during the war in Vietnam. The storyline is derived from seven years of correspondence from the front lines of the war.

Having unwittingly embarked on a mission to reveal the heroes and restore honor to Vietnam veterans and their families, Susan spent the better part of two years traveling the country interviewing those who intimately lived the Vietnam War: military/ civilian and American/ Vietnamese. She amassed over 160 hours of interview footage in post-production for her passion project series released on YouTube: "Through Our Eyes: Vietnam" delving into all perspectives of war. The passion project is currently in post-production and will continue to be released on her YouTube channel.

She adapted it to stage and worked with a Nashville area community theatre to perform a proof of concept production which enjoyed a successful premiere weekend of two sold-out evening performances in November 2022. In Q1 of 2024, she directed the filming of the stage play at NECAT Studios and plans on making the film available to VFW, VVA, and American Legion posts across the nation free of charge.

Susan is one of the few female civilians who has been awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Vietnam Veterans of America; and she has appeared on TV, radio, and podcasts 'revealing and restoring' honor to those she has dubbed as "The Bravest Generation."

She has said "Pricking my heart in ways I had never experienced, the healing that has come from the book has set me on a journey traveling the country for the better part of two years interviewing those who intimately lived through the war in Vietnam, Americans and Vietnamese".

Susan and her family currently reside in Gallatin, TN.

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Chapter Contact Information

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MOAA Website Update

The modifications to the MOAA Website are still in process; however, you should now be able to login and validate your account. Please remember that your email address will be your new username and when you first login to the new application you may be asked to create a new password.

The online dues payment portal is back in place and can be accessed by opening the MOAA website, clicking on "About MOAA", then clicking on "Council and Chapters".

The Legislative Action Center can be accessed by opening the website, clicking on "Advocacy" and then choosing the "Legislative Action Center" from the list on the left side of the page.

Please visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center soon!

President's Letter

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Allied D-Day invasion at Normandy on 6 June 1944. In the largest combined sea, land, and air operation in history, the Allies successfully landed more than 150,000 soldiers in France that began the reconquest of Europe and ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany. The bravery and determination of the ordinary soldier, sailor, and airman, along with the dogged persistence of military and civilian leaders, achieved what seems unachievable today. We owe them all for our freedom today.

In June, we also recognize Flag Day and the Army Birthday on June 14th, the 74th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War in 1950, and the 61st Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day on June 27th. Happy Birthday, Army! Thank you, Korean War veterans!

The TN Legislature completed its work without passing any legislation advocated by the Tennessee Veterans group, TNVET. That means that the local advocacy efforts will be even more focused this year. Nationally, the Congress is continuing its work until the annual August break. With elections this November, its attention has been focused on partisan politics; however, work on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) continues.

The good news is that it does not include any proposals from DoD to raise costs for Tricare through higher fees and copays. The bad news is that it also does not include the Major Richard Star wording in the base text of the House NDAA, despite support by over two-thirds of Congress. We continue to urge you to use MOAA's active advocacy program through its Legislative Action Center (at <https://moaa.quorum.us>) to make your views on important issues known! You can see the latest updates nationally at the following link: <https://moaa.quorum.us/video/>.

Happy news on the 2024 membership front: We have several new members and a few more on the line! However, we do need to continue to recruit others. Also, please pay your dues, if you haven't done so by sending a check to MTC MOAA at P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN, 37205-0252 or you can also bring a check or cash to our next lunch meeting at Old Natchez Country Club on 25 June.

Finally, I know we all greatly enjoyed stories by Mrs. Dietlinde Spears, at our last luncheon. She is an amazing survivor who gave us all a sense of reality of war refugees and life under Soviet rule after WWII. We have another great presenter for our June luncheon in Mrs. Susan Hunter, who will inspire us with her story of her mother and a Vietnam Vet that has been adapted for stage and being considered for the big screen! I'm sure we're in for another great program! Please join us!

Larry Cotton
CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
President

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



Happy 249th Birthday to the U. S. Army

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

22 June 2024: 4-7:00 PM

“Nashville VetFest 2024”

Bob Woodruff Foundation

Skydeck on Broadway, 5055 Broadway, Nashville, TN

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25 June 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“77 Letters”

Mrs. Susan Hunter

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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11 July 2024; 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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17 July 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

“TN Council of Chapters Meeting”

Sammie B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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23 July 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“TN Council of Chapters, MOAA”

Lt Col. Pete Warner, USAF Retired

President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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1 August 2024: 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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27 August 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

(Speaker TBD)

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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5 September 2024: 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

20 September 2024; 12:00 - 3:00 PM

“OSDTN Hunger Action Project”

(MTC Service Project - Packing Food Bags)

OSDTN, 1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

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Legislative Update

Do you know that MOAA has been advocating for our uniformed service causes for 95 years now? We have some members over 95 years of age, but for most of us this advocacy has been going on for our whole lives. It is a ‘process,’ and processes take a long time and may never end.

The Advocacy in Action (AiA) Day on the Hill came on 17 April. They called on 521 of the 535 congressional offices to speak with leaders and make their key topics known. That makes over 97% of the total offices and staffers receiving news and information about our initiatives in that single day. The focus was on three topics:

- * Support for the Major Richard Star Act - This legislation would allow combat wounded veterans to receive BOTH their DoD retirement pay AND VA disability compensation without the latter offsetting the former. There is widespread support for this legislation at the level of 74 senate cosponsors and 327 house cosponsors, but getting it included and funded in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is not a done deal because it would be expensive in a time of frugality.

- * Support for the BAH Restoration Act - For most of us, active duty is a thing of the past, but it is important to care for those serving now. Under the concept of aligning with other federal programs, it remains important to support returning Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of projected housing costs rather than the current 95%.

- * Protect TRICARE for Life benefits – TRICARE for Life is under scrutiny every year by the Congressional Budget Office as they seek to trim expenditures and save some money. The big news for this year is that the issue now appears to be off the table.

On the AiA date the offices of all TN Senators and Congressmen were visited by Lt Col Pete Warner, USAF (Ret) and Col Donald Thompson, USAF (Ret). Pete Warner is our MOAA TN Council of Chapters President and Don Thompson is a current member of the MOAA Board of Directors and a member of the Mountain Empire MOAA Chapter. They were able to meet with some office holders, but frequently their audience turned out to be staff members. Their picture with Congressman Mark Green is in this month’s MOAA magazine.

2024 is an election year, and 1/3 of senators and all representatives are up for election in November.

Through the MOAA Legislative Action Center – which you can use online at www.moaa.org/takeaction or by phone at 866-272-MOAA (6622) – over 15,000 messages have been delivered to our elected officials in Washington this year. That is a LOT of impact! There is no limit on your ability to add to that impact, because there is no limit on how often you can use that tool.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
MTC Legislative Liaison