



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

July 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

22 July 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

*“The Brown Water Navy  
in Vietnam”*

CAPT Dana McLendon, USN (Ret.)  
MTC Past President  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN  
37069

Dana graduated in 1964 from the University of South Carolina and was commissioned as an ensign. During his summer NROTC training, he served as a midshipman on an aircraft carrier and two submarines. He served two years as a navigator and acting operations officer on the USS Rockbridge, an attack transport ship, and went to the North Atlantic, Caribbean and twice to the Mediterranean Sea.

Early in 1968, McLendon received orders to go to Vietnam and was sent to Coronado, California for pre-deployment training. He was assigned to the riverine navy (now called the brown-water navy) as an advisor to a South Vietnamese Naval Unit and led patrols through the inland waterways between Danang and Hue. “We were advising the South Vietnamese Navy, which needed American support,” he said. “Advance teams worked with Vietnamese units throughout all the military to get them capable of defending themselves.” The unit patrolled the waters, intercepting supplies from North Vietnam as well as engaging the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army in skimmers, Miami surfers and Vietnamese junk boats fortified with AK-47s, M-60 machine guns, .50-caliber machine guns and mortars.

During a trip to Danang, McLendon was injured when a 5-inch rocket went through the roof of a building as he was leaving. “I quickly got to a bunker,” he said. “The Viet Cong were always shooting rockets.” But he’d already been hit by the blast and lost his hearing. “I spent two days in Danang,” he said. “It changed my duty status. [The Navy] realized there was a lot I couldn’t do now.” He was subsequently sent to Japan and then back to the United States, where some of his hearing returned while in Philadelphia, and he was able to complete active-duty commission and joined the Naval Reserves.

McLendon returned to Charleston, earned an MBA in 1970 and continued his military service as a reserve officer for the next 17 years, He retired in 1986 as a Captain.

Dana served as Chapter President from 2011 -2013, and while we got to know him well in this role, it seems there is always more to be learned. Please join us at the July meeting to do so.

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret.)

1st Vice President

Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

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COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret).

Chapter Contact Information

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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OSDTN 2025 Heroes Breakfast

The 2025 Operation Stand Down TN Heroes Breakfast Fundraiser is scheduled for 7 November 2025 at the Music City Center in Nashville. This is their primary fundraiser, and tickets are priced at \$125.00 per seat.

As we have for a number of years, the Middle TN Chapter will host one or more tables of ten with seats costing the aforementioned \$125.00.

This year’s keynote speaker will be former NASA Astronaut and Retired U.S. Navy CAPT Scott Kelly. His record-breaking 340-day mission in space, remarkable 15,000+ flight hours, and service aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower reflect a life dedicated to courage, discipline, and sacrifice.

We will collect checks (made out to OSDTN Heroes Breakfast) from those who desire to participate in September. More information to follow.

President’s Letter

Summer is here for sure! We’re getting the July newsletter out to you before several Executive Board members leave for summer travel. Of course, the big holiday this month is Independence Day, the 249<sup>th</sup> of the Republic! I suspect you will begin to see various events marking the semi-quincentennial (250<sup>th</sup>, whew!) anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The US Army led the way with a military parade marking its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and the US Marine Corps will mark its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, we should also recognize Korean War Veterans Armistice Day on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Some of our members served in Korea during the war and many of us have close relatives who served. It’s been said that they never got the recognition they deserved so let’s take very opportunity to thank them!

While some of us are traveling to get away from Tennessee’s summer heat, others of us are staying. This could be a good time to work on organizing our affairs, if not already done, and to discuss with partners and family those affairs so they can take over if or when needed. Patricia Bergquist gave us some great reminders and practices to help at our May luncheon. MOAA’s website includes documents and guides to help ensure everything is covered at the following link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/>. I recommend especially Personal Affairs Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind.

We’ve had great attendance at our last couple of monthly luncheons thanks to you joining us and bringing guests. We have had several new members join the chapter! We have also had several of you catch up on your annual dues and we greatly appreciate it. That allows the Executive Board to begin planning the annual contributions to local military-related charities. If you haven’t done so already, please continue your membership in our chapter by paying your dues at “MTC MOAA, P.O Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205” or use the new Dues Portal on MOAA’s site at <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/> and be sure to scroll down to “Tennessee” for “Middle Tennessee Chapter”. Of course, you can bring the \$25 to our next luncheon as well.

We had another great luncheon in June when Col. Ted Geasley, TN ANG and Chapter member presented an outstanding program on “118<sup>th</sup> Wing Operations”. Our own CAPT Dana McClendon, USN (ret.) will present “The Brown Water Navy in Vietnam” at our luncheon at Old Natchez Country Club on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am. I’m sure you will learn something you did not know! See you then!

Larry Cotton  
CAPT, US Navy (ret.)  
President

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



Happy 227th Birthday to the  
U. S. Public Health Service

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**10 July 2025; 7 - 8:00 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting (ZOOM)”***

(Contact a Board Member if you desire to participate.)

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**16 July 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

***“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”***

Sammy B’s Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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**22 July 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***“The Brown Water Navy in Vietnam”***

CAPT Dana McLendon, USN (Ret.)

MTC Past President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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**7 August 2025; 7 - 8 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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**26 August 2025: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***“VA Services Overview; How to maximize your eligibility to VA resources over a Veteran’s life journey ”***

MAJ John Page, USA Retired

VA Transition Patient Advocate

& Chapter Member

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**4 September 2025; 7 - 8 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

LCDR Pat Ryan USN (Ret.)

MTC Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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**2 October 2025; 7 - 8 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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**15 October 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

***“TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting”***

**Legislative Update**

The US Congress continues to work on President Trump’s major budget bill and other important actions, while other major domestic and international events draw major attention.

As that process progresses, we are pleased to announce that MOAA has redesigned and improved upon its Legislative Action Center to make it easier for you to find the advocacy items in which you have the most concern.

To access the new process, log into [MOAA.org](https://MOAA.org), click on Advocacy, then select the Legislative Action Center. When you select a campaign on which to send a message to your elected representative, you will be asked to identify your population grouping (Actively serving, Retired, Surviving Spouse, etc.), then to identify the Chapter with which you are affiliated. Then you select “sign-up and take action” and you can select and read suggested correspondence on specific issues. After reviewing and possibly editing the letter, click submit and you can move to a different issue.

The information you initially submit should be associated with your account going forward so the process is much less demanding as you proceed and now the Legislative Action Center allows you to better navigate the issues on which MOAA is suggesting action:

Featured Advocacy Campaigns: easily identify MOAA’s top priorities, allowing you to immediately access and act on these issues. The highlighted issues will change depending on what is gaining traction.

Advocacy by Issue Area: A refreshed layout, allowing you to browse action items by subject area for Currently Serving, DoD Health Care, Families & Survivors, Retirees and Veterans, and VA Health Care.

Latest Advocacy News: A new section combining videos, timely analysis, and links to MOAA’s most recent advocacy updates.

These enhancements are part of MOAA’s broader goal to make the Action Center your one-stop-shop for legislative engagement, news, and other important tools. The new section on “MOAA-Supported Legislation” which lists bill numbers and the latest timeline actions will definitely assist you in knowing where specific legislation stands.

Members of the Middle Tennessee Chapter have continually heard from our Board about the MOAA Legislative Action Center since its inception. This engagement information is used by MOAA staff when meeting with various legislators on Capitol Hill. *We have now heard that our chapter leads the way in participation for Tennessee!*

Thank you, and PLEASE stay engaged!