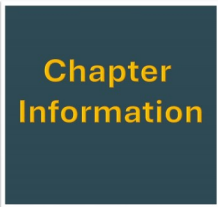


STONES RIVER MOAA CHAPTER

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

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FROM THE PRESIDENT
CW4 (Ret) Keith R. Prather, MSW



Happy Holiday Season!

As we adjust to shorter days and the arrival of winter, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Thank you for all of your support during 2024, from the installation of the new officers, your dedicated attendance at our monthly meetings, your continued contributions to our reestablished scholarship fund and Newsletters.

Thank you for attending our annual picnic and our second tour of the Arnold AFB. This has been an exciting and remarkable year for our chapter. I look forward to serving you in 2025, as we continue to grow our chapter and thrive in future endeavors. I ask that you bring your canned food items to our November meeting for our Thanksgiving food drive. In addition, bring socks and card donations in December in support of the Veterans at the nursing home for Christmas. Also, I ask for your ongoing support in growing our scholarship fund to our goal of \$25,000.00 through our various fundraising campaigns (currently, we are 1/3 of the way to our goal).

Additionally, continue to make your voices heard through our legislative platform at; <https://www.moaa.org/>.

We are a strong, vibrant, and growing chapter. Moreover, we truly make a difference in our community. Thank you for being a loyal member of the Stones River Chapter!

Never Stop Serving,

CW4 (Ret) Keith R. Prather, MSW
President, Stones River Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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Published by the Stones River Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Disclaimer and Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnists and are not necessarily those of the Stones River Chapter or the Military Officers Association of America. Publication of advertisements or congressional profiles does not imply endorsement by the MOAA or Stones River Chapter of the products, service, or officers or legislators advertised or profiled.

Printed and posted by malindacgilbert@gmail.com and dianamoaa1@gmail.com

Salute to Service Discount—Tennessee State Parks

Tennessee State Parks is proud to celebrate all branches of service and offer a "Salute to Service" with complimentary camping and golf to veterans on each service branch birthday leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. All veterans of any service branch are eligible for a complimentary one-night camping stay and waived green fees on the following dates:

- Saturday, June 14, 2025 (Army)
- Monday, Aug 4, 2025 (Coast Guard)
- Thursday, Sept 18, 2025 (Air Force)
- Monday, Oct 13, 2025 (Navy)
- Monday, Nov 10, 2025 (Marines)
- Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025 (Veterans Day)
- Saturday, Dec 13, 2025 (National Guard)
- Saturday, Dec 20, 2025 (Space Force)
- Sunday, June 14, 2026 (Army)

For more services and information available to veterans and active duty military, visit

[https://tnstateparks.com/about/veterans?
utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Learn
%20More&utm_campaign=emma-salute-to-service-launch-24](https://tnstateparks.com/about/veterans?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Learn%20More&utm_campaign=emma-salute-to-service-launch-24)

Surviving Spouses Gatherings

Submitted by Holly Kyle

This meeting was September 26 at Holly Kyle's home. Four were in attendance for the meeting who included Susan Taylor, Carole Reynolds, Diana Neely, and Holly Kyle. We had a light snack and shared stories about our military experiences.



We had a Surviving Spouse get-together on December 17. This time we made greeting cards for veterans. I had all the supplies so participants did not need to bring anything. We began at 10:00 am and had lunch around 12:00. Those present were encouraged to continue on with their projects or a new one with no departure time.

The Surviving Spouse group meets four times a year. Our December meeting took place in the home of Holly Kyle. After a little verbal catch up, we began making greeting cards while one member made Christmas tags. After our hard work, we ventured into the dining room to enjoy soup, sandwiches and dessert. It is always fun to catch up on daily events and upcoming Christmas gatherings. We will be getting again in March.

Please feel free to reach out and come to our next meeting. I would appreciate any ideas or things of interest that you might want to suggest or share.



September Annual Picnic

Submitted by Lorraine and James Heuberger

Sending a very special thank you to our gracious hosts, Royce and Susan Taylor. They welcomed us to their beautiful home and farm. They provided the tables, chairs, tablecloths, coffee and wine. Our members brought many delectable desserts to choose from. They were delicious! The food from Slick Pig was equally appetizing. It was nice to be out in the open air and enjoy the company of our members. Royce provided a special treat for those who decided to go for a ride along his property to the Stones River. The members commented how vast and beautiful their property was and said how big the river was there. Thank you again, Royce and Susan!



Enjoy picnic video at this link: <https://youtube.com/shorts/Z5rElp-K7h4?>

Stones River Chapter Retreat at Arnold Air Force Base

Story by Keith R. Prather, MSW, SRC President MOAA



On October 4, approximately 35 members of the Stones River Chapter of MOAA, located in Murfreesboro, TN, met at the Wingo Inn to begin their tour of the base. Some of the members were participants of the previous year's retreat while many were joining for the first time.

The tour bus picked up the attendees, and the base Public Affairs Officer began the guided tour. During a brief stop at the base Headquarters building, the members were introduced to the base commander and his primary staff. He provided an informative and concise history of the base and its importance to Tullahoma, as well as the surrounding community.



After an afternoon of touring the several facilities, the members returned to the Wingo Inn to relax and refresh before attending their evening dinner and special presentations by the chapter president. Additionally, the base MWR team provided gift bags and a clothing giveaway for the attendees. The evening concluded with the attendees enjoying a magical fall night and experiencing the lighted Halloween decorations that adorned the Wingo Inn lawn and building.



Saturday morning several of the members attended a wonderful breakfast buffet, hosted by Phil and Suzanne Short at their beautiful home. It was their second time hosting it for the members, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food, fellowship, and warm their warm hospitality.



Photos provided by PAO Staff AEDC

October Chapter Meeting—State Senator Shane Reeves Spoke on Tennessee Legislative Report



NOVEMBER DEDICATED TO OUR HEROES

NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS

★ **DAY** ★

**WITH HONOR
AND RESPECT**

Celebrating Veterans



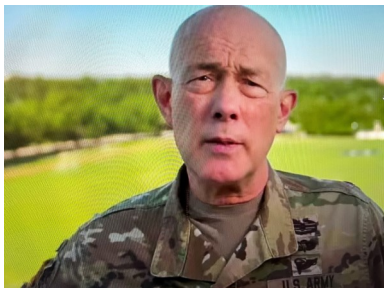
Many cities, organizations, and schools honored Veterans Day with parades and ceremonies. Oak Hill School in Nashville held a special day for parents and grandparents who were veterans. Retired LTC Doug Gilbert was recognized along with approximately 30 veterans. Granddaughter Hazel Gilbert attends Oak Hill.

Column: Through It All, We Stand as Guardians Of Freedom, the American Way of Life

BY CHARLES LUCKEY Columnist *The Pilot*
Nov 9, 2024

Writing these words a scant few days before the 5th of November, I find myself looking past the outcome of a national referendum to an enduring reality that will be as true tomorrow as it was yesterday. That is, to capture the essence of a challenge that has been in the air for some time and that will, in my estimation, continue well into the future.

Acknowledging as I do that “elections have consequences,” I would submit that clinging too tightly to the existential nature of the outcome of this one is also a mistake. Many things — good and bad — will endure after Tuesday’s election.



At first blush, this may sound inconsistent with some of my earlier thoughts. After all, I have previously opined at some length on the starkness of the choice presented by two distinct visions of America’s potential future, and its future potential.

I have not changed my assessment of the contrasts, but I would offer an insight as we look forward to Veterans Day on Monday and beyond: The crux of our challenge as a self-governing, representative republic is that we struggle to agree on facts. We can be too easily persuaded by disinformation, artificial intelligence and outright falsehoods.

To be sure, we face a good number of concerns as we shape the nation’s future together. The national debt, continued deficit-spending, rising ambient global temperatures, stratification of wealth, unresolved immigration reform initiatives, staggering devastation in the Middle East, and the risks of great power competition and miscalculation are but some of the factors that contribute to our persistent sense of unease.

But, as tough as they are, not one of those issues is as strategically vexing for the United States as is the epistemic warfare that we have unleashed on ourselves. Why? Because if we cannot agree on basic, demonstrable facts, we have no chance of being able to navigate our way to consensus, compromise or resolution.

As any military leader will tell you, “shared situational awareness” is a crucial predicate to informed decision-making and coordinated action. Similarly, all trial lawyers know that ascertaining the facts of a matter are often hard-fought but also ultimately decided. That’s the point of a trial in the first place: to get to the facts that are relevant to the law. Put simply, facts matter, and clarity and candor about where and why we may disagree on them is an essential element in getting past partisan rancor.

This is why I can think of no better day of collective reflection than Veterans Day to help ground us on some common terrain as we lean into the future of the nation together.

By definition, every veteran has taken the same oath to the same Constitution. And yet, like their fellow citizens whom they serve or

have served, they do not all share the same political philosophy or perspective. It is the ethic of service and sacrifice for something larger than one’s self that is the bonding agent of their camaraderie.

As an old soldier, I have ample opportunity to engage troops and veterans across the political spectrum, and to discuss with them the issues and concerns of our time. With admittedly a few exceptions, in the main the tone and content of these conversations has been, and remains, both uplifting and informative.

Uplifting because even where our perspectives differ widely, the tone remains one of mutual respect and appreciation. The bond of shared service and values holds as a constant. This, in turn, informs a more far-reaching concept; mutual respect is the secret sauce in working through or beyond differing perspectives. This is because just as contempt is probably the most irreconcilably corrosive emotion in a relationship, respect is probably the most foundationally powerful one for the long haul. It is the scaffolding for empathy, and empathy is magic.

While I will admit that I struggle to understand the politics of grievance, I am not oblivious to the concerns of those who feel that agency has been lost and that accountability only applies to some of us.

Be it the contrived pretext for the invasion of Iraq, or the massive bailout of banks in 2008 without recourse to the pockets or liberty of those who created the mess, or the perennial cost-overruns by well-heeled defense contractors, or the ignominious withdrawal from Kabul with echoes of Saigon, there is ample basis for cynicism for those who are so inclined. And, yes, there will always be those who stand ready to amplify and exploit the grievances of others for their own purposes.

As Thomas Jefferson noted in his later years, “I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.” I think he was getting at this: Mutual respect — however found — is a critical component to an agreeable disagreement. It is also a huge step on the path to workable compromise.

In a self-governing republic where literally tens of millions of citizens are tuned in to different algorithms of understanding, the art of demonstrating respect for each other by remembering that while we may be our values we are not our beliefs will be a gift of great import.

As soldiers, we have a creed that closes with our assessment of the task we are called to execute for our fellow-citizens. We are “Guardians of Freedom and the American Way of Life.” Our creed does not demand that we all agree, precisely, on what that way might be, but we are pretty sure that it gravitates to the rule-of-law and the opportunity that it aspires to create for all Americans.⁷

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!



We started a new series about each of our Stones River Chapter Members. Our goal is to capture your military story in video and pictures as a way of creating history for the chapter. You can either volunteer, or you can wait to be nominated by an officer of SRCMOAA. Our intent is to contact you and record your most memorable event(s) of your military life. However, it is imperative that we have accurate contact information such as your phone number, email address, and home address. We would like to feature at least four members per newsletter. These are two members of our chapter who were nominated and continue our history series.

—Editor and producer Malinda Gilbert



James D. Parks, Jr.
Major, United States Army
(Retired)

My first assignment in the Army was to the 3rd Artillery Group, Air Defense Artillery, Hampton Roads Army Terminal, Norfolk, VA, in June 1959, and I remained assigned there until mid-August 1962. During this period, I attended US Army Artillery Officer Basic Course at Ft. Sill, OK, and Ft. Bliss, TX, and Airborne Training at Ft. Benning, GA, returning to Battery B, 4th Missile Battalion (Air Defense), 59th Artillery, Deep Creek, VA, as IFC (radar) Platoon Leader, and subsequently Battery Executive Officer.

In August of 1962, I received orders to the 7th Artillery Group, Thule, Greenland. I was initially assigned as Launch Platoon Leader, Battery D, 4th Missile Battalion (Nike Hercules), 55th Artillery (Air Defense), and subsequently Battery Executive Officer. In May 1963 I was promoted to Captain and reassigned as Assistant S-1, 7th Artillery Group until the end of my tour in August.

After returning from Thule, I attended US Army Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Ft. Sill, OK and Ft. Bliss, TX, from September 1963 to June 1964. Upon completion of the Advanced Course, I was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery (155mm Howitzer, towed) at Ft. Bragg, NC. From July 1964 to August 1965, where I commanded Battery B. I was then assigned as Assistant S-3 of the battalion until November 1965 when I received orders for Germany.

From December 1965 until October 1966, I served as Headquarters Battery Commander, 42nd Artillery Group, Giessen, Germany after which time I was reassigned as the S-3, 2nd Battalion, 92nd Artillery (8 inch self-propelled) until November 1967.

My tour in Germany was cut short when I received orders to go to Korea. Thirty-one Artillery captains or recently promoted majors were moved from Germany to Korea and none of us went to an Artillery unit. I was assigned as Executive Officer, 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 2nd Infantry Division from December 1967 to April 1968. In May I was assigned as an Assistant G-3, 2nd Infantry Division where I remained until my tour was completed in December 1968. As a side note, I arrived home from Korea on our 10th wedding anniversary.

In January 1969 I was assigned as an Instructor, Basic Branch Gunnery Department, US Army Artillery and Missile School, Ft. Sill, OK. In July I received orders to Vietnam. Due to a shortage of instructors and the length of time involved in training new instructors, I was deferred until January 1970.

I attended the Military Officer Advisors Course, Ft. Bragg, NC in February and



March before departing for Vietnam. In April 1970 I was assigned as Deputy G-2 Advisor, ARVN I Corps, MACV Team 1, Da Nang, Vietnam. My duties involved traveling throughout the northern five provinces of the Republic of South Vietnam training intelligence gathering teams of the 1st and 2nd ARVN Divisions and 51st and 54th ARVN Regiments.

On return from Vietnam in April 1971, I was assigned as an Assistant Professor of Military Science, Murray State University, Murray, KY. While at Murray State, I was able to obtain my Master of Arts degree in education guidance and counselling.

In June 1975 I was sent to the Academy of Health Sciences, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. I was assigned to the Combined Arms Branch, Military Science Division. Our branch consisted of one Infantry, one Armor, and one Field Artillery officer. We were the only combat arms officers in the Academy and taught general military subjects and participated in field training with the Medical Department's Basic and Advanced Officer Courses and senior NCO courses.

I retired at Ft. Sam Houston in October 1980.

In 1995, along with my father, the late COL James D. Parks, USA (Ret), and others, I helped to organize the Stones River Chapter of The Retired Officers Association, later to become Military Officers Association of America. My son, Rob, LtCol, USAF, (Ret) is a third-generation member of the Chapter.



Photo and video by Malinda C Gilbert

CLICK HERE

Hear Jim tell about his military experiences.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hexktwDkZ0g&t=7s>

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!

Terry Spitzmiller, Colonel, USAF, and Senior Executive Service Retired



My goal was never to enter the military, especially not the Air Force. My goal was to go to the FBI Academy after receiving my law enforcement degree. Ironically, the process started to change when I met my future wife in March of 1976. Little did I know, my future wife's brother-in-law was an Air Force recruiter, and his dad was the Commander (Colonel) of an Air Guard unit. Over the next year, we discussed OTS and ROTC. I eventually enrolled in the AFROTC program in 1978 and was commissioned in 1980.



I served 27 years in fourteen various contracting and acquisition positions to include an educational sabbatical with Boeing, overseeing Government engine programs at General Electric in Cincinnati, OH, a tour with the Inspector General's Office, a Program Manager, and culminating as the Director of Contracting for Air Mobility Command. My final job encompassed overseeing contracting efforts across eleven bases. Prior to transitioning to the acquisition community, I was an executive/administrative officer which included a Detachment Commander assignment with the Army at Aberdeen Proving Grounds MD. My tours included Alaska (2), Kansas (1), Maryland (1), Alabama (1), Illinois (3), and Ohio (4).

I had an exceedingly successful



Air Force career, leading two of four units I commanded in receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (Top 10%). Moreover, I received numerous personal awards and decorations including a Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, eight Meritorious Service Medals, an Outstanding OIG Rating, and the Secretary of the Air Force Professionalism in Contracting Award. I completed two master's degrees including graduating from Air War College in-residence and Education with Industry at Boeing Military Airplanes. My only regret is that I was not deployed or served in a war zone. Unfortunately, I had three severe medical issues that limited my ability to serve in many locations; conversely it was a blessing from God, since I was able to stay 27 years without receiving a medical retirement/discharge.



After retiring from the Air Force in 2007, I began a civilian service career in 2008 with Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Indianapolis, IN and Washington DC. I transferred to the Veterans Health Administration, Cincinnati OH in 2011, leading contracting support to all the VA hospitals and clinics for those activities in Ohio. Eventually, my territory expanded to include the VA

hospitals and clinics in Michigan and Indiana. In 2019, I was selected for the Senior Executive Service as the Executive Director of Procurement for the Central Region, consisting of over 1100 people completing \$7.4B in contract actions each year, broken out into eight different contracting offices. I retired once again at the end of May 2023.

My "war stories" are more like "un-war" stories, a compilation of actions and scenarios that I dealt with during my leadership career, dealing with people and mission issues. I just started working on a book that describes those actions. A few of those interesting items were resurrecting a \$128M housing project from the bowels of bankruptcy, saving the Boondox Bar and Grill and bringing back NFL football to the base.



Photo and Video by Malinda Gilbert

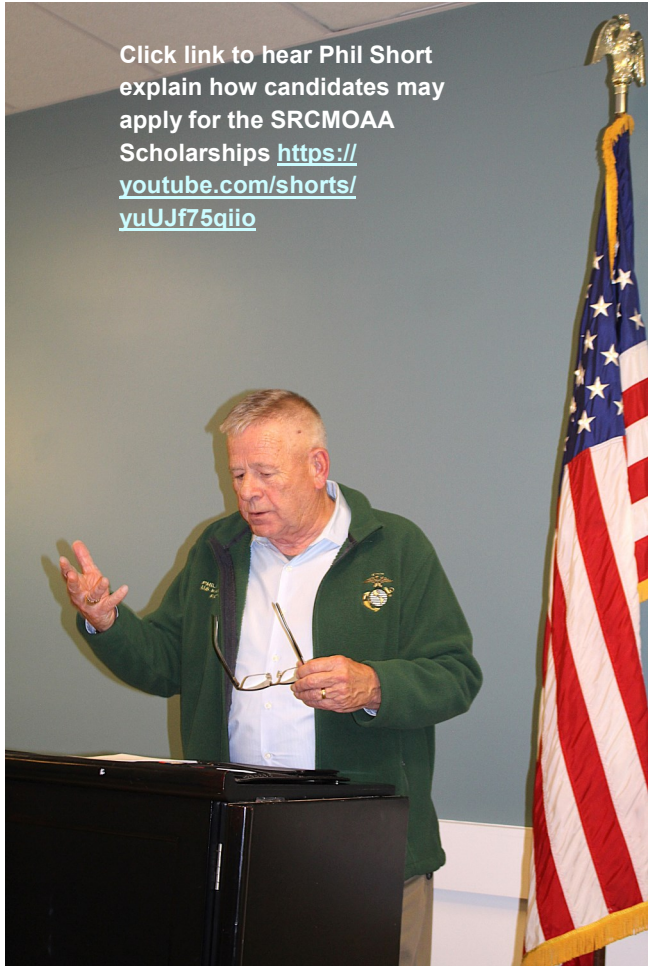
[CLICK HERE](#)

Click the link to hear Terry tell his military experiences.
https://youtu.be/11F01Ew3_Dk

November 21 Chapter Meeting—Thanksgiving Dinner, Explanation of the Scholarship Awards Process by Phil Short, Introduction of New Members



Monique Eldridge



Click link to hear Phil Short explain how candidates may apply for the SRCMOAA Scholarships <https://youtube.com/shorts/yuUJf75qii0>



Penny Nay



Elizabeth (Beth) Sharp





Photos by Malinda Gilbert





ANNOUNCING THE STONES RIVER CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA COLONELS PARKS, BENEDICT & CHRIETZBERG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Stones River Chapter's JROTC/ROTC scholarship program is an important part of its commitment to the future of our military. The goal is to offer deserving Cadets in JROTC/ROTC programs the opportunity to work toward a military career as a commissioned officer in one of the uniformed military services. The Stones River Chapter of the Military Officers Association (SRCMOAA) is offering two \$1,000 college scholarships.

SRCCMOAA will award one \$1,000 scholarship (At Large) to an eligible cadet in JROTC or ROTC program annually. SRCCMOAA will award a second \$1,000 scholarship (Legacy) to a dependent of a chapter member in good standing (i.e. child or grandchild) who is enrolled in a JROTC or ROTC program.

The following cadets are eligible for application of the SRCMOAA college/university scholarship program:

1. High School JROTC students expected to graduate in May/June of each calendar year and will enroll in a college/university ROTC or Marine Corps commissioning program at an accredited college/university in the fall. At Large applicants must be from a JROTC program that is within the geographic membership recruitment area for SRCMOAA as recognized by MOAA National.
2. An undergraduate student currently enrolled in an accredited college/university ROTC or Marine Corps Commissioning Program and will continue in the fall.

The basis for the evaluation of applicants for this scholarship will be academic achievements, class standing, school & community activities and successful in-person Scholarship Committee interview of all applying candidates. Priority may be given to applicants who are direct descendants of SRCMOAA members with current tenure of two consecutive years and are in good standing. Announcement of the scholarship application process will be sent to JROTC programs and to the membership of the chapter in early December. Cadets must submit applications by 1 March. The Committee interviews will be conducted in April 2025 at the Tristar Veterans Resource Center, 439 Rice Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. Applicants will be provided an appointment time. Zoom interviews may be conducted for out-of-town applicants. Announcement of the scholarship awards will be made by May 15, 2025.

The Chapter Scholarship Committee membership consists of Doug Gilbert, President; Keith Prather, Member; Larry Ellis, Member; Jim Heuberger, Member; and Phil Short, Member.

The scholarship process for 2025 is expected to begin after approval of the scholarships by the Chapter membership at the monthly dinner meeting in November 2024.

December 12 Chapter Meeting—Christmas Dinner Social with Entertainment by Lovella



Country Duo "Lovella" Josh and Merisa Volkov

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

<https://youtu.be/O1PE9oS5cC8> and <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Hgd1wN-wbUc>

Click on each of the videos made during our Christmas Dinner to hear Lovella perform. Also, Josh and Merisa provided a link of their Christmas album.

Enjoy the album. <https://tgent ffm.to/our-christmas-prayer>



In appreciation, President Keith Prather presented Lovella with a certificate and challenge coins.

Christmas Dinner Meeting

Continued...

SRCMOAA Christmas Dinner video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/OEh3vi9xCO8>



New Member Matthew Childers



SRCMOAA RECRUITING



A warm welcome to our new chapter members for 2024:

Reese Burke	Steve Daniel	Monique Eldridge
Robert Graham	Joey King	Paul Myers
Eric Rogers	Hank Rohling	Phil Samples
Elizabeth Sharp	Matthew Childers	Penny Nay
Kaz Teope	Jeff Wooden	

MOAA National still does not have their committee module up and running so we are not receiving contact information of possible recruits in our area. Most of our new members come from current member referrals anyway, so keep up that effort.

For those nonmembers reading this newsletter, there is an application form below. We represent all components of the uniformed services with a focus on **support of the military, legislative advocacy, philanthropy, and camaraderie**. The chapter meets monthly on the third Thursday (6:00 PM) at Through the Grapevine, 630 Broadmor Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN. All enjoy socializing, having a great buffet meal and listening to interesting, invited speakers. Our intent is to have speakers share information, or their experiences, on local, state, or national-important topics. Complementing our monthly dinner meetings are the annual picnic and Christmas program. The chapter has also taken trips such as a resort in Germany (tentative plans to repeat) and an overnight trip to Arnold AFB with dinner at the o'club and guided tour of the base.

Should you choose to join, just fill out the application form and send it back by email or mail to me. The chapter dues are \$20.00 annually (made payable to SRCMOAA) and can be mailed to me or paid for at the monthly dinner. Additionally, if you haven't already done so, you'll be asked to join the National MOAA Organization. You can accomplish this by accessing their on-line application at MOAA.org. At the top of the opening page, you should select the Join box and enter your information to complete the process. Three categories of membership are offered: Life, Annual, or Basic. The Basic membership is FREE!

We look forward to meeting you and your plus one if applicable. To assist you in joining, or just visiting with us, please contact me—information follows. I am excited about speaking with you further about our group and its great people. Come join us!

Larry D. Ellis, Lt Col, USAF (ret)
 2323 Lionheart Drive
 Murfreesboro, TN 37130
lellis1143@outlook.com
 615-339-6039

Print page; fill out information below. Scan and email or mail to Larry Ellis.



Application for Membership
 Stones River Chapter
 MOAA



(Please print or type) Date: _____

Full Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Grade: _____ Service: _____ Duty Status: Retired ___ Active ___ Former Officer ___ Widow(er) ___
 Component: Regular ___ Reserve ___ National Guard ___

Mailing Address: _____
(Number and Street)

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone #: (____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Birthdate: (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Spouse's Name: _____

MOAA Member Type: Life, Premium, Basic Member Number: _____
(Circle one)

Signature: _____



Your 2025 Pay, Pension, and BAH Update

December 30, 2024, MOAA.org

Editor's note: This article by Amanda Miller, Rebecca Kheel, and Tiffini Theisen originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/your-2025-pay,-pension,-and-bah-update/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=vZ+o/K/rtlcAMHJh1eJHNA==+TN+ATFHSRM+1+Ret+L+CC



December 2024 Submitted by Philip G. Short, Legislative Affairs, SRCMOAA

End of the Year Legislative Update

November has seen a major change in the direction this country will take in 2025. We will have a new Commander-In-Chief and a new 119th Congress. The transition period between now and January is a very highly charged time as new governance and policies begin to take shape. The lame duck Congress will be so very busy with unfinished business. Leading that unfinished business is the federal budget for the fiscal year that has already begun. Congress passed a continuing resolution to keep operating until 20 December which will require a clear focus to get things done before Christmas. Unfortunately for the American people, this situation is now old news at it has happened in years before. We can look forward with hope as the 118th Congress wraps up and the new congress is sworn in at noon on 3 January.

As we approach the Christmas season, we need to pause and reflect on blessings bestowed by Divine Providence on our great nation. I also want to thank each of you who have answered our Nation's call to arms and wish you all the blessings of liberty that you have help to secure and defend. As the New Year dawns, we have great hope that our exceptional nation will continue to be that great beacon on the hill for our world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Photos by Malinda C Gilbert





WREATHS Across AMERICA

14 December 2024; 10:00 AM

“Wreaths Across America”

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery,

7931 McCrory Lane

Nashville, TN 37221



Video link: <https://youtu.be/Y2GOVHaQJQJ>

Doug Gilbert along with wife Malinda, Tom and Doris Bussell placed wreaths on loved ones' graves at MTSVC. Note the number of services and wars that Doug's uncle served in during his military career. Afterwards, Paul Couch became a Nashville attorney.



How You Can Support Their Mission

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. More than two million volunteers and supporters gathered to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. It's the mission of Wreaths Across America. You can join by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering or partnering with National Wreaths Across America Day and every day.



Photos and video by Malinda C Gilbert