



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmoaa.org

November 2017

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

28 November 2017; 11:30 AM

“Report on TN State Government”

Beth Harwell

Speaker of the House

Tennessee House of Representatives

Old Natchez Country Club

115 Gardengate Drive

Franklin, TN 37069

Beth Harwell currently serves as Speaker of the House, a position to which she was elected by her House colleagues. She is the first female Speaker in both Tennessee and the entire Southeast. Harwell represents State House District 56, which includes a part of Davidson County.

Beth has been a strong advocate for tougher sexual abuse laws, victims’ rights, welfare reform, children’s issues and most notably, education. She has been the prime sponsor of many of the state’s education reform laws. A friend of small business, Beth was twice awarded the coveted Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB).

Beth has won numerous awards, including:

- The American Cancer Society Legislative Leadership Award
- The 2013 Conservation Legislator Award
- The Champion for Children Award
- The Junior Leagues of Tennessee’s 2012 Legislator of the Year Award.
- Two-time recipient of the Harold Bradley Award for Excellence in Education Policy.
- The 2015 Legislator Award from Mental Health America, a national recognition for her work on mental health issues.
- The Tennessee Press Association’s Open Government Award

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Lipscomb University, and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt. She has been an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Belmont University. She and her husband, Sam, have three children—Allie, Sam, and Tucker; and reside in Nashville, TN.

Tennessee State Government plays an important role for all of us; please join us for this important program.

Please note that this presentation will be limited to the highlights of the 2017 Legislative year in Tennessee. The Middle TN Chapter has a mandate to remain politically nonpartisan as an affiliate organization of MOAA National. As such, we do not support or oppose any candidate for political office.

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Chapter Contact Information

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November Reminders

We are again collecting new, unwrapped toys at our NOVEMBER meeting for the Middle TN USMCR “Toys for Tots” program. If you desire to make a cash donation please go to the Middle TN USMCR link on our web site (under Outreach) and make your contribution directly to the local Marine Corps Reserve unit.

If you would like to sponsor a Christmas wreath to be placed at the McCrory Lane State Veterans Cemetery, the Nashville Sea Cadet Unit (LPD 13 Div.) is collecting funds for this project. Please see **CDR Sheryl Tannahill** or COL Rick Ames at our November meeting for this purpose. Wreaths are \$15.00 each, and are not grave specific.

And a note of acknowledgment and thanks to **Lt. Col. Arlie Haddix**, who has agreed to become our **Transition Assistance Liaison Officer**. If you would like to assist in this effort or simply reach out to network, please see Arlie at an upcoming meeting, or email him at our email address above.

President’s Letter

November 11th this year will mark the 99th anniversary of the end of the First World War. When US President Wilson requested that Congress declare “a war to end all wars” that would “make the world safe for democracy”, no one thought that it was just the first act of a two act play that would cost the lives of millions of military and civilians round the world. The effective end of the war was marked at 11:00am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, which has changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in the US. Please keep all veterans in your minds and hearts this month and let’s recognize their on-going efforts to achieve President Wilson’s goals throughout the month.

Continuing our focus on veterans, our chapter is wrapping up our annual scholarship campaign. If you have not participated so far, there is still time! We plan to commit the scholarships to veterans attending Lipscomb and Belmont Universities immediately after Thanksgiving and continue to support MOAA’s national level scholarships for military dependents. You can send contributions to the chapter at MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN, 37205-0252—we will even take last minute contributions at our next lunch meeting on 28 November.

Continuing the emphasis on “giving back” and “continuing to serve”, please consider participating in one of the annual giving events this time of year. At the next monthly luncheon, we will collect your gifts for the Marine Toys for Tots campaign and ensure they get to the local Marine Toys for Tots Coordinator. Also please consider participating in the Wreaths across America campaign in December. Our website has several links for details on how to contribute, and you can also participate in the actual wreath-laying on Saturday, 16 December, at 11:30 am at the McCrory Lane State Veterans Cemetery. I’ll see you there!

Finally, one of our own, MG (ret.) Carl Schneider, USAF, led our chapter in a session of “war stories” when he presented “**Jet Pioneer: A Fighter Pilot’s Memoir**” at the last luncheon. It was truly enjoyable. Our speaker at our next monthly meeting on 28 November will be The Honorable Beth Harwell, Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives. She will update the “**Report on TN State Government**” that she presented last year. Remember, this month’s luncheon is after Thanksgiving at our normal location, the Old Natchez Trace Country Club. Please 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



Happy 242nd Birthday to the
United States Marine Corps
on 10 November!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

28 November 2017; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Report on TN State Government"

Beth Harwell

Speaker of the House,

Tennessee House of Representatives

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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5 December 2017; 7:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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16 December 2016; 11:30 PM

"Wreaths Across America"

McCrory Lane State Veterans Cemetery

[\(To Donate\)](#)

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28 December 2017; 6:00 PM

"TN All Academy / ROTC Christmas Ball"

Gaylord Opryland Springhouse

18 Springhouse Lane, Nashville, TN

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No Meeting December 2017

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2 January 2018; 7:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

23 January 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Middle TN Chapter Annual Report"

(NOTE Temporary LOCATION CHANGE)

Martin Center

960 Heritage Way , Brentwood, TN

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27 February 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Cyber Security"

Richard Littlehale

TBI Agent in Charge, Technical Services Unit

Martin Center

960 Heritage Way , Brentwood, TN

Legislative Update

Budget. The current Continuing Resolution funds the government through the first week in December. Again, programs and personnel are managed on a continually unstable short-term plan reactive to international incidents ranging from N. Korean missile testing to combat operations in the Middle East and Africa.

This uncertainty has an impact on recruitment. Army Recruiting Command is challenged to find adequate numbers of potential recruits based on their eligibility to join the military. Only one in three graduating seniors meets the requirements to join the military, and they are also being actively recruited by the civilian sector and other government agencies. To that point, Doug Minton, Mike Neuser, Dale Lewelling and I were honored to participate on Senator Corker's military academy candidate's board this month. The candidates coming before the board all had credentials that were humbling to us, to include the fact that many are being actively recruited by colleges and universities for their academics, sports, and demonstrated leadership qualities. These are immense challenges for our federal government to resolve.

State. Hal Sauer and Doug Minton met with COL (Ret.)/State Representative Sam Whitson following our Chapter Meeting on 24 October 2017. They discussed a broad range of topics that included his perception of TN State Government, the TN Veterans Coalition of which he is a member and their building enthusiasm over the upcoming TVET Veterans visit to the TN State Legislature occurring early in 2018 (tentatively scheduled for 7 February, 2018). Sam indicated that he now feels quite comfortable with the legislative process and his role on committees, and is looking forward to the new legislative session. The temporary move to the James K. Polk Building will make things a bit more difficult, but once they are in place all should be fine. He spoke quite highly of the TN Veterans Coalition members and the fact they really want to make a difference for Veterans; which will tie in nicely with the upcoming Veterans Day on the Hill. Representative Whitson had only an introductory understanding of what the TVET organization is trying to become, but seemed genuinely pleased it is beginning to take shape. Sam recently announced he will run for a second term. He will also attend the November meeting, and will introduce our presenter, Speaker Beth Harwell.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Kent Crossley

Kent Crossley, Board Member, Legislative Affairs Liaison