



## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### APRIL 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Until Aug. 15: Vet to Vet TN is accepting nominations for their Freddie J. Owens Memorial Award. Please go to <http://womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org> for the nomination information. Deadline is August 15, 2019.
- ONGOING Reboot Combat Recovery is a 12-week course held Tuesdays from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm. Dinner and child care are provided. Location is Farragut Church of Christ at 136 Smith Rd. Knoxville, TN
- ONGOING Second Saturday of each Month Breakfast for Buds 8:30am until 10am at Mama Grits/Classico Restaurant in Tellico Village For more information, contact Dennis Drake at [dennisdrake2012@outlook.com](mailto:dennisdrake2012@outlook.com).
- APR 10 SKMES Career Fair 3:30pm to 6pm. 3600 Papermill Rd, Knoxville. [www.skmes.com](http://www.skmes.com)  
Dave Parmley 865/549-5828
- APR 10 Honor Air Flight #28. April 10, 2019 <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- APR 13 Cleaning of headstones at the Knoxville National Cemetery. Follow this link for details:  
<https://volunteersignup.org/PKJM7>
- APR 19 UT Army ROTC Military Ball and Awards Ceremony at the Downtown Hilton, 6-9pm. All are invited. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1876429125760250/>
- APR 26 & 27 Mountain Man Memorial March. <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> LIKE on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>
- MAY 6 ETVMA's Annual Medal of Honor Evening – Registration is now open. First ten Vet organizations/military units to contact Joleen to purchase a table will get their table of ten for only \$500. [joleen@thedewalds.org](mailto:joleen@thedewalds.org) Sponsorship tables are \$1,000. [www.etvma.org](http://www.etvma.org) They are honoring a Marine this year- Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert\\_L.\\_Kinser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser)
- JUN 22 Athens Area Chamber of Commerce 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit. Special Guest President George W. Bush details at [www.athenschamber.org](http://www.athenschamber.org) or 423/745-0334
- By JUN 30 Shop with Impact. Help to drive Veteran homelessness to ZERO. **\$25 donation** with **100%** of proceeds to identify where veterans are on streets in 12 county region.  
<https://tvchomeless.org/our-shop/>;  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TVCHomeless/>
- OCT 19 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 annual Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>

- Oct 4-6: **Saving Families Marriage Retreat** for Military and First Responders: marriage retreat for military and first responders that was mentioned at the meeting. There is a \$300 charge for the retreat to cover lodging and meals; registration can be submitted online at <http://servingmarriages.com/retreats.htm>.”
- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>) for all Veterans, 7:30-8:30am at the Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28

**For a complete listing of events, visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events**

### **ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION**

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **65** were present.
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
  - RobRoy McGregor with US Army Association
  - WO1Thomas Bandy with HQ278th ACR
  - Joyce Taylor with Clear Captions
  - Lisa Bollinger with UT Battelle/ORNL
  - Rebecca Basenfelder with TCAC AmeriCorps
  - Jim Eastin with Legal Shield
  - Douglas Mapp with Learning RX
  - Darrell Williams with Reboot
  - Jane Jolley with the Knox County Mayor’s Office
  - Rhonda Smithson with the Knox County Mayor’s Office
- **Visiting members of TC-MAC (Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council)**
  - Ernie Rumsby with TC-MAC
  - Don Grindstaff with TC-MAC
  - Cindy Humphrey with TC-MAC
  - Sam Jones with TC-MAC
- Joyce Taylor with Clear Captions spoke about her company that provides devices for veterans that allow them to read phone conversations while talking. It’s great for individuals that are hard of hearing or have a problem understanding while talking on the phone.
- **President’s Report – Owen Ragland** – Thank you for attending today.
- **Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Derren Burrell** – Approx. \$16,000 in operating account. Two ETMAC Sponsorships have been disbursed -one to Hardship Hill for \$300 and one to Mountain Man Memorial March for \$300. Membership dues may be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membershipapplication/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.
- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins** – [www.ETMAC.org](http://www.ETMAC.org) Donations to help ETMAC pay for parking and donuts are welcome. Please pay your dues for 2019. You may pay through the website or send/bring a check.

### **MILITARY UNIT UPDATES**

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – Joseph Westfall** – Annual training was held in March and they will hold earthquake training in June in Memphis.
- **119<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations Squadron – MSgt Kent Vanover** –They hosted Maj Gen Skinner last week and will have the National Meet Up on June 27-30.
- **1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion – CPT Hulon Holmes** – unable to attend

- 134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – **Lt Col Lee Hartley** –unable to attend
- 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – **WO Thomas Bandy** - Annual Training at Ft. Hood.
- 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **MSgt Brandon Carver**- nothing to report
- 489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion – unable to attend
- 844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** - 13 April will be change of command with Major General Anthony Funkhouser presiding.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp**- nothing to report
- Co D 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt. Cullen Tores** – Headed to Virginia, Indianapolis and Ft. Knox for training.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center –**Chaplain Green** – Three courses currently in session. State Partnership Program has attendees from all states and four territories. Also, Human Resources personnel from ANG wings attending a course to help add diversity to their units. 100 graduating this week from the Airman Leadership Course.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** – April 15-16 CID Academy will bring their roadshow. It will allow participants to enter military as a Warrant Officer. Now targeting the new generation of gamers and will have an 18-wheeler on Pellissippi’s campus the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of April. May 24 Army marksmanship team coming to Oak Ridge. Knoxville had 112 contracts signed for new entrants.
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **Capt Ethan Frazier** – unable to attend.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** –Active shooter drill as well as physical fitness assessment will be on April 13-14. CDR Settle will be going to ECRC in Virginia and will turn over command to CDR Scott Moss.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – unable to attend
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** –unable to attend
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** –unable to attend.
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** – <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - Both ROTC programs are growing and there are currently 150 cadets in Army ROTC. They took 170 cadets from Knoxville and Chattanooga to Ft. Knox for drill weekend. 20 new cadets will be on scholarship with a total of 50 enrolled to start in the fall. AF ROTC will have approximately 40 new cadets starting in the fall. UT Army ROTC will hold their annual Military Ball and Awards Ceremony on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton downtown and they welcome veterans to attend. You can register to attend on their FB page. They will have Senior Leadership coming on April 18<sup>th</sup> to give their advice to the younger cadets. The alumni will have a golf tournament on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioning will be at 1600 hours on May 11<sup>th</sup> with Major General John Evans as Key Note Speaker.

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – The second round of testing for the Cyber Security training will be happening at the Strang Senior Center in May.
- American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor – **David Webb** - Job Fair on April 17 from 11-5pm at the Middlebrook Pike location. 30 employers will be in attendance.
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** [legionknox.com](http://legionknox.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> Building new post on Old Rutledge Pike.
- American Red Cross – **Jess Hernandez** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/easttennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - April is the Month of the Military Child and they are hosting an event on Sunday April 7 from 4:30 until 7 at The MUSE in Knoxville. Details can be found at [www.redcross.org/mkstknoxville](http://www.redcross.org/mkstknoxville) or call Jess Hernandez at 865/567-6134.
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - One open bed currently. Their recent inspection gave them a deficiency free report. Doug clarified that the Ben Atchley home is part of the Tennessee State Veterans Homes and not part of the federal program. They are 100% self-sufficient.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis** <http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of each month. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still looking for veterans that want to socialize.

- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - Went to Washington for DAV conference. Visited several congressmen while there with good feedback. They have several key initiatives they want passed.
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Herb Kraehmer - <https://www.facebook.com/EastTennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> . Operation Honor Guard. They need volunteers and can come from active, reserve or veterans.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association Patrice Collins - <https://etvma.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>– Annual Medal of Honor Evening dinner coming up May 6, 2019. Go to website to register. This year they will be honoring Sgt. Elbert Kinser, USMC. The first 10 Veteran or Military units that sign up will be able to purchase their table for \$500. You will need to call Joleen to receive that discount. Her number is 571/332-3100 or by email at [joleen@etvma.org](mailto:joleen@etvma.org).  
Memorial Day Reading of the Names Ceremony: Reading of 6,442 veterans who died in military service since the beginning of WW1 will take place on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May beginning at sunrise. Anyone interested in participating just show up they will put you in line to read.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – Jim Mungenast <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> FB:<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> -  
Kim Spencer reported that ESGR hosted a Bosslift for several area companies. The employers were treated to a ride on a Blackhawk helicopter and were able to watch a rescue simulation in the Smokies. The highlight of the day was experiencing MREs for lunch. Also, one employer, Standard Aero had one of their employees as part of their crew. They truly were able to witness first hand what he does when he's not at his civilian job.
- Honor Air –Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - Flight #28 will take place on April 10, 2019. Return time for this flight will be a little earlier than normal, approximately 7:45pm. Parking has changed for the event as well, due to the large number of people that come out for each flight. There is a parking lot behind the Hilton that will be utilized. A virtual flight will be held again in June.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-forheroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> . No homes available currently, but will have a build this summer for a veteran home. They always need volunteers to help with the builds.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Ed Junod - <http://tnvhc.org/> – Taking nominations for Freddie J Owens Memorial Honor. Two categories for nomination of women, one veteran/military woman and one civilian woman. Details are on website. Second annual summit will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Maryville at Rio Revolution Church [www.womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org](http://www.womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org) . A vet will graduate next week from the Veteran Drug Court. Served Like A Girl is showing at Downtown West during the month of April and chronicles the unique issues facing women in the military. Vet to Vet TN QPR Suicide Prevention Instructor Class will be held May 16 from 8am until 4pm at Maryville Vineyard Church. Five scholarships are available. Contact Ed Junod if interested [ecjunod@comcast.net](mailto:ecjunod@comcast.net)
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: [thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org](mailto:thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org) or call 865-215-5645 Check out their website for all the legal clinics and other activities happening. They will be cleaning headstones at the Veteran Cemetery on Tyson Street on April 14. They are also available to conduct classes for any group needing information on veteran benefits.
- Knoxville Vet Center –Lyle Allen - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> -1645 Downtown West Blvd. Services free to service members. Many types of counseling available. Will participate in any outreach event.
- Marine Corps League – Eric Nash <http://www.mclknox.org/> *unable to attend*
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – Bill Potter - [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) continuing to meet jointly with MOWW. They are supporting 14 JROTC programs and 3 ROTC programs.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – Bill Grieve - <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – Meet the second Wednesday of each month. Lunch begins at 11:00 am and meeting begins at 12:00

noon at Rothchild's Banquet and Catering. Attended dedication for Vietnam Memorial in Augusta, Ga. General Livingston key note speaker.

- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Joleen Dewald** –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> Like us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/> - **The events begin on Friday, April 26. The March is on Sat., April 27 with race start at 9:00 am.** Registration is now open. A 10K race is also an option. Always looking for volunteers to man water points along the race route. MMMM still needs donations of water and Gatorade AND PROTEIN BARS! Also need to borrow large white coolers and canopies that are 10x10 or 12 x 12 from any of you that have them. Please contact Lee Dalton to arrange drop off of any of those items.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Cindy LeMarr**- <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> Like us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> -Cindy was unable to attend but provided this report in writing: They are beginning their fishing season and are looking for lunch sponsors for any of their dates. Contact Cindy if you are interested in sponsoring [cindymanz59@gmail.com](mailto:cindymanz59@gmail.com)
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –**Darrell Williams** – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> - Reboot is a Faith-Based Combat Trauma Recovery 12-week Program that provides practical help for service members and families dealing with the after effects of combat. Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Farragut Church of Christ, Faith Promise Church and Fountain City Church are the locations. Dinner and childcare are provided. Contact Stacy Nichols at [snich@tds.net](mailto:snich@tds.net) or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at [mike@visionaryhorizons.com](mailto:mike@visionaryhorizons.com). Darrell reported that Reboot has been in existence for 11 years, and in Knoxville for the past 2. There are currently two classes being held.
- Rolling Thunder – **Patrice reported for them** - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 1708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. They will host an open house on April 13 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Powell Community Center. You can meet members, and find out who they are and what they do for our military/veteran community. They will be attending the Freedom Farm Festival in Buchanan Virginia on April 6. If you are interested in joining them, they are leaving 8am Saturday from exit 481N.
- STAR – Horses & Hero Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - 15 participants currently. Will be holding classes Tuesday and Thursday at South Knoxville location and Thursday and Friday at Lenoir City. They received a grant that will allow an additional four participants. There are currently 15 vets in the program. They are also looking for veterans that would like to volunteer as mentors for the program participants.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** - Unable to attend. – <https://gotvba.com/>
- United Veterans Council – Janet Guess – They are a new organization. Janet talked about the Remembering Our Fallen Display and Wreaths Across America. They are beginning the fund raising earlier this year for the wreaths.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** – unable to attend. [https://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior\\_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955](https://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955)
- Veterans Appreciation Program- **Larry Sharp**- link between military/veterans and businesses that offer discounts to our veterans and military. Visit [www.veteransappreciationprogram.com](http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com) for details.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> . April 6 is 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Heritage Ridge Run (5k) at Sharps Ridge. To sign up, follow this link. [Ridge Run](http://www.veteransheritagesite.org/ridge-run) . Looking for volunteers to help. Sponsorships are also available and will be used to allow JROTC members to run.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Luke Davy** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> – Work with homeless veterans to get them reintegrated. They assist with gas cards, resume help, clothing and other services to help the veteran find work. They cover 8 rural counties in our area. Luke recognized Rebecca Basenfelder with TCAC AmeriCorps. She said they place volunteers around the state. They have volunteers available to help with needs around the area.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - They serve 120 families. 33 families went to Bubba Gump in

Gatlinburg. 33 family members are going to the Lantern Festival in Knoxville. A fifth Gold Star family joined recently. They are hosting a fundraiser in August. Craft beer and farm to table event. Details to follow.

- Military Order of the Purple Heart - **Charlie Cardwell** - <https://moph356.org/> - Chapter Meets on third Tuesday at 6 pm at Shoney's on Emory Rd.

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2018  
@ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am**

**For input or corrections, contact:**

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