

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

April 7, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- APRIL 22-23 Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg
- APRIL 24 Gold Star Families Monument Groundbreaking at East TN Veterans Cemetery
- APRIL 29 Col Meyeraan's Change of Command Ceremony at McGhee Tyson ANGB
- APRIL 29-30 5th Annual Women Veteran Summit in Chattanooga
- APRIL 29-30 RetroRunning Weekend Event in Pigeon Forge
- APRIL 30 Red Cross' Event at the Chattanooga Creative Discovery Museum
- MAY 1 Red Cross' Month of the Military Child Event at the Knoxville Zoo
- MAY 2 ETVMA's 6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening
- MAY 9 VVA's Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting at Washington Pike UMC
- MAY 30 Memorial Day "Reading of the Names" at the East TN Veterans Memorial

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at the Red Cross facility on Middlebrook Pike. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 88 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - 1st Sgt Gabriel Burns, USMC, Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion
 - SMSgt John Roy, production superintendent with AF Recruiting Command
 - Gregg Crawford, new veteran education coordinator for East TN Dept. of Veteran Services
 - Jim Artman and Tanner Cardwell, former military - trying to start business
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Ernest Rivera was incorrectly identified with Veterans' Pre-College Program at McGhee Tyson. He is with Veterans' Pre-College Program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Minutes have been corrected. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>

- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$15,861. ETMAC wrote checks for \$1,025 (\$750 deposit to Holiday Inn for Veteran's Day Luncheon event) and made deposits of \$702. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$15,538. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Steve or Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.
- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** Nothing to report. Please send info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **TN Smokies "Salute to Heroes Night" (Jim Dee):** Saturday, May 21st, Smokies' Stadium will once again be honoring the military with a "Salute to Heroes Night." First pitch at 7:05 p.m. Pre-game starts at 6 p.m. They will also have military trading cards where a veteran/active duty service member's picture is featured on the front and his/her biography on the back. If anyone wishes to nominate a veteran or active military service member for a card, go to <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t553> for more information and more details on the event.
- **National Association to Protect Children (David Keith):** David played a video on the organization called PROTECT, which trains veterans dedicated to protecting children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. First year's work is an unpaid internship with Dept of Homeland Defense. Donations toward the program go to the training and professional certification, food, travel, accommodations, computers, and software for the crime investigation tools. Donations will aid in sending a hero to fight the cause. One hero can save at least 50 child victims per year. Call Protect at (865) 525-0901 or visit their website at <http://protect.org/hero> to learn more.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** Patrice said they have an official schedule for Navy Week's events. Monday through Friday, April 11-15th has been designated as "Navy Week" for our metropolitan area. Knoxville is one of fifteen cities that were selected for the 2016 Navy Week program.
 - Monday, April 11th - at 12 noon, the Navy band will be performing on Market Square stage.
 - Tuesday – the Navy band will be performing at Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home. That afternoon the band will play the National Anthem at the Tennessee Vols' baseball game.
 - Wednesday - Admiral Moulton will lay a wreath at 4 p.m. at the East TN Veterans' Memorial and the Navy Band will play before and after the wreath laying.
 - Saturday- April 16th, the U.S. Navy's parachute team, the "Leap Frogs," will be parachuting into Neyland Stadium before the Orange & White game.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Two cards were circulated around the room to sign for Laimon Godel, who is ill with cancer, and for Army Captain (Ret.) Michael Trost, for a major surgery he's having done at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Owen thanked Jess and the Red Cross for hosting today's ETMAC meeting and for all the support they do in the community. He also announced the 2016 Veteran's Day Luncheon will be celebrating the Year of the Marine as the featured service. Owen wants to start working with the Marines in identifying a speaker for this year's event. Contact Owen for recommendations.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** Had a member recently attend an 8-hr. training course with FEMA. The state has a lot of TSG trained in emergency management. Drill is Saturday at the Knoxville Guard Armory on Sutherland Ave. If you'd like to attend, contact MAJ Oland and she'll leave your name at the front when they ID check. AUXCOMM, the auxiliary communications exercise, is in May and opened to all TN radio operators. April 21st is the registration deadline. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Chief Raymond Browning):** Are still working on their unit manning document. Have a lot of people in school training right now, both officers and enlisted members.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Capt Matthew McKeen):** The Smoky Mountain Air Show is April 16th-17th. The Blue Angels are secured to perform as well as other civilian acts. Will have several static aircraft displays. Capt. McKeen says Friday is the best day for retirees to come out and watch the air show practice. Gates will not open until 8 a.m. Friday for retirees. You can show your military ID at entrance. 10 a.m. gates will open for the flight line. 12 noon planes will start flying. Friday will mimic the exact show that will be presented to the general public the following Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at 10 a.m., so get there early for parking. First act starts at 11:30 a.m. For more information on the show, visit <http://smokymountainairshow.com/>. Capt McKeen also said this will be his last ETMAC meeting, as he was offered a command position in Memphis.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (LTC John Bowlin):** It's annual training season. Will have 2,200 going to Camp Shelby, MS. Recently had Change of Command Ceremony at West High School. CSM Vincent Roach was replaced with CSM Darren "Tracy" McDow. He is the 10th sergeant major of their regiment since their charter in 1977. Will have retiree luncheon at 2 p.m. at Bearden Banquet Hall next Saturday. The regimental commander will address the retirees with a briefing on the state of the regiment. Looking forward to the Air Show and meeting with ESGR at their brunch event and watching the Air Show rehearsal. Tennessee Maneuvers, which is a huge statewide joint exercise, will start at the end of May.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (CMSgt Mark Holling):** They met their prior enlistment service goal for the year. The Recruiting Command will have a recruiting asset at the Smoky Mountain Air Show this year – an Air Force performance laboratory, which has been completely redesigned, all new, interactive, with 7 different stations. They're also bringing in the Air Combat Command's F-16 Viper Demonstration team. Will also be bringing all their squadrons together, about 100 people, and are determining the East TN location, whether Gatlinburg or Chattanooga, where they'll be meeting.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez/1st Sgt Gabriel Burns):** Busy with inspections. This month they'll be doing the individual weapons qualifications inspection in Tullahoma, followed by more admin inspections. They will also be supporting the September Marine Mud Run this year.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Jessica Meyeraan):** Last week they graduated 240 NCOs. Next, they'll be welcoming 160 NCOs and 100 airmen. Have recruiters on campus this week. Military construction building project is still on track and they plan to be done by September, and possible ribbon-cutting in October. Col Meyeraan said she's sad to leave East TN because she loves her job. However, she's very

excited for her next opportunity. Col Meyeraan will be changing command on Friday, April 29th at 9 a.m. at Spruance Hall at McGhee Tyson ANGB. She'll soon be the new Chief of Staff for the National Guard Bureau's Joint Staff. Col. Kevin Donovan will be taking her place at TEC.

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** Gearing up for when they bring in all the recent graduates in and send them for summer training and camp. MEPS will also be supporting Honor Air on their trip. Will be participating in some Navy Week events at the Air Show as well. On May 21st, at the TN Smokies' Baseball game, they will be holding an enlistment ceremony at the game during the pre-game ceremony.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (LCDR Jeremy Farmer):** Thanked Patrice and Owen and all of ETMAC for all the support they have given them in connecting the Navy in Navy Week. Next Sunday, LCDR Farmer will be throwing first pitch at the TN Smokies' baseball game.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Supporting the statewide Constant Watch and will have their aircraft in air for the exercise. About to descend on Ft. Campbell with 165 cadets for their summer training, which is still in the planning phase. Are also going to be sharing the campus at TEC with active classes. Soon CAP will be working with the DEA as well.
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command (CPT Jeff Neal):** Introduced 2LT Gruden, a female field artillery officer. The artillery field was just recently opened to women. They will also be able to send females to Special Forces training in 2017.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (Col Jessica Meyeraan reporting out for CDR Dave Roberts):** CDR Roberts is on campus at McGhee Tyson doing a lot of prep work with the Army and volunteers. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has a huge event this weekend, bringing in 150 people for training, education, and professional development. Auxiliary members will be present as well as Coast Guard active duty. CDR Roberts also wanted to express a heartfelt thank you for this forum and the connections that ETMAC creates.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt. Col. Jack Lancaster):** Thanked ETMAC secretary Heather Hatcher with Senator Lamar Alexander's Office for helping to set up his group of cadets with a tour of the U.S. Capitol. The group also visited the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, and several other places. Getting ready for their field training exercise. Their dining-out event is tomorrow, and they are looking forward to the Air Show.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** April 23rd is the AFA's State Convention in Memphis. Guest speaker will be a Vietnam POW. Contact Steve for more details. For more information on the AFA, visit <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **Air Force Sergeants Association (Mike Gates):** 75% of their members must be past or present military, any branch of service. 22.5% can be family members. And 2.5% can be without any affiliation. The advocacy goes across all branches of services. He reported a proposed change to rename the organization to the Armed Forces Service Members Association, open to all past/present military members of all 5 branches of service, and to family membership who can vote and hold elected office at all levels.
- **American Legion (Marty Everett):** The Turkey Shoot is this Saturday and Sunday behind Carter High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Marty also wanted to thank the Red

Cross. They had a death in their family and had reached out to the Red Cross who were swift and efficient. For information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.

- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Introduced and thanked a few volunteers for the Red Cross. April is the month of the military child. Red Cross will be having 2 free events in East TN open to local military families to honor the military children. Saturday, Apr. 30th is the first event in Chattanooga at the Creative Discovery Museum. Then Sunday, May 1st, will be their second event at the Knoxville Zoo. Each event has 100 slots available on first-come first-serve. There will be free t-shirts and a special coinng ceremony for the kids. Military children ages 1-17 and their families are welcomed. Register to participate for these free events. Contact Jess for an e-Flyer to RSVP.
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Terry Pate):** Passed their VA survey. On the State survey they had a few minor issues that have been corrected. Are still the 5 star veterans' home in Knoxville. Terry thanked Jess Hernandez for assisting in their veterans' monthly birthday parties. Call Terry if you want to participate or assist in any activities they have at the veteran's home.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** The East TN Veterans Memorial will have the U.S. Navy Band playing at their location during Navy week. Admiral Moulton will lay a wreath Wed., April 13th at 4 p.m. at the East TN Veterans' Memorial and the Navy Band will play before and after the wreath laying. The event is open to the public.

[EVENTS]:

- **April 22-23rd: *Mountain Man Memorial March*** in Gatlinburg, TN. Registration is open. Are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the water stations - just need 1 more group of 4 persons. For more details on being a runner, to sponsor a Gold Star family, to volunteer, or to make a donation, visit <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>. 91 Gold Star Families are signed up, coming in from several different states other than TN such as Florida, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, etc. They have just under 500 marchers signed up right now. WWII MOH recipient Woody Williams, USMC, will be at the ceremony. Due to the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states, a memorial honoring Gold Star Families in Knoxville will be placed at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. Joleen said the groundbreaking ceremony is Sunday, Apr. 24th at 1 p.m. at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Highway. To support the project with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation or to donate, visit <http://hwwmohfoundation.org/>
- **May 2nd:** Will be *ETVMA's 6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening* at The Foundry at World's Fair Park. Social hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner & presentation at 6:30 p.m. This is ETVMA's annual fundraiser dinner. They will be honoring Korean War MOH recipient SFC Ray Eugene Duke, U.S. Army, who is from Whitwell, TN. He was the only MOH recipient from TN who was a POW. Guest speaker is Professor Douglas Lovelace, Jr., from the U.S. Army War College. Registration is online. Individual ticket prices are \$75/person, or \$600 for a table of 8. Also, U.S. Army MOH recipient Clint Romesha will be a guest at the event. Contact Joleen for any questions or visit the ETVMA

website at <https://etvma.org/> to purchase your tickets. You can still buy tickets online at the ETVMA website by April 26th.

- **May 30th: Memorial Day "Reading of the Names":** You are welcome to show up and get in line to read names starting at sunrise at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park. Will need between 70-85 readers.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Freddie introduced Ed Junod of the Council who also helps hold the PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution Training (PAIR) and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training programs. This past week they were recertified. If you're interested in having this training with your group, contact Ed for more information. In May, the Council will be going to Murfreesboro to train a group there. Aug. 27th is the "Man Run" event in which Freddie was asked to be the spokesperson as a prostate cancer survivor. 100% of the proceeds from the event will benefit prostate cancer research and outreach and educational programs in East TN. If you'd like more information on these programs or the Council, contact Freddie or Ed or learn more at the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council's website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** There are currently 20,400 involuntary on active duty. On April 15th, they'll be hosting more than 175 employers for an event at McGhee Tyson for the Air Show rehearsal. The Army four star chief of the National Guard Bureau is retiring, and they just announced his replacement which is an Air Force 3-star general and former F-16 pilot.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #20 will take place Wed., April 13th. There will be 26 WWII veterans, 52 Korean War veterans, and 47 Vietnam War veterans onboard. Proceeds from the Smoky Mountain Air Show will benefit Honor Air. Everyone is invited to the Welcome Home Ceremony at the McGhee Tyson Airport on Wed., April 13th around 8 p.m. On this flight they'll have 2 WWII veterans that are both 100 years old. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Present, nothing to report.
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** They had their safety coffee break the weekend of March 25-27th. The MCL's upcoming Pistol Match is April 9th. Eddie will be in Lebanon, TN soon for the MCL state meeting. They'll also be going to Parris Island, SC this month for their reunion; the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. They have a Rifle Match on May 14th. The Marine Mud Run is Sept. 17th. They're looking for teams, sponsors and volunteers. For information on the Mud Run, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/> They also met with the Shepherd's Men, which is a group of Men that wear 22 lb. vests and run 22 kilometers to raise funds and awareness for the SHARE military initiative, a program that treats PTSD and TBI for returning veterans. Eddie also said Laimon Godel is not doing too well but that our prayers are with him. Also, Eddie was selected as the Marine of the Year for the detachment, and Laimon was selected as Marine of the Year for the Southeast Division. For more information on the Knoxville MCL, visit their website at mclknox.org.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** MOWW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting. Membership is open to all uniformed services to include the Coast Guard, the National Health and Human Services,

and the National Meteorological departments. Nolan expressed his gratitude to ETMAC and all of the organizations for their support. Owen Haddock was elected as MOWW's new commander. Owen said he's looking forward to being commander. Their next meeting is April 13th.

- **Project Healing Waters (Dan Moneymaker):** Thanked the Red Cross for allowing them to use their facility for their monthly meetings. They're holding their rod-building classes right now. Are able to start giving some gear to their participants thanks to Chota Outdoor Gear, who is one of their strongest local supporters. Their monthly meetings are the first Tuesday of every month. Anyone is welcome to come. Had their second Pint Night at River Sports Outfitters. Last year they raised \$1500. Last month, they had 8 veterans fish at Blackberry Farms. They're also looking forward to setting up a new chapter in Maryville. Last year they had 200 chapters as a nation, and this year are looking at 250. Dan said for any active military group interested in fly fishing to let them know. They have all the equipment and there would be no costs. For more information on the Project Healing Waters program, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** Present, nothing to report.
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation (Jessica King):** Filed their bylaws last week with the IRS. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more, to join, or to donate. They adopted Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park officially last week, and are meeting with the City Council soon to change the name to Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park. Have a Board of Directors now. Had 2 work days over the past month. The first one was of 18 airmen volunteers and the second work day had 32 people from a student organization volunteering. Also had 3 Young Marines volunteering. The cleanup portion is complete. Preparing now to have their drawings done by the architect and hope to share those at the next monthly ETMAC meeting. Will also be having a fundraiser in June, as well as an upcoming outdoor movie night.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pin is being given to Vietnam veterans to thank and honor those veterans who served during active duty in the Vietnam War. By direction of DOD, each pin must be presented to each individual it is given to. Thus, VVA will be setting up 3 events to help present these to Vietnam veterans.

[EVENTS]:

- April 15th-16th: Walmart on Chapman Highway, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You must bring a copy of your DD214.
- June 24-25th: Knoxville Center Walmart
- August 12-13th: Turkey Creek Walmart

If you have an organization that has several members eligible for these pins, contact Don to help make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. The pinning must be done from an organization who is a commemorative partner. VVA and Daughters of the American Revolution are both commemorative partners. For more information, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/> On Monday, May 9th, VVA will be holding an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting at the Washington Pike United Methodist Church that will cover benefits for those veterans exposed to Agent Orange, Camp LeJeune water contamination, and oil fires, etc. And May 10th is their Morristown Town Hall Meeting

on PTSD. VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

- **Volunteers of America (Clyde Vincent):** They have grants for Knoxville and Johnson City that enables them to help veterans get back to work. They also have Supportive Services for Veteran Families to help veterans get into housing or stay in housing. They applied for new grants recently which would enable them to cover the rest of the state. VOA is currently looking for an outreach worker, ideally a veteran. If you know of anyone interested, call Clyde directly at (865) 607-6231 or email him at clydev@voaky.org. Sept. 24th will be the Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down event..
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl Rich):** Recently lost one of their WWII veterans - Thelma Burns, who was active in WVA. June 11th they will be having a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's. You can buy tickets online at the WVA website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>. Pearl will be attending their last planning meeting soon for their upcoming 5th Annual Women Veteran Summit in Chattanooga April 29th-30th. The next chapter meeting will be at the Red Cross Bldg. this Saturday at 10 a.m.
- **Young Marines (Larry Winters):** They will be at Honor Air this year. They're also helping in a Soldier's Journey Home on April 21st for Cody Evans and the building of his home. May 7th they are having Aviation Day at the Seymour Airport.
- **President of student veterans' association at Maryville College:** April 22nd are having a networking event if you're interested in meeting with any of the student veterans there or hiring a veteran, or for internships, please let them know.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about the Marines in 1971.

❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. You do not have to be military/veteran to join, need only a desire to support ETMAC's mission.

❖ Parking validations are available for those who park in Market Square Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice for a parking validation.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.