



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

August 3, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- AUG 21 – SEP 2 HERO week at Crossfit865
- SEP 1 Vietman War, UT Student Films, 5-7 pm @ East Tennessee History Center
- SEP 1 Golf Tournament, Air Force Recruiting Command, MSgt Chris Robson
- SEP 2 4th Annual POW-MIA 12 hr Relay @ Ft. Sanders West, 7a – 7p
- SEP 9 James Bell Memorial 5k, 9am @ McGhee Tyson ANGB
- SEP 9 Marine Corps League Military Style Rifle Match @ Rifle Range Rd, 7am
- SEP 16 Marine Corps Mud Run
- SEP 23 Veteran’s Picnic, Chilhowee Park, 11:30 – 1:30 RSVP: VVA1078@gmail.com
- Oct 4-8 “The Wall That Heals” open 24 hours a day @ Lynnhurst Funeral Home
- OCT 6 Healing Waters Banquet, The Foundry, 6-9:30pm, call 866-251-7252 ext. 128
- OCT 21 Navy Ball at Downtown Knoxville Marriott
- OCT 28 2nd Annual Sharp’s Ridge Trail Run
- NOV 11 Rocky Top Crafter’s Honoring Vets @ Main Street Baptist Church, Rocky Top, TN

For a complete listing please 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, Aug 3, 2017 at 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of 72 were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by MAJ Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - - Garrett Hanas, State Commander, Disabled American Veterans
 - - Josh McNeill, Executive Petty Officer from the US Coast Guard Cutter Ouachita
 - - Col Kerry Lovely, New Commander of Air National Guard Training and Education Center
 - - MSgt Christopher Caswell, 332nd Recruiting Squadron, Nashville, TN
 - - Lt Col Terry Holmes, Commander, 332nd recruiting Squadron, Nashville, TN
 - - CMSgt - Christopher Robinson - 332nd Recruiting Squadron, Nashville, TN
 - - SSgt Desmond Boone, 332nd recruiting, Cleveland, TN
 - - MSgt Joseph Jessup, Rome, GA, 332 Air Force Recruiting out of Nashville
 - - Ron Bridges , Pellissippi State Community College, Veteran Services

- - Pamela Cotham, City of Knoxville, Assistant Purchasing agent
- - Derrick Stowell - University of Tennessee Gardens Therapy Program
- - Chemain Kellogg, Visit Knoxville, Military/ Government contact
- - Capt Ethan Frazier, Operations Officer at Knoxville MEPs

- **Treasurer's Report: Major Stephanie McKeen** reported \$401.47 expenses. Balance \$16,841.70.
- **Webmaster's Report: Barry Allen** – 147 sessions, 130 users looked at 235 pages, mostly English 143 , 3 Korea, 1 Indonesian.
- **Joint Operation: Jane Jolley** (865) 637-4180
Appreciate ETMAC Support for Joint Operation. 78 organizations participated and over 600 veterans and family members that attended. Additional service this year was assistance with legal issues and were able to connect many veterans connect with services to help them in this area. On September 13 will have another Joint Operations in the Cleveland area to help Veterans.
- **Honor HERO Week at Crossfit865- Bonnie Harlow** Monday, August 28 – Saturday, September 2, Crossfit865 is honoring our fallen with free workouts designated to honor a specific fallen Hero. We will end the week with the McGhee workout to honor Cpl. Ryan McGhee. His mom, Sherrie Battle McGhee is a member of ETMAC and will share with us Ryan's story at 9:30am on Saturday, September 2nd. Visit the website: www.crossfit865.com or call 865-456-2077 for info.
- **PBS Special on Vietnam: Jim Dee** Local PBS will do an entire series on Vietnam. Have fliers in back. One thing not on there is a Prescreening of Vietnam War in East Tennessee at the Tennessee Theater on Saturday, August 19. It is free but you still need to reserve tickets. The website is not up yet, but will get that information out via Patrice so that you can reserve your seat. Also, they will catalog your Vietnam items at this event.
- **ETMAC Announcements, Patrice Collins** Huge thank you to the 332nd being here and supporting ETMAC. Thanks to the anonymous donor for the \$50 donation for the breakfast costs this month. The parking is another area where we can use help. Parking runs about \$180 month because it has grown so much. Veterans day luncheon is right around corner, and its the Year of the Navy. It is on Thursday, November 9th at the Marriott at 11:30 am. Special Navy band may perform at the luncheon. Will send out more information.
- **President's Report – Major Stephanie McKeen** Owen Ragland presented with a special recognition for dedicated service as President of ETMAC 2015 – 2016. Have grown in 12 years from 10-12 to 70-80 members and have seen great things come from this organization.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – Major Joseph Westfall** – Summer missions have wound down and preparing for winter missions. Preparing for upcoming uniform changes.
- **1-100th Engineer Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **119th Command and Control Squadron** – *unable to attend*
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **134th Air Refueling Wing – Major Stephanie McKeen** Drill this weekend. Busy time with the Director of the Air National Guard flying in tonight and will be on base along with Adjutant General and Assistant Air General preparing for a commanders conference for the entire state.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – COL Jimmie Cole** Exercise at Ft. Hood Texas was very successful with over 5200 soldiers on the ground and airman. All wings in Tennessee provided support in addition to the Red Cross. Right now in recovery. Collected all of our equipment, over 2000 pieces. In 8 months will ship it out to California. Next 8 months will focus on training preparation, ironing out things that need improvement from exercise in Texas. Went over to Europe to do some initial planning for deployment on 1 June. Received notification for deployment; still unsure of where and size of mission requirement. Will be 50 – 100% of the organization. End of this month will start formal planning for training center rotation. McGhee Tyson will host our family planning conference at the end of this month. Yesterday participated in the Honor Air..
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **844th Engineering Battalion – MAJ Andrew Wyman**, Battalion S3 – just wrapped up our river crossing exercise across the Arkansas river at Ft. Chaffee end of July. Preparing for next exercise in November and in March of next year.
- **Air Force 332nd Recruiting Command – MSgt Chris Robson** Change of Command - LTC Holmes now Squadron Commander. Local recruiter in Knoxville looking for a Guest Disabled Veteran Speaker for the YMCA for August, 19. If you know of anyone, please advise. Thanks to Honor Air for honoring the Veterans in that way. Truly humbling. Would love to see more representation of uniform

at that event and not just recruiters. Looking for any opportunity for recruiting so let us know of any events that we can be present at. we are very close to meeting our fiscal year requirements and will be plugging prior service and officer programs. Will be having squadron annual in our AOR for ETMAC in Gatlinburg this year.

- **Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *Nothing to report*
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – CPT Cullen Torres** upcoming drill this weekend will be family day. All tactical vehicles and weapons will be out. Also will have a virtual video game simulated weapon experience. Then out to the Louisville state park for family activities. In September will go to Georgia to do Marine Corps Engineering exercises.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Kerry Lovely** new commander. Turn over on staff – New commandant, new 1SGT and will have some other new ones coming in and some going out. Dedicated new building to GEN McKinley. Greatly increases capacity for training with more classrooms and new dorms. Booking into 2019 for training.
- **Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army)** - *unable to attend*
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Emily Wilson**, New MEPS Commander. Change of command 2 weeks ago. Getting settled in and look forward to being a part of the ETMAC organization.
- **Navy Operational Support Center – LCDR Kevin Settle**
CO of Knox Knoxville. Fliers on the back - US Department of Agriculture starting a program, Vets feed families. Will start collecting non perishable food items at the NOSC, 2101 Alcoa Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37920 from July 19 to August 31. Will turn food over to local food pantries, red cross, and other places that need it. Drill weekend is Aug 12 – 13. Will have carwash to raise money for Navy Ball.
MC3 Bryan Tomforde - Navy Ball on Oct 21. Need of funds for the Knoxville Navy Ball, which is Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 at the Knoxville Marriott. Mayor Burchette will attend. Cash donations and door prizes are appreciated. Email sent out by Patrice with details. Navy will be 242 years old and would love for all to join us to celebrate. Call for info (865) 773-2449, Knoxville Navy league is our charity and is all tax deductible. Knoxville Ball and Knoxville Navy Ball 2017 facebook pages.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Lt Col Dent Young** Just held the regional staff college with the help of COL Lovely and always impressed by the professionalism of the instructors. 34 cadets sent off to cadet leadership school and navy ground school. Thanks to Lt Col Lancaster for cadets sent to teach. Involved with DEA and TVI in search of marijuana in state of Tennessee.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – CDR Tom Murphy** nothing to report
- **UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Lancaster** Last ETMAC meeting. Introducing new commander, LTC Castillo from Intelligence Squadron Command, San Antonio, TX. Sincere thanks and appreciate to all at ETMAC, mountain man, veteran's day and lots of other incredible events for the military.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association – Paula Pension, Lt Col, RET** Getting ready for annual golf tournament fundraiser at Iguani Farms on October 9. Look for fliers in September. All recruiters golf free.
- **American Legion Post 2 – Larry Sharp** Saturday, August 12 annual picnic at the Powell community center on Emory Road. Saturday, August 26 the American Legions Riders will have a ride, 7th annual memorial fun run starting at the food city, 7510 Asheville Highway.
- **American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog** \$114,000 dollars was raised from the Pedal for the Red event which is money that will help Red Cross efforts. Thanks to all who helped. Home Fire campaign coming up with a mission of installing 1000 smoke detectors. Will need lots of volunteers for this.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Terry Pate, Ben Atchley Director of Activity** - We have a full house. Still have some open positions, RN nursing and CNA and activities. All invited to come out and socialize with our brothers and sisters in arms, just call the home and we will get you on the calendar to visit with the residents. Motto is "Proudly serving those who served" and it is an honor to do so.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald** Preparing for Monday, May 7 Medal of Honor Dinner at the Foundry, and will start some fundraising campaigns in the fall.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – Reid Gerhardt** – no report
- **Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner** – 5-6 Veterans in last 18 months that have been put into homes. We were at Joint Operations event and are always interested in placing more veterans into homes.
- **Knoxville Reboot Combat Recover: Michael Simpson** Structured 12-wk course that helps veterans and their families heal from the spiritual and moral injuries of war associated with post-traumatic stress and combat trauma. Video presented. Next session starting August 29th, Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm,

FREE for Vets, Meal and childcare provided at Farragut Church of Christ, 136 Smith Road, Knoxville, TN 37934. Contact Stacey Nichols, (865)582-5330. Email: snich@tds.net. Go to www.rebootrecovery.com for more information.

- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owen** Update on health thanking all for phone calls and prayers. Next Thursday Director of the Mountain Home Hospital will be here if you have any complaints or concerns get them to Freddy. This weekend have the annual head care on 10th avenue. At Concord, NC last month distributed over 150+ commemorative pins. Will have a celebrate recover program coming up if anyone needs more information on that.
- **ESGR – Jack D'Ajaujo** As of yesterday, 33,000 guardsman and reservists on federal active duty. That number will likely stabilize barring any national crisis. Anderson is the 2nd County in East TN that has agreed to provide 30 days paid military leave for guardsman and reservist on active duty though the law only requires 20. Hoping this will catch on. Will be supporting the Marine Corps family day activities this weekend.
- **Honor Air – Patrice Collins** Was a very successful flight with 134 all Vietnam Vets. No serious problems with the event except for the flight delay. Next flight is Wednesday, October 4th.
- **Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries** *nothing to report*
- **Knoxville Vet Center – Emily Feedback** *unable to attend*
- **Marine Corps League – Eric Nash** Sad news, lost a Veteran who served with the First Marine Division on that first island invasion last week. Joint operations went well. Changing our website from MCLKnox.aox to www.MCLKnoxville.org. Marine Corps mud run on Septmeber 17. Go to <https://www.mclknnoxville.org/> for more information. We have Marine breakfasts around the area, next one is in Loudon County and over in Seymour. Check the calendar. Have a pistol shoot coming up on 19 August. All funds go to the pistol range that serves as a young Marine training range. September 9th is a rifle shoot. Will get the information out.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March – Joleen Dewald**, Memorial March set for April 14.
- **Military Order of World Wars – Paula Penson, Lt Col, RET** Next Wednesday is monthly meeting with Commander Cliff Bullets, USN, Retired is going to talk about Brown Water Navy about his experiences during patrols in Vietnam.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Steve Thompson**, Had 33 veterans at last meeting, largest turnout so far. Going to fish Norton creek this weekend if anyone is interested in attending. Four more outing scheduled this year. October 6th is our upcoming banquet, Smoky Mountain Slam with John Becker as our MC and Major Stephanie McKeen as our music entertainment which always gets wonderful compliments and Rock Star status. Looking for organizations who would like to sponsor 30-35 visiting veterans for dinner on Friday and sponsors for lunch on Saturday. Looking for a Color Guard detail for our banquet. Fliers in back. \$50 tickets for the banquet and can purchase at <http://www.smokymountainsslam.com/>
- **Veteran Appreciation Program – Larry Sharp** Honored to participate in Project Outreach sponsored by Senator Corker and Senator Alexander. Last month sponsored the Veteran's appreciation breakfast at the Powell community center with more than 100 Veterans and spouses in attendance. Next one is the 3rd Saturday and will continue each month at the Powell Community Center.
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patti McGrew** Info about the Heritage Site foundation membership on the back table, \$25 for the year. Received \$1000 grant from the American Legion will be used to renovate the trail head at Ridge Road. 2nd annual sharps ridge trail run will be on October 28 and will need volunteers. Family fun day will also be that day. More specifics next month.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1076 – Don Smith** August 19 will be the 3rd Veterans breakfast at Powell Community Center. Sept 23 at Chilhowee Park will have Veterans Picnic for all Veterans and families from all eras. Flier in back. Please RSVP to give some idea of amount of food. The wall that Heals replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. will be here from Oct 4 – 8th at Lynnhurst Funeral Home. Mayor Burchett and Knox County made it possible to be here. The wall will be open from time arrives at 6pm on October 4th to time that it closes down at 4pm on Sunday the 8th. All of these hours have to be manned along with the education center that goes with it. Takes 8 people on team to man the wall, the grounds and the education center for 24 hours. We broke down those time periods to 4 hour blocks. Need different units and organizations to sign up. Fliers on back table. Knoxwall.org - <https://s-kwolcott.wixsite.com/thewall>
- **Rolling Thunder – Brenda Owensby** Requested to escort members of Healing Waters down to The Wall That Heals. If you have other organizations that you are serving that need escorts, let us know. Happy to be here to serve.

- **Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Patrice Collins for Stephanie Trost –** Her husband Mike Trost was severely injured while on tour of duty in Middle East and has lost a leg so is quite impressive that he has climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park with 12 veterans from his unit that he served with in Iraq where he flew his flag. He climbed for 20 hours, 18+ miles at an incline elevation of 8844 feet. Working with Ben Atchley on a Veteran to Veteran poker night that our local Wounded Warriors will host. 2 families are being referred to Walter Reed for medical attention. Provided meals for a month to a local veteran family whose spouse is the caregiver of a Veteran with major medical issues.
- **Military Officers Association of America – Bill Potter -** Over 20k officers in East Tennessee area. Looking for more members so if you would like information, let us know. Recently are 5 issues/ bills in congress so take the time to let your representatives know your position through the website or you can call them, too. Correction of misspelling previous minutes – gave out medals made of metal.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association – Dawn Williams –** We are close to getting a date and speakers lined up for our Annual keynote Dinner, business expo and Veteran Job Fair. We have a newsletter that we send out monthly at www.gotvba.com and sign up to stay informed.

Next Meeting of ETMAC: Thursday, September 7, 2017 at Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

**For Corrections or input, Contact:
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865-406-4237**