

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

August 4, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- AUG 10 Monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House (Merchants Dr.)
- AUG 17 Smoky Mountain Opry Theater's "Salute to Veterans" Breakfast (Pigeon Forge)
- AUG 20 3rd Annual "Hope Gala" Fundraising Event for Veteran Homelessness
- AUG 20 Women Marines Association's Fundraising Yard Sale (Knoxville)
- AUG 26-28 Tennessee's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall (Walmart in Sevierville)
- AUG 27 American Legion Post 2 Annual Memorial Ride
- AUG 27 UT Medical Center's "Man Run" for Prostate Cancer Awareness
- SEPT 2 Project Healing Waters' Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Fundraising Banquet
- SEPT 7 Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans (Knox Co. Public Defender's Office)
- SEPT 10 Marine Corps League's Putman Memorial Rifle Match (Volunteer Rifle Club)
- SEPT 17 Marine Mud Run (Melton Hill Park)
- SEPT 23-24 VVA's Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pinning (Walmart in Turkey Creek)
- SEPT 24 Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down (Natl. Guard Armory, Sutherland Ave.)

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, August 4, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 57 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Natalia Spratlen, Regional Branch Manager for Y-12 FCU, and member of Board of Directors for Friends of Military Families, Inc. (phone: 865-813-4645/email: NSpratlen@y12fcu.org)
 - Cindy Winterberger, social worker with Covenant Health Hospice, building a vet-to-vet volunteer program and offering Katerpillar Kids Camp, a free grief camp at Wesley Woods
 - Kaitlyn Hobbs, intern with Covenant Health Hospice
 - Andy White, Ed.D., Director of UT Knoxville's Aerospace & Defense Business Institute

- Phil Montag, (former CAPT., U.S. Army), current full-time student at UT-Knoxville's College of Business Aerospace & Defense MBA program
- Janice Reid, Recruitment Coordinator for UT-Knoxville's Aerospace & Defense MBA program
- Mike Beach, Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves
- Richard Osborn, veteran of the British Royal Artillery and U.S. Air Force
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The July 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written. 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 \$10,221. ETMAC wrote checks for \$305. Made deposits of \$2,500 (Enterprise Holdings' donation). ETMAC's ending month balance is \$12,416. 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):** Please send any info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):**

[EVENTS]:

- Aug. 17th: *Smoky Mountain Opry Theater's "Salute to Veterans" Breakfast.* Registration and breakfast: 7:45 a.m. Program begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration and proper ID required. Breakfast is free for veterans and retired and active military members. \$12/person for everyone else. Keynote speaker is Lt. Clebe McClary, USMC (retired), who is a Silver Star and Bronze Star recipient for his heroic actions while serving in the Vietnam War. Location: Smoky Mountain Opry Theater, 2046 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN. RSVP is required. Please RSVP by Aug. 12th by calling (865) 453-5700 or emailing to info@pigeonforgechamber.com.
- Aug. 20th: The *3rd Annual "Hope Gala" for Veteran Homelessness* is Saturday, August 20th, at 6 p.m., at Jackson Terminal, 205 W. Jackson Ave. The Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless will be hosting the Hope Gala in an effort to raise funds to move homeless veterans and families into permanent housing and to bring awareness to veteran homelessness in our community. Dinner will be served. A guest speaker will be featured. Hope Gala tickets are \$50 each, or \$400 for a table of 8. Donations are also welcomed. All proceeds will go to helping local homeless veterans. Patrice is a ticket table captain, so contact her at (865) 806-4487 or by email at pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com to reserve your tickets. Patrice thanked everyone who has bought tickets so far. Visit <https://tvchomeless.org/hope/> for more event information.
- Aug. 26-28: VVA Chapter 203, Chattanooga, will display the *Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*, as a tribute to the 1,291 soldiers from Tennessee who were killed in action during the Vietnam War. Just like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in D.C., visitors will be able to take an etching of a name. Location: Walmart in Sevierville, at 1414 Parkway, Sevierville, TN, 37862.
- Sept. 7th & Nov. 2nd: A *Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans* will be available from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Knox Co. Public Defender's Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville. Attorneys will be available to provide assistance on issues such as veteran's benefits, consumer protection, contract disputes, estate planning, child support, personal injury,

criminal defense, bankruptcy, landlord/tenant issues, and general legal issues. Call the Knoxville Bar Association's Office at (865) 522-6522 for more info.

- Nov. 11th: The **Annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon** is Wed., Nov. 11th at the Knoxville Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. Seats are limited to 400 and will sell quickly, so get your tickets early. This year's luncheon will feature a guest speaker from the Marine Corps. Patrice will be sending out a letter soon to all unit commanders to choose their honorees at this year's luncheon. Contact Patrice for any questions.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland)**: Owen said Lt. McClary, who will be speaking at Smoky Mountain Opry Theater's "Salute to Veterans" Breakfast on Aug. 17th, has a story to tell about comradery and faith that is unlike any other. He said it's a truly inspiring story and encouraged everyone to attend the event to hear his story.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland)**: Their change of command ceremony is Aug. 6th. Brigadier General Kenneth Takasaki will be retiring. Colonel Craig Johnson, Ret., who last served as the commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, will be his replacement. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Willie Posey)**: Completed their annual field training exercise. They recently brought cyber leaders to Tennessee from every state that will have a cyber protection team, and they partnered them with the 624th Operations Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas.
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion (LTC Pat Wade)**: TN Governor Bill Haslam and TN Adjutant General Max Haston visited them last week at McGhee Tyson ANGB. The battalion has also been working with ESGR to prepare to take 16 employers (who employ employees from their unit) on a helicopter flight demonstration on Aug. 17th to show them what they do. Also, they will be sending 8 aircraft to Ft. Bliss in October to test a digital command and control system on the Black Hawk helicopters. They're still continuing to transition over to the Black Hawks.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing**: Owen said to keep the unit in your prayers during their travels.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (LTC John Bowlin)**: Just finished their big PT rotation. Moved 4,000 troops through Camp Atterbury, IN and Camp Shelby, MS. LTC Bowlin also just returned from Ft. Hood, TX to set the conditions for their field training exercise - the eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) next year. Getting ready for some missions. From September 9th-12th, the National Guard Association of the United States will meet in Baltimore for their national convention. TN Adjutant General Max Haston will be running for Vice Chair of the NGAUS.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Andrew Wyman)**: Will complete their annual qualifications training in Tulsa, OK this month.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (1stSgt Gabriel Burns)**: Just finished their annual training at Camp Lejeune, NC. Sent up a platoon to Wisconsin. They're preparing for Family Day on Aug. 13-14th at Springbrook Park in Alcoa. September 17th is the Marine Mud Run, and they will be there supporting it with the Marine Corps League.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chaplain Lt. Col David Michaud)**: The NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School students graduate next week. New classes start right thereafter. TEC currently has a Public Affairs Managerial course being taught this week. Waiting turnover of new building very soon. September 2nd is their senior NCO induction ceremony.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (YN1 Noah Jaques)**: Drill weekend is Aug. 20th-21st. Will be having advancement exams this month. The Chief Petty Officer results for

advancements/promotions can be viewed online at
http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/dept_landing.asp?issue=3&dep=10

- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt. Col Dent Young):** Last month they finished their semi-annual Air Force exam that tests them on how well they prosecute their missions, and received an excellence on that. Also graduated 19 students from their Region Staff College which took place on TEC campus. Lt. Col Young thanked Chaplain Michaud for his assistance. They graduated 22 students from Cadet Aviation Ground School, which is an intense 6-day class for CAP and Sea cadets. If they pass, they receive an instructor's endorsement to go take their private pilot written exam. Since mid-June, they have been assisting TBI and the FBI with counterdrug efforts - by 300 flying hours and 900 man hours. Aug. 11th-13th is Civil Air Patrol's National Conference at the Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville.
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command (SSG Ryan Larkin):** Are nearing the end of the fiscal year and working Saturdays until 9 p.m. to make mission. Battalion members and leaders are currently in Johnson City, TN for a meeting. Just received a mobile engagement trailer. Will be participating at this weekend's VVA's Gulf War Veterans' "Welcome Home" Picnic. Can support and bring out their trailer at other events too. Contact SSG Larkin to schedule in advance.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt. Col Jack Lancaster):** They recently said goodbye to Major Michael Wilson who headed down to the Air Force Special Operations Command in Hurlburt Field, FL. They welcomed Capt Mark Farley, who previously worked with them. They're also gearing up for next semester and have a big incoming freshman class.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Thanked everyone for their prayers for Luke Caldwell, who just had brain tumor surgery. He is doing better and will be transferred back to Knoxville in the near future. The AFA's Annual Brig. Gen. Walter J. "Bud" Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament is on Columbus Day, Oct. 11th. Last year they invited area recruiters to the tournament and will be inviting recruiters again this year. Cyber Patriot, which is the AF Association's competition for cyber security, is coming up in its 9th year. They will be signing up 26 or more teams in the East Tennessee area. This area has the 5 time state champion Farragut High School, which will be submitting 2 teams. Also, the Tennessee School for the Deaf will be submitting 2 teams. They're also encouraging any teachers in middle or high school to consider joining them, as well as anyone interested in being a mentor to the teams. Contact Steve if interested. Oak Ridge National Laboratory has provided mentors in the past. To learn more about AFA or the CyberPatriot competition, visit the AFA website at <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Bill Frasier):** Saturday, Aug. 27th is the American Legion Post 2 Annual Memorial Ride. Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the Tennessee Smokies Baseball Park. The ride will end at the Harley-Davidson on Clinton Highway, where there will be food and music. The ride is for motorcycles and automobiles alike. The American Legion will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2019. AL can come and support any units that are having Family Days. If anyone has things they need help with, AL can be of service to your groups. Contact them if so.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** The Red Cross can support Family Days, Yellow Ribbon events, Post-Deployment and Pre-Deployment events, and other programs. Contact the Red Cross at any time for assistance. They also support MEPS on Red Cross briefings for new recruits and their families. They'll also be participating at VVA's Gulf War Veterans' "Welcome Home" Picnic on Aug. 6th.
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Present, nothing to report.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Bob Dewald):** Keep Joleen Dewald in your prayers as she recovers from recent hospitalization.

- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Aug 27th is the 9th Annual Man Run event to raise Prostate Cancer Awareness in which Freddie was asked to be the spokesperson as a prostate cancer survivor. The 10K Race starts at 8 a.m. 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 8:15 a.m. \$15 registration fee for military members, and \$25 regular fee for individuals. 100% of the proceeds will benefit prostate cancer research, outreach, and educational programs in East TN. To sign up for the Man Run, visit <http://www.utmedicalcenter.org/cancer-institute/calendar-events/the-man-run/>. At the end of August, they'll be graduating 3 more justice-involved veterans (JIVs) from the Veterans Treatment Court. On September 3rd, they'll be having their first Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pinning event at the Tellico Biker Rally 2016 in Tellico Plains, TN. If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor to JIVs, you can register for a free 2-day seminar in Smyrna, TN on Aug. 28th-29th. Their rural outreach posts have been very successful and they've received many incoming veterans from the rural areas. Freddie will also be meeting with the pastor from Concord United Methodist Church in setting up a similar unit in West Knoxville. If anyone's church is interested in setting up a similar unit, contact Freddie.

- Owen Haddock recently wrote an **article in *Mountain Escapes Magazine*** featuring the Council. Featured articles can be found on pages 5 and 11 here: <https://issuu.com/mountainescapesmagazine/docs/mountainescapes-july2016-issuu>

To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit their website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.

- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D' Araujo):** There are currently 30,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. Last month, ESGR participated in a Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment program with the 117th Military Police Battalion from the Tennessee National Guard. They had 6 soldiers with employment conflicts and were able to resolve them prior to the service members reporting to active duty. On July 29th, Knox Co. Mayor Tim Burchett signed his support to extend military paid leave to all guardsmen and reservists to 30 days, from the previous 15 days which the current law had required. They hope this will be a model for other regional employers. ESGR also is working with LTC Pat Wade from the 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion to take 16 employers on a flight demonstration on Aug. 17th. In mid-September, ESGR will be working with the 134th ARW on an event.
- **Honor Air:** Flight #22 is planned for October 5, 2016, and will have WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans on flight. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Present, nothing to report. For veterans' services and benefits assistance, contact Tom at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** The Marine Mud Run is Saturday, Sept. 17th, at Melton Hill Park. For more information on the Mud Run, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>. To learn more about the MCL and for more event information, visit <http://mclknox.org/>.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Owen Haddock):** 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. Their next meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 10th and will feature guest speaker Major Hank Hamblin, Jr. USA, Retired, a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan. They've been focusing on speakers related to Homeland Security. Those who are not officers, contact Owen and you can attend as a guest. The MOWW National Convention is August 9-13th in Baton Rouge, LA. Owen was asked to become a part of MOWW's National Security Program. Owen said in

August, the *Mountain Escapes Magazine* will feature an article he wrote about the Marine Corps League

- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** Had their monthly meeting this week with 22 veterans in attendance. Many newcomers and spouses of the veterans attended. PHW was awarded scholarships from Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg. In July, at Miller's Island on the Clinch River they had their first annual female veterans' only retreat. They want to continue to do this annually. September 2-3, 2016 is their tournament. The Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge Fundraising Banquet at The Foundry is Friday, Sept. 2nd, from 6-9 p.m. Visit <http://www.smokymountainlam.com/> for more information. Tickets are \$75/person Here is a link to purchase your tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/smoky-mountain-grand-slam-challenge-fundraising-banquet-tickets-27013028696> Patrice said PHW is accepting donated items for their silent auction. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** A resource program for individuals and businesses who are committed to providing discounts, products, or services to veterans and military members. Go to <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> to post your business or to learn which businesses are offering discounts to veterans and military members. The program also provides participating businesses with a decal to post on their door/window to identify the business as a member of the Veterans Appreciation Program. This week, Larry met with Blount Co. Mayor Ed Mitchell about the program. Contact Larry for any questions about the program at (865) 603-1974 or by email at VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com.
- **Veterans Heritage Site Foundation (Pearl Rich):** They're planning more fundraisers, and they obtained maps from the City of Knoxville for Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project. Their architect is currently working on those and will return them to the City of Knoxville for approval. They also recently received a \$500 donation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chattanooga chapter. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more about the Veteran Heritage Site Foundation, or to join or donate.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** The 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pins are given to Vietnam veterans to thank them for their active service during the Vietnam War. By direction of DOD, each pin must be presented to each individual it is given to. The pinning must be done from an organization who is a commemorative partner. VVA will be setting up their next pinning event for Sept. 23-24th at the Walmart in Turkey Creek. Please bring a copy of your DD214 or equivalent with you. Eligibility Criteria: For veterans who served on active duty from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 30, 1975. Veterans do not have had to serve in Vietnam to be eligible. If you have an organization that has members eligible, contact Don to make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. For more information, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

[EVENTS]:

- **Aug. 6th:** Gulf War Veterans Welcome Home BBQ & Picnic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Cove at Concord Park. Admission is free. Veterans and their families are welcomed. Register at the chapter's website at www.vva1078.org. Registration is not required. Service organizations and units are a welcomed to attend and set up a table at the event. The Red Cross, Army Recruiting Command, Veterans Heritage Site Foundation, the American Legion, and others will have tables set up at the event providing information.
- **Sept. 23-24th:** VVA Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pinning at Walmart in Turkey Creek

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

- **Women Marines Association (Pearl Rich):** On Saturday, Aug. 20th, they will be having a yard sale for fundraising efforts. It will take place at Pearl's house at 4216 Roaming Road, Knoxville. Please let them know if there are any items you'd like to donate. WVA will pick up the items from you. Also, their monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House on Merchants Dr. has changed dates, and will now take place the second Wednesday of every month. The Beer Muster is from 6 p.m. until close. Pearl also reminded everyone of the Marine Mud Run on Sept. 17th. You can register online at <http://www.knoxmud.org/>.
- **Andy White (UT Knoxville's Aerospace & Defense Business Institute):** One of their former alumni, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, USAF, was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate for his promotion as a 4-star general. Gen. Lengyel was the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau in D.C. and just this month became the chief of the NGB. Andy said they're looking to make him a speaker at their next UT graduation ceremony.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Announced that MOWW member, Chaplain Paul McNiel, USAF, Retired, passed away on July 30th. Funeral services are Aug. 11th. You can view details here <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/knoxnews/obituary.aspx?pid=181001474>.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen said we are all recruiters, whether directly or indirectly. He also encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunities to have recruiters and veterans organizations come out and support your events.

- ❖ 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, September 1, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.