



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

December 6, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Until
DEC 20 Toys for Tots Campaign. NEED Donations - Volunteers, Organizations and businesses to host a TOY Drop-Off-Box. Contact Sgt. Metts @ KnoxvilleT4T@usmc.mil or phone# -865-522-2414 ext. 113. Website: <https://knoxville-tn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/knoxtoys4tots/>
- DEC 12 MOWW Meeting at Rothchilds, 11am – 1pm. Speaker: Lt CDR (retired) Don Thomas, pastor of First Methodist Church will speak about truce in 1914 WWI where Germans, Brits and French got together to stop the war.
- DEC 12 Veterans Legal Advice Clinic, 12 noon – 2pm, Knox County Public Defender's community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville, TN 37919. For info call 865-522-6522
- DEC 12 Knoxville Career Center Job Fair. 12 noon - For info, contact David Webb at 865-403-1606.
- DEC 15 Wreaths Across America at Knoxville National Cemeteries. 12pm. To Donate go to: <http://www.vva1078.org/> more information about volunteering can be found at: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/17151/Overview/?relatedId=150000>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNationalCemeteryWreathsAcrossAmerica/>

The Knox County Veterans Services will be at the Senior Centers to assist Veterans and family members with filing their benefits. For more information call 865-215-5645 or email veterans@knoxcounty.org

O'Connor- December 10, 2018 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Corryton- December 11, 2018 10:00 am to 10:30 am

Strang- December 13, 2018 11:00 am to 11:30 am

Powell-Heiskell Community Center- December 18, 2018 10:30 am to 11:00 am

Halls- December 19, 2018 9:00 am to 9:30 am

South Knox- December 20, 2018 9:00 am to 9:30 am

Karns- December 21, 2018 10:00 am to 10:30 am

Carter- December 26, 2018 11:30 am to 12:00 pm

- JAN 10 ETMAC meeting at Knoxville Chamber of Commerce at 8:30am
- JAN 28 TVBA Keynote Dinner at Convention Center featuring keynote speaker Lt Col Oliver North. Lee Greenwood to sing National Anthem For info contact **Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000
<https://gotvba.com/>
- JAN 29 TVBA Veterans Job fair at Knoxville Convention Center. <https://gotvba.com/>
- FEB 7 Suicide Prevention by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network training at 9:30am at Knoxville Chamber of Commerce immediately after the ETMAC meeting.
- By 30 JUN 19 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/>
Instagram: @TVCHomeless
- MAR 3rd week – Loudon County Veteran Resources Job Fair. For info, contact David Webb, 865-403-1606
- APR 19 UT Army ROTC Spring Annual Ball at the Marriott, 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/>
- APR Honor Air Flight #28. Date to be determined. <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- MAY 6 Annual Medal of Honor meeting and tables will open beginning of the year. Honoring a Marine this year, Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser
- 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
- OCT 19, 2019 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park.
<https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>

AuntBERTHA.com is a FREE website for all your Social Service needs.

<https://www.auntbertha.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/auntbertha/>

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, **December 6, 2018**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. 63 were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - CMSgt Steven Durrance, Commandant TEC McGhee Tyson ANG
 - Marth Cummings, DAR Emory Road
 - Angela Stinson, Ops Manager, Sitel. Opening new call center. Desire to hire military/veterans.
 - CPT Hulon Holmes – Interim flight facility commanders for the Army at McGhee Tyson
 - SSGT Jose Ordonez – Delta Company Marines
 - Teresa Beavers, New ESGR Chairperson in Knoxville

- **President's Report – Owen Ragland –**
 - Webmaster Dent Young would like to update unit and Veteran organization info on Website if you have anything please forward on to Patrice or Owen to pass along to him. Also look at the calendar and update meeting info on the calendar. Almost 1K hits on the website this past month.
 - January meeting is on the 2nd Thursday, January 10th.
 - February meeting will offer free suicide training immediately following the ETMAC meeting by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention. **Please plan to stick around for that if possible.**
 - Ed Junod thanked all who supported the Freddy J Owens Women Veterans Summit. Also, Vet2Vet Tennessee has received a grant to train 100 suicide prevention instructors and is offering a scholarship for ETMAC members to get certified in Suicide Prevention - Instructor.
 - ETMAC officer elections

Elections – ETMAC Officers and Board Members – Board members Jack D-Araujo and Dave Roberts were thanked for their service as they rotate off the board. Nomination committee members Paula Penson, Buzz Buswell and Joe Sutter (chairman) presented the following recommendations:

- President Owen Ragland
- Vice President Jess Hernandez
- Treasurer Derren Burrell

For the three Director positions:

- Tom Humphries (USMC Vet)
- Don Smith (Navy Veteran)
- Rick Garner (Army Veteran)

Nominations opened from the floor. None offered. Motion and second to accept the nominations presented by the committee and to close the nominations. Members voted to elect officers and board members with no dissenting votes.

- **Treasurer's Report: Owen Ragland for Treasurer Derren Burrell –**

o Start balance	\$21,578.90
o Deposits	\$ 4,829.66
o Expenses	\$11,480.28
o End balance	\$14,928.28
Add Savings:	\$ 6,101.91
Total Funds:	\$21,030.19

Membership dues may be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.

- **Veterans Day Parade Recap – Marty Everett –** 1 hr 15 mins long despite the wet rainy conditions. 6 of 9 bands showed up. Thanks to Delta Company for providing the rifle detail. 106 units originally scheduled. 75 showed up. Lots of support from city of Knoxville with pop up tents. Lost the fly-over because of conditions. CAK choir did the National Anthem.
- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins – www.ETMAC.org**
Thanks to all for support of the luncheon. Thanks to commanders for support of their honorees. Veteran's Day parade will be on Monday, November 11. Still don't have a place and date for the 2019 luncheon but propose Friday, Nov. 8th and looking at the Convention Center; waiting for a quote.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – MAJ Karen Oland –** Introduction of self as the 4th BN commander operating out of Maryville. No other report.
- **119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – *unable to attend***
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – CPT Hulon Holmes –** Two units will be out and more aircraft flying than usual for training. All 1-230th Black Hawks now have red crosses painted on the side of them.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing – Col Lee Hartley –** Still handful folks gone for Christmas and New Year's. Will send a large group out after the holidays. Just finished annual Santa Cops, which is a wing-wide event, that is headed up by our security forces. The unit raised just over \$10,000 to purchase toys and presents for those in need as a way of giving back. Also, we had a successful visit recently from Air Mobility Command.

- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment –**LTC Brad Bowlin** – Annual Christmas party held this past weekend in Pigeon Forge. We also recognized, Sallee Reynolds – Principal at Hardin Valley Academy - with the Patriot award, which is a prestigious ESGR award. Guys overseas are doing well.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **LTC Terrance Holmes** - We not only met goals but exceeded them by 8% and celebrated that at our annual training conference and award banquet at the end of October in Kingsport, TN. Air Combat Commander Gen Mike Holmes who is from Knoxville and UT Alum was distinguished guest of honor. We were one of four squadrons that received the Standard of Excellence award for enlisted accessions recruiting and line officer recruiting. We have had some personnel changes and are welcoming them to our team. We couldn't be successful without community support and want to thank ETMAC for support over the years.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – We are the number one battalion for the year in division. We picked up another company in Asheville, NC. Thanks for all your support.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *no report*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **SSGT Jose Ordonez** – Toys for Tots campaign currently underway. We are looking for volunteers for organizing the warehouse and distribution of toys. This campaign is from Knoxville to the people of Knoxville.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col John Capra** – Chief Durrance just joined us and we would like to welcome him as new Commandant. We broke ground on a new billeting office thanks to the partnership with the 134th, so that will help open some space for us. We presently have a NCO Academy taking place, and we have two new classes starting 8 January, so we are in busy times. We want to thank you all for your unbelievable support that I feel every time I walk into these meetings and a special thanks to Patrice for all you do.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **Capt Ethan Frazier** – two new personnel join us, 1SG Emily Charles and a MSgt that came from Korea this week and are getting settle in. Worked with the local TN National Guard to get a gap fill for retiring so it was nice to have Capt Richardson with us. Operations going well.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Drill weekend this coming weekend. Will have last minute PT test. Promoting 13 new Petty Officers and two staff members. We are assisting with Toys for Tots programs. If any organizations need volunteers or manpower please email to: Kevin.Settle@Navy.mil
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – *unable to attend*
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **CDR Dave Roberts** – Got a brand-new staff recently, major hurricanes landed in the US mainland, and the budget is low right now. We are ramping down from the busy season but focusing towards helping the Coast Guard primarily with pollution response, clean up and boating safety. Remember to wear life jackets whenever on the water. The water is cold and if you fall of the boat, the life jacket can save your life. Will come and talk with groups about boating safety so if you need that please contact us and we will be happy to talk about boating and water safety to your groups.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** - Seven cadets just got assignments for May when they get commissioned. Change of Command service for cadets will be at Neyland. One will be commissioned next Friday and will go on active duty. A special thanks to the many different groups that have provided out cadets with additional leadership opportunities and to ETMAC at large.
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** –FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - Go Army, Beat Navy! Busy Seniors got their branches - 28 active duty and 22 got the assignments that they wanted. We had a good visit from new president of UT. Next semester on March 28 – 31 we will have the Spring FTX, up to Ft. Knox. During the summer the Juniors will do annual training at Ft. Knox. Everyone is invited to our Spring annual ball on 19 April, 6-9pm at the Marriott. Info on Facebook page.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – *nothing to report*

- American Legion – Larry Sharp - legionknox.com
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day service tomorrow, Friday Dec. 7th at 5901 Lyons View Pike at 12:30. Plan to come early for parking. Retired Admiral Kendall Card will be the speaker and will have the national anthem, taps and East TN Veterans guard to respect all those who lost their lives on Dec 7. Daughters of two Pearl Harbor veterans will be there to lay the wreaths.
- American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - *unable to attend*
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – Doug Ottinger – <http://www.tsvh.org/>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - *unable to attend*
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Gary Ellis
<http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> - Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday night each month at Redemption Church. 300 members and the 24th largest in the U.S. Buzz Buswell and Janet Guess to say a word about Wreaths Across America because we are sponsors for this. We have been supported by Big Kahuna Wings and Calhoun’s. We need Volunteers for the event that will start at noon on Dec 15 for ceremony and the laying of the wreaths. <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNationalCemeteryWreathsAcrossAmerica/>
- Dignity Memorial Network – Janet Guess – <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/knoxville-tn/berry-highland-west/9626> We take care of all the dignitary funerals such as the recent President Bush, his wife, John McCain, Billy Graham. Fred Berry has been there all week as part of a special team of people that help with the funeral arrangements.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Larry Sharp <https://www.dav.org/>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - In 2017, DAV received 4.3 billion dollars in retroactive benefits for veterans, 615k rides to medical appointments which our local unit does here. 250k claims and 1million plus veterans helped each year through the DAV.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association Joleen Dewald - <https://etvma.org/>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Reid Gerhardt - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - *unable to attend*
- Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - Two homes available - 3 bdrm and 4 bdrm. Can get in about 90 days with rent to own and interest free mortgage.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Ed Junod - <http://tnvhc.org/> – *unable to attend*
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – Bob Williams <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> - Remember those unable to be home for the holidays. Guard and reserve troops currently in excess of 30k. Will be at the TVBA expo in January. Thanks to CPT Holmes and Col. Hartley for putting a wow factor in front of some employers this year on the Boss Lift flights.
- Honor Air –Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
 FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - **nothing to report**
- Knoxville Career Center – Bill Adams - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – email: david.m.webb@tn.gov or call 865-403-1606. Unemployment rate is 3.2, Tennessee at 3.7 and US 3.5. 2 job fairs, today in Blount county at noon and next week Dec 12th at American job center on Kingston pike at 12 noon.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org or call 865-215-5645 - **nothing to report**
- Knoxville Vet Center –Lyle Allen - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> – we are in the new VET center at 1645 Downtown West #28. Can speak to groups regarding suicide prevention, awareness and PTSD. Recently back from Mexico Beach and Tyndall AFB to help with hurricane recovery.
- Marine Corps League – Eric Nash <http://www.mclknnox.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – Bill Potter - www.moaa.org – *unable to attend*

- Mountain Man Memorial March- Joleen Dewald –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/> - 2019 date is Friday – Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2019. Registration is now open. *Unable to attend*
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – Bill Grieve - <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – All are invited to attend meeting at Rothchild’s on Dec 12th from 11am – 1pm. Lt CDR Don Thomas, pastor of First Methodist church will speak about truce in 1914 WWI where Germans, Brits and French got together to stop the war.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –Dan Moneymaker - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> - Monthly meeting at American Red Cross first Tuesday of every month at 6pm. One of our members was awarded a trip to Texas to go to a private hunting reserve, valued at 12k. We are growing at a rate of about three members per month. This month we will focus on rod building and fly tying.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –Michael Simpson – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> We completed 3rd course end of November and graduated Six. Two are going on to Sevier county to start a program. Also, a member of a program called Stockings from us and want to thank the 134th and 278th for identifying recipients but more importantly for helping to transport the stockings which is the bulk of our expenses, so thanks for your support.
 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, 136 Smith Road, Farragut, TN. Dinner and childcare are provided. Contact Stacy Nichols at snich@tds.net or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at mike@visionaryhorizons.com
- Rolling Thunder – Carlos Hollifield - <http://www.rollingthundern3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - meet on 2nd Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. – *unable to attend*
- STAR – Horses & Hero’s Program – Cathy Dolson - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - We are continuing to provide services over the winter months at the South Knoxville location. We will be adding continued programs thanks to support from the various groups in the room for referring personnel to us. One of the Veterans was honored as the unsung hero of the year. Thanks to veterans willing to come back and contribute their time to volunteer.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – Steve Stilts (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - Job fair on January 28 & 29, 2019 at Knoxville Convention Center. Keynote Dinner on Mon., Jan. 28. Speaker is Lt Col Oliver North. Lee Greenwood will sing the National Anthem. Looking for sponsors and ideas to grow the event. We have posters and handouts to distribute. Still have tickets for the dinner and will need Veterans and employers.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – Geoff Freeman - http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 – *nothing to report*
- Veteran Appreciation Program- Larry Sharp –<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - nothing to report
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - Dec 15 breakfast at Powell Center at 8am and then go out and lay wreaths.
Buzz Buswell – There are 4 breakfasts locations for veterans and their families and guests each month. 1st Saturday, Elk club on Lonas, 2nd at Anderson County Clinton Community center, 3rd at the Powell community center and 4th in Oliver Springs. These are to help Veterans develop rapport between one another and learn about opportunities to possibly get involved with the many different opportunities to network with military and veterans.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –Ivette Torres <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - *unable to attend*
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - *unable to attend*

- **CNS Y-12 National Security Complex Oak Ridge Hiring** – Just got a \$91 Million Dollar contract from Department of Energy for a Mercury Processing Plant and hiring has been ramped up. See article at <https://oakridgetoday.com/2018/12/05/doe-awards-91-million-contract-mercury-treatment-facility-y-12/>

SEE Jobs at: <https://www.y12.doe.gov/careers>

- About the CNS Veteran's Program Initiative; contact Rhonda Gibbons, 865.241.7285

The CNS Veterans Program is an opportunity for military service members to complete a STEM degree in Tennessee or Texas while working part-time at Y-12 or Pantex. Upon completion of a degree, full-time employment opportunities are available if there was satisfactory performance during part-time employment. The program primarily matches the military service, discipline and skills of non-commissioned officers to our region's future technical needs. The CNS Veterans Program works with each participant's unique situation and provides mentoring and career development opportunities. Selected military members use their transition Permanent Change of Station benefits to relocate to the applicable area (in Tennessee or Texas). Participants are also required to:

- Manage their own academic and living expenses
- Use their GI Bill Veterans benefit for support
- Attend one of the participating accredited colleges/universities in Tennessee or Texas (as applicable)

Do you have the qualifications we need and the desire to become part of our team?

Qualifications

The CNS Veterans Program is for military members just completing their service but still on active duty who want to work in a STEM discipline. To be admitted to the program, participants must:

- have a high school diploma or equivalent,
- be departing the service with an "Honorable" discharge,
- be able to meet admission standards of the chosen institution of higher learning,
- be responsible for their own financial and logistical support, and
- provide all documentation needed by the Selection Committee and the participating academic institutions.

In addition, applicants are desired to have:

- recently completed their service, be still on active duty but separating soon, or serving in the National Guard or Reserve,
- good academic fundamentals in math and science or the desire to acquire them, and
- a "Secret" clearance or higher with a current security background investigation.

Applicants are selected by the STAR interview process. Additional consideration will be afforded wounded veterans, Purple Heart awardees, and significant award recipients.

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2018
@ Knoxville Chamber of Commerce at 8:30am**

For input or corrections, contact:



ETMAC Board of Directors:

Owen Ragland, President 865-556-6338 email: oragland@kmfpc.com

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Joleen Dewald, At Large Director, 571-332-3100 email: joleen@thedewalds.org

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