

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

December 3, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

DEC 5	WVA's USO "Spirit of '45" Presentation at Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home
DEC 5	Marine Corps League's Annual Christmas Breakfast (Rothchild Center)
DEC 7	Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service at State Veterans Cemetery (Lyons View)
DEC 8	Welcome Home VVA Veterans from Vietnam Trip at McGhee Tyson Airport
DEC 9	MOWW's Next Monthly Meeting
DEC 12	Last Cleanup Day for Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park project
DEC 15	Combined Federal Campaign Ends
JAN 15	MOAA's Next Meeting
JAN 25	TVBA's Annual Dinner with Guest Speaker Noah Galloway (Holiday Inn)
JAN 26	TVBA's Veteran Owned Business and Education Fair Expo (Jackson Terminal)

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, December 5, 2015, at the Knoxville Red Cross Building. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 59 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - MAJ Jay Richards, Navy logistics planner for the 278th ACR
 - Natasha Knight, Housing specialist with VOA/SSVF
 - Lt Col (USAF, ret.) Derren Burrell,
 - Board of Directors for the East TN Red Cross
- **Special Honoree (Owen Ragland):** Jess Hernandez was honored for his 25 years with the Red Cross and for his dedication and services to the community. A plaque was awarded to him by ETMAC for their appreciation for all he has done. Jackie Bridgeman with the Red Cross and the East TN Red Cross Board of Directors also honored Jess with statements of gratitude. Owen Ragland said the Red Cross is a great organization to support for end of the year giving because you see directly how their support is implemented in our community.

- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The November 2015 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 \$14,733. ETMAC wrote checks for \$9,583 and made deposits of \$6,548, which went toward the Veteran's Day luncheon. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$11,698. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be paid to any ETMAC officer or on the ETMAC website.
- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** 372 users visited the ETMAC website last month. 451 total sessions. Visitors originated from cities of Moscow and Beijing. Most of the users were from the U.S. Most users also used Chrome as their browser. 78% of users used Macintosh computers. 4 sessions from the DOD Network Information Center and 4 sessions from the U.S. Army Intelligence Center. Please send anything to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Announcements (Owen Ragland):** Next monthly ETMAC meeting will be held Thursday, January 7, 2016.
- **Election of Officers & Board Members for 2016 (Owen Ragland):** Thanked previous Board members Mike Gates and Marty Everett for serving. Also thanked the Nominating Committee - Jim Mungenast, Joe Sutter, and Barry Allen - for submitting their recommendation report. President accepted their report. As a note, all Board members and officers serve without compensation.
 - ❖ **Election of Board Members to serve 3 Year Term**
 - Board members currently serving: Jim Mungenast, Josh Richardson, Breckenridge Morgan, and Todd Johnson
 - Nominees submitted by the Nomination Committee
 - Jack D'Araujo
 - Dave Roberts
 - No nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Bill Frazier and seconded by Breckenridge Morgan.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of President to serve 1 Year Term (Floor yielded to Barry Allen)**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Owen Ragland (has served 1 yr.)
 - No Nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Breckenridge Morgan and seconded by Mike Gates.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of Vice President to serve 1 Year Term**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Capt Stephanie McKeen (has served 1 yr.)
 - No nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Jessica King and seconded by Bill Frazier.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of Treasurer to serve 1 Year Term**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Steve Dillenburg (has served 2 yrs.)
 - No nominees from the floor submitted

- Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Eddie Knoebel and seconded by Karen Strickland.
- Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

The ETMAC historian and secretary positions are appointed by the President. Added after the meeting: Heather Hatcher has been appointed as Secretary for 2016 and Joleen Dewald has been appointed as Historian for 2016. All new officers will begin serving in January. Please let Board members or officers know of any feedback you may have.

- **Recap Reports:**

- **Veteran's Day Luncheon Recap (Owen Ragland):** The annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon was held Nov. 11th at the Knoxville Marriott downtown. Owen thanked all who were involved in the luncheon. Said it was an outstanding luncheon this year. John Dyess remarked that Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster did an excellent job as guest speaker and had wished his presentation had been recorded. Owen noted that ETMAC had not done this in the past, but that this can be noted for future events. Capt McKeen said the national anthem singing was outstanding; the song was presented by her daughter. Owen referenced a few points of critique on the luncheon recognizing the poor quality of food this year and the compressed schedule of the agenda due to the guest speaker's flight departure. This year was the year of the Army, and next year the featured service will be the Marines. Next year's luncheon location will not be at the Marriott as they are booked that day. They are currently looking at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park as an option. The Crowne Plaza Hotel was also suggested. Joleen also reported on behalf of Patrice to please police your own tables next year as they had several instances where guests sat at tables they were not assigned.
- **Veterans Day Parade Recap (Marty Everett):** Knoxville's 90th Veteran's Day Parade was held Nov. 11th. Owen asked for any feedback on the parade. One person commented that the biggest complaint was the parade lineup and participants not knowing their positions. Also the gaps in the parade. Marty said he'll make a note on this going forward and have more assistance along Gay Street in keeping the parade moving. Capt McKeen said WIVK's radio personality Gunner Ousley, who was the MC for the parade, had the spreadsheet of the lineup but needed bigger font to better interpret it. An American Legion rep. reported they had more than 2,000 people participate in the parade and the sidewalks were filled with the public watching. Marty noted that historically the parade starts at 11 a.m., as Remembrance Day in most countries is observed on Nov. 11th to recall the end of hostilities in World War I. Thus, hostilities formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Marty said they can move the parade time up if necessary. This year is the longest it has lasted compared to previous years, he said.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen said it was wonderful to have the Veteran's Day Parade in its 90th year, and have more than 2,000 participants with 100 plus organizations taking part in it. Owen thanked the American Legion and all the work they did to organize the parade, which he said is a massive effort to pull together. Owen also asked if anyone would like to share other Veteran's Day events in the community that occurred that day. Natasha Knight with Volunteers of America shared that they served chili that afternoon on Veteran's Day.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Captain Chris Morin):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Lt Col Jason Brock):** Set record this year for the most hours flown by the 134th Refueling Wing since its existence. April 16-17, 2016 is the Smoky Mountain Air Show. The Blue Angels sent out their ADVON team to the air base last week to prepare for the upcoming show. Several of the 134th officers will be going to Las Vegas this weekend to attend the International Council of Air Shows to preview some of the civilian acts for the show. For more information on the upcoming show, visit <http://smokymountainairshow.com/>. The 134th are currently refurbishing their F-104 aircraft. Recently went to the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum in Illinois to procure another F-104 and a KC-97 aircraft tail they'll be placing at the air park on base. Col Brock said that he has a contact with the Chanute Aerospace Museum, which is closing, if any organizations like American Legion, VFW, etc. want a static aircraft display.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ Jay Richards):** One of their infantry companies returned from an exercise in Germany. The 278th is preparing for this summer's annual training. Have a brigade war fighter exercise taking place at Camp Atterbury in Indiana and one at Camp Shelby, MS. The 278th is also undergoing a reorganization; they'll be receiving a detachment from Pennsylvania, which will become their third maneuver battalion in the regiment. Will be converting their special troops battalion to a brigade battalion.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Are currently holding their annual Toys for Tots drive. From Dec. 3-6, they'll be toy sorting. From Dec. 9-12th, they will be distributing the toys. And Dec. 30th is their final day of clearing out at the warehouse. Please contact SSgt. Nathaniel Fowler at (865) 522-2414, Ext. 107, if interested in volunteering or if you know of a family that needs a toy. Visit the Toys for Toys website for more information: <http://knoxville-tn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chaplain Lt. Col. David Michaud)** Remain busy. Have 141 students in the Airman Leadership School in Phase II. They did part of their work at their home base and have come to TEC for 3 weeks for their in-resident part. TEC's venue is also being used to host the Air War College Seminar this week. The Combined Federal Campaign ends Dec. 15th. Col. Jessica Meyeraan has information on the military organizations in this area. If you need the materials, please contact her or visit <http://www.smokymountaincfc.org/2015/charities.html>. If interested, a CFC rep. can also come out to talk to your organization.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **UT Army ROTC (Capt Stephanie McKeen):** November is Military Family Appreciation month. UT did a big orange salute with a program that gave out tickets to military members and their families for the UT vs. Vanderbilt football game this past weekend, and tickets for the UT vs. West Point men's basketball game in Knoxville as well. They brought all the children from the families on the court to honor them and the kids were able to take pictures with the mascot Smokey, Jr. Capt McKeen also sang the National Anthem at the game. She also said Jess Hernandez, Angie Beaty, and Anne Haston all helped give out hot chocolate, tickets, and pom-poms to all the military kids that came to the games.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Cyber Patriot, which is the AF Association's competition for cyber security, will have 24 teams from East Tennessee competing. The state of Tennessee as a whole has 60 teams competing this year. 4,000 teams compete worldwide. Their goal is to get a team to national competition this year; Farragut High School almost did last year. They're also taking Teacher of the Year nominations. Please contact Steve to refer any teacher nominations. For more information on the CyberPatriot competition, visit <http://www.afa.org/home>. Steve reported that he also attended the Smoky Mt. Service Dogs' Patriots Night in Tellico Village. Had 5 of their service members and dogs attending including his foster dog Stryker, which is now a service dog for a wounded airman. The organization has secured property on Tellico Lake where they'll have their own facilities for the program. They currently have 8 dogs which will graduate this year. Also, the Dillenburg family adopted a golden retriever that was not able to serve as a service dog due to some health issues.
- **American Legion (Mike Testerman):** Are recuperating from the parade. Still trying to find a new, permanent building home for the American Legion. On Dec. 7th, at 12:45 p.m., will be the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service ceremony at the East TN Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View Pike. Several WWII veterans will be attendance. The guest speaker will be Jack D'Araujo. For more information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Received numerous cards for their Holiday Mail for Heroes program, which is a program where the community can send holiday wishes by a Christmas card to a soldier and his/her family; and the Red Cross delivers them to soldiers, military hospitals, and veterans in homes and hospitals. Next week Red Cross will start distributing the cards. Jess needs units and veteran organizations to give him your information on a form he has for a point of contact on when is the best time to deliver the cards, where, etc. Jess also gave a big thanks to Becky and all the RC volunteers for their hard work.
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Jessica King):** Jessica King with Women Veterans of America reported that in honor of Pearl Harbor Day, on Sat., Dec. 5th, at Ben Atchley State Veteran's home, they will be presenting a USO "Spirit of '45" program for the residents. Anyone is welcome to attend the program. She also reported that Ben Atchley's Activities Director Terry Pate said they are looking for sponsors to fill a wish on residents' Wish Lists for Christmas. Contact Terry Pate at (865) 862-8100 if you'd like to be a sponsor.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** May 2, 2016 is ETVMA's Annual Medal of Honor Evening at The Foundry at World's Fair Park. They will be honoring Korean MOH recipient Ray Eugene Duke, who died as a POW and on Veterans Day. They will be sending out information soon. Table sales will happen earlier due to the overwhelming demand. Contact Joleen if any questions. She also has the Lt. Sandy Bonnyman commemorative coins available for those who pre-ordered them.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Last month the Council held their PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution Training (PAIR) and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) programs for the Knoxville Police Department Crisis Negotiator Unit. The chief said it was an outstanding presentation, Freddie reports. He also reported that 3 days later after the seminar, one of the crisis negotiators acted on his training and applied what he had learned in a real life setting to help prevent someone from committing suicide. Freddie reported that the crisis negotiation unit lieutenant said he is recommending to Knoxville Police Chief Rausch that their PAIR and QPR

programs be included in their annual in-service training. The Council also organized a chapter at the University of Tennessee. 17 individuals in attendance had been in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some were on active duty or had been on active duty. The Council will start a second chapter at Pellissippi State Community College. If you have anyone in mind that would like to become a part of Vet to Vet TN, see Freddie for more information. To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit <http://tnvhc.org/> or to contact them for assistance.

- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (John Dyess):** As of last month, the numbers have not changed much. There are more than 19,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. Have no expectations that the Guard and Reserve will return to their strategic reserve role but will remain fully operational. For their next employer appreciation flight, ESGR wants to take senior law enforcement leaders to the U.S. Army Military Police School at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. They will travel on a C-17 aircraft from the Memphis ANG unit to get there.
- **MOAA (John Dyess):** Their next meeting is Friday, Jan. 15th. The group's mission is to promote the best interests of the military. John says, in his words, MOAA's goal is for "no money, no benefits, no public support for the military." Their meeting time and location will be published through ETMAC once finalized. Visit the MOAA website at <http://www1.moaa.org/publications/> for more information.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Had more than 200 veterans attend their reunion breakfast on Nov. 21st at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park who did a great job. Joe said this is part of the Honor Air experience - to come back together, watch a video from the flight, and share some of the memories from that day. Flight #20 will take place on Wed., April 13, 2016. You can visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Members of the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter had returned to Vietnam for a visit. They return to Tennessee on Tues., Dec. 8th at 4:58 p.m. (United Airline Flight#3628) if you'd like to come out to the McGhee Tyson airport to welcome them home.
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** MCL doing great with enlistment and funding, and appreciates the community support from all the events. MCL has their annual Christmas Breakfast this weekend, Sat., Dec.5th, at 8:30 a.m. at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center. If interested in a spot, you can register on the MCL website at mclknox.org
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** Their next meeting on Wed., Dec. 9th will be their Christmas program. Former ETMAC president Jack Davis' wife is program chair for the event. 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 Service, and the National Meteorological departments such as the National Weather Service and the National Atmospheric Service.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** Will be holding their next annual expo event on Jan.26, 2016 at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. This is TVBA's 6th year for the Veteran Owned Business and Education Fair Expo, which is a trade show for veteran-owned companies and other entities in the area that want to support the veterans. Colleges are present. There are entrepreneurship opportunities available as well as companies that are hiring. Last year, more than 2,000 people attended. The night before, Jan. 25th, is the TVBA Annual Keynote Dinner at the Jackson Avenue Terminal, 213 Jackson Ave., Knoxville. The dinner speaker will be Noah

Galloway, an Iraqi War Army veteran and double amputee, who was a finalist on the show "Dancing With the Stars." Tickets for the dinner are almost sold out. This year TVBA will be recognizing a veteran student at the dinner. For more information, visit <http://www.jointvba.org/>

- **Women Marines Association - Rocky Top Chapter (Lindsay Long):** Has worked with Salvation Army since they started their chapter. Helped with Toys for Tots, helped in the warehouses, and delivered blankets to kids. Their focus has been working with the Salvation Army.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Jessica King):** On Sat., Dec. 5th they'll be at Ben Atchley State Veteran's home, where they will be giving a USO "Spirit of '45" program for the residents in honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The Red Cross will also be helping. Anyone is welcome to attend. Also, on Sat., Dec. 12th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the last cleanup day of the year for the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park project. Their permit to clean up the park expires Dec. 31, 2015. Are in need of volunteers to come out and help them finish. Please bring your own tools if able. The WVA will be handing over the project leadership to the Veterans Heritage Site Foundation, a 501c3 organization through which they're filing their bylaws right now. Their mission is to preserve and maintain veteran heritage sites in the area. Marilyn Childress will be the President of the organization. Bill Frazier is VP. Pearl Rich, Secretary. Jessica King, Treasurer. For more information on the Sharp's Ridge project and WVA Chapter 44, visit their website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about James Smithsonian, who was the founding donor of the Smithsonian Institute.

➤ **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Thanked all new ETMAC members as it facilitates ETMAC in being able to support units and veteran organizations. Owen also said he had the opportunity to interview military academy applicants and there were some outstanding men and women. Thanked Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross for hosting the meeting in their building and thanked Jess for all he does.

- **Special Thanks:** Owen gave a special thanks and a gift to each Patrice, Capt McKeen, Joleen, and Heather for all they do on behalf of ETMAC.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/> or see any ETMAC officer after the meeting. 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 to have your parking validated.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.