



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

December 5, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour for all Veterans, 7:30 Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28 (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>)
- Every Second Saturday: Breakfast for Buds from 8:30 until 10am. Mama Grits in Tellico Village. Contact Dennis Drake at dennisdrake2012@outlook.com for more information.
- 14 DEC Wreaths Across America wreath placement at all three cemeteries
- 21 JAN Veterans Mobile Food Pantry 10am until noon at the Smokies Stadium, 3540 Line Dr. Kodak, TN
- 7 JAN TVBA Keynote Breakfast, Business Expo, and Veteran Job Fair www.govtba.com for details.
- 1 FEB 4th Annual Hope Gala to support the Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless Details at www.tvhomeless.org

For a complete listing of events, visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

We are changing the format of the monthly minutes. All organization contact information will be in a list at the end of the minutes. We hope you will find having the information in one place will be beneficial to you, and hope you find the minutes easier to read.

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, **December 5, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **70** were present.

Introduction of new Attendees:

- Laura Chagnon with the American Job Center
 - Thomas Hoebeke with the Lindsey Wilson College
 - MAJ (Retired) Owen Ray II with the 278th
 - Dan Wogast with the TN Dept of Veterans Services
 - Thomas Jumer, Flotilla Commander with the US Coast Guard Aux
 - John Anderson with the 2020 Census
 - Jeannie Mungenast – loving and supportive spouse
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland-** The luncheon was a great success and General Cole did a great job. The Nominating Committee put forth the following individuals for 2020 officers of ETMAC. Geoff Freeman as President, Jess Hernandez to continue as Vice President and Derren Burrell to continue as Treasurer. Their nominees for board members to replace the outgoing board members, Joleen Dewald and Don Smith were Leslie Purser and Cindy Winterberger. The floor was opened for additional nominees for each position. Nominations were closed for each position, and each position was recognized, seconded and voted on. Each nominee was unanimously approved.

TSgt Howard Kitter with the 332nd was unable to attend the luncheon and was presented with his award at the meeting.

- Webmaster's Report - Col Dent Young- There were 620 visitors to the website last month. 583 of them were new users. Most were from the US, with China, Turkey and Nigeria having the greatest number of foreign visitors.
 - Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell –
Beginning Balance \$24,754.04
Deposits 4,275.12
Expenses 14,640.39
Ending Balance \$14,388.77
- Membership dues may be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmacresources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.
- Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins – There were 490 in attendance at the Veteran's Day Luncheon, and she thanked everyone for their support.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall-** Nothing to report
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Maj Willie Posey** unable to attend
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **CPT Philip Webster** – unable to attend.
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lisa Simmons-** Troops in motion. Working on Santa Cops at Children's hospital.
- 241st Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga) - **Lt Col Dave Moss** – unable to attend.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Kelly Copeland.** Troops in motion. Cav Ball coming up this weekend. Family events happening in December.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **MSgt Brandon Carver and TSgt Howard Kitter** - MSgt Carver reiterated TSgt Kitter's accomplishments in the Squadron. He doubled his goal for recruits this year.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion - **MAJ BW Osten** – unable to attend.
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – unable to attend.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **ME1 Steven Brashear** – unable to attend
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Sgt Dunn** – unable to attend
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center - **Lt Col John Capra** – Somewhat of a lull currently. Small trainings going on. Only about 250 on campus.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner-** unable to attend
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Galo Cavalvanti** – unable to attend
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Scott Moss** – Funeral honors. Some troops in motion.
- Navy Recruiting – Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center – **HM2 Josh Dixon-** unable to attend

- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** –. Unable to attend.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau**- Change of Watch coming up. Looking toward boat shows after the first of the year.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** –unable to attend
- UT Army ROTC – **LTC Justin Howe** –190 cadets attended field training. 6 December Retirement Ceremony for MSGT Jeff Valentine. Commissioning for winter will be 13 December at the Student Center on campus. MMMM will be 25 April 2020 and Justin will be in charge.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Dick Webber** – 7 Jan Air Space and Cyber Space networking event. 6:30 until 9:30 at the Airport Conference Facility. Details to follow.
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – **David Webb**- unemployment numbers continue to be low. There won't be any job fairs in December. David's replacement will be Laura Chagnon as he moves to UT.
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** – unable to attend. Larry Sharp reported on the Pearl Harbor remembrance event at the Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View.
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** – 5 lines of service including hospital outreach and senior living facilities. They were able to provide a grant of \$500 to the Ben Atchley home for Christmas.
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – **Doug Ottinger** –A few empty beds. Still have openings for nurses.
- Bunker Labs – **Rich Gross** – Bunker Brews on 19 Dec at K-Town Tavern. Always looking for speakers at their events.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis**
Meet 2nd Tuesday evening.
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 - **Garrett Hanas** – Looking for a van.
- East Tennessee Veteran's Honor Guard – **Herb Kraehmer** - November 45 funerals. Over 400 YTD. \$68k was raised in October. \$61k of that came back to the units here.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - **Joleen Dewald** –unable to attend.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jim Mungenast** –Executive Committee in Nashville this weekend. Employers who believes that a service member's absence from their job will be detrimental to the company are able to have a conversation about that with the unit. The unit commander's decision will still be final. Jim will provide the link to us.
- Honor Air - **Joe Sutter** – 160 women currently signed up for the flight in April.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** - nothing to report.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Ed Junod** – 1st Korean war veteran graduated from Veteran's court. Polk County expungement clinic successful. Looking to have another expungement clinic in March and need a county to host. UT provides funding and staff. Next Suicide prevention training on 17 Dec and another one on 6 Jan.

- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** – nothing to report
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Lyle Allen** – unable to attend.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** – unable to attend.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** – unable to attend.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** – Meets 2nd Wednesday at Rothchild's from 11-1.
- Mountain Man Memorial March - **Joleen Dewald** – Unable to attend.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Dan Moneymaker** – best year ever and their chapter is set as an example for other chapters.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery – **Darrell Williams**– 12-week course on the spiritual aspects of PTSD. 15 Jan will be the next class at Fountain City Church.
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** – unable to attend.
- STAR – Horses & Heroes Program – **Cathy Dolson** - Limited classes beginning in January.
- Team Red White & Blue - **Rebecca Pleshevitz** – working to keep veterans engaged which helps with depression.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless - **Brandon Harris**- unable to attend
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** – visit website for details on their program. Expo and Job Fair coming up on 7 Jan. Discounts available to ETMAC related groups.
- United Veterans Council – **Gary Ellis** –Placing of the wreaths will be on 14 Dec at noon. Most of the graves will have a wreath thanks to all the donations this year. 18k wreaths needed at the 3 cemeteries. Go to the website to donate. There is a veteran breakfast each Saturday of the month at a different location throughout the area.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** –nothing to report.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** – April 4th trail run. The Foundation will be taking over planning and implementation of the new site overlooking the Veteran's Cemetery on John Sevier.
- VVA Chapter 1073 & VFW Post 3380 (Morristown). **Whit Whitman** - They cover 7 counties and provide flags in all classrooms for the 88 schools in their counties.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Ivette Torres** – unable to attend.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** –unable to attend
- 2020 Census – **John Anderson** spoke of the employment opportunities for census workers as well as the importance of counting everyone. Much of the state/local federal funding comes from the results of the census.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2020 @ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer
865/691-0898 or kim@nallssherbakoff.com**

ETMAC Board of Directors:

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

Jess Hernandez, Vice President 865-567-6134 email: Jess.Hernandez@redcross.org

Derren Burrell, Treasurer 865-771-4243 email: derren@tagresources.com

Kim Spencer, Secretary 865-661-9856 email: kim@nallssherbakoff.com

Patrice Collins, Board Member & Chamber Rep: 865-806-4487

email: pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com

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

Capt Willie Posey, At Large Director, 865-274-9901 email: willie.s.posey.mil@mail.mil

Gina Massey, At Large Director, 865-363-2994 email: gmassey@etmafcu.net

Tom Humphries, At Large Dir 865-215-5645 Thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org

Don Smith, At Large Director 931-335-0477 email: donandmarysmith@aol.com

Rick Garner, At Large Director 865-740-2970 email: rgarner@khfh.com

Robert Brown, ETMAC Calendar 865-458-0759 email: rl_brown@hotmail.com

Dent Young, Webmaster 387543@tncap.us

Unit and Veteran Organization Contact Information

ETMAC

www.ETMAC.org

American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor

<https://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/Veteran/veteran.aspx>

American Legion

legionknox.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> -

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/>

Ben Atchley

<http://www.tsvh.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TNStateVetreans/>

Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078

<http://www.vva1078.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/>

Disabled Veterans Chapter 24

<https://www.dav.org>

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association

<https://etvma.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>-

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/>

Honor Air

<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/honair/>

Knoxville Habitat for Heroes

<https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/>

Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council

<http://tnvhc.org/>

Knox County Veteran Services Office

<https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/>

thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org

Knoxville Vet Center

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Marine Corps League

<http://www.mclknox.org/>

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

www.moaa.org

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

www.moww.org

Mountain Man Memorial March

<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

<http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/>

REBOOT Combat Recovery

<https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>

<https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/>

Rolling Thunder

<http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>

STAR – Horses and Heroes Program

<https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html>

Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless

<https://tvchomeless.org/>

UT Army ROTC Alumni Council

http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955

<https://www.facebook.com/UTKArmyROTC/>

Veteran Heritage Site Foundation

<http://veteransheritagesite.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/>

Volunteers of America Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down

<https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn>

Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group

<http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/>