



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

December 7, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- JAN 16 REBOOT 12wk Combat recovery @ Farragut Church of Christ. Call 865-582-5330.
- JAN 18 Rolling Thunder Fundraiser at Blaze Pizza, 5-8 pm. 20% goes to support Veterans.
- JAN 20 Veteran's Breakfast, Powell Community Center 1708 Emory Road at 8:30am.
- JAN 29 TVBA Keynote Dinner & Reception at Crowne Plaza 5:30 – 9pm
- JAN 30 TVBA Business Expo & Job Fair, Knoxville Crowne Plaza 9am – 5pm

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, December 7, 2017 at 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of **63** were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by MAJ Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - **Lt Col Terrance Holmes** (visiting from Nashville) – 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron
 - **Erin Cooper – Realtor with Keller Williams**, Memorial for brother in the Army.
 - **Lee Johnson – I Believe in America, Inc.**, Subject, changing name of Lakeshore park to Veterans Park at Lakeshore.
- **Treasurer's Report: Darren Burrell** – last month was busiest month of year. Luncheon expenses approximately \$10,600. Took in \$10,000. Still some reimbursements coming in so will end up being a wash. Between Sept last year and – December this year, dues we have taken in are a little over \$5000. Donations received above dues are close to \$4,000. Right now, approximately \$4,980 better off than last year at this point. Great luncheon appreciation, thanks to all who attended, sponsored others to attend and volunteered. About \$16k in bank today.
- **Webmaster's Report – Barry Allen** – Nov 1 – Dec 5 – 834 sessions, 707 users with 80% new users. Languages: 5 – Korean, 2 French, 1 Great Britain, 1 Spain, 1 China. Countries were Spain, India, South Korea, Nigeria, Phillipines, China, Germany and the United Arab Emirates. Moving to Nashville so this will be the last meeting. Thanks to all for friendship and camaraderie.
- **Evonne M Kautz – New Tax Law and impact on Military** – “Military Tax Lady”. Educate men and women in uniform about available deductions. Chief concern of tax reform going on now does not address issues for military and veterans. Attempting to preserve the tax deductions available now for our military. The code now allows for 10 different military deductions. Military has been only mentioned once in the current senate bill and they are not addressing the other deductions which are huge impact to our military families. Asking for your help in reaching out to Senate and Congressional representatives to address these issues for the final version of the bill. Otherwise the benefits that they military receive right now will be terminated altogether. The one that they kept in there is for moving expenses which makes sense for how much the military moves their personnel. Specifically, there has been no mention of travel deductions for National Guard and Reserve to go to Drill. Also, they have taken out W-2 unreimbursed employee expenses and that has been taken out of both bills. I have a List

of 10 issues would like to keep and some expanded. Will send this out via Patrice and would like for all to review and to help in bringing this to the attention of our lawmakers. Patrice will send out email.

- **Veterans Day Parade Recap – Fri., Nov. 10 - Gay Street/downtown Knoxville – legionknox.com**
Larry Sharp / Gene Bayless – *unable to attend.*
Luncheon next year will be on Thursday, November 8th. Parade will be on Friday, November 9th.
Question posed by Major Stephanie McKeen:
Did anyone see any negatives to having the luncheon on a different day than the parade?
 - **Garret Hanas, DAV** – General consensus is that it was much better doing it that way from everyone he talked to. Traffic was much better and made it easier than having it on Veteran’s Day.
- **ETMAC Announcements –Patrice Collins** –ETMAC Announcements – Patrice Collins –. Great Art exhibit in Nashville going on now until January 21, 2018 at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts titled, World War I and American Art. See details at <http://fristcenter.org/calendar/detail/world-war-i-and-american-art>
- **President’s Report – Major Stephanie McKeen** – Air Force Recruiting command has a special presentation of a couple of awards to honor some special people at ETMAC.
- **Chief Msgt Robinson** – As recruiters, it is important to have a good working relationship with people in the community but also very important to have community members who perpetuate that and are our cheerleaders and advocates. We would like to recognize one of those people today.
 - **Col Paula Penson** – every opportunity that Paula Penson has to be a “cheerleader” for the Air force, she embraces that and advocates for that. That is her passion. We are able to induct individuals as an “honorary” recruiter and we are giving this certificate of appreciation to Paula Penson for her exceptional public service and support of the United States Air Force.
 - Recruiting is a very tough business and a family affair. It takes an organization like this to ensure that we are continuing to fuel the Department of Defense in the defense of this country. It is not just one person but takes all of this together. Occasionally, we have the chance to recognize a person within the community at the Air Force Recruiting Service level. This is approved all the way up the chain of command at the Headquarters by our two star.
Patrice Collins for her service as a military brat, service to ETMAC, to Military community, always dedicated and committed, presented the Air Force Service Salute Plaque.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** - Doing well and trying to find new people, “recruiting” just like everybody else in the room.
- 1-100th Engineer Battalion – ***unable to attend***
- 119th Cyber Operations Squadron – **Maj Chris Morin** representing Col Franklin moving on to Nashville next month. Change of command in Chattanooga. Lt Col Moss is taking over for Lt Col Chris Smith taking over for Col Franklin who is expecting first star in Nashville soon. Building cyber capabilities and preparing all for cyber operations mission.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **LTC Pat Wade - *unable to attend***
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lee Hartley** – Getting all people back from Hurricane ops – Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Savannah, the staging area. A few still out there in Tennessee. Handful deployed and will be gone during holidays so thoughts and prayers with those scattered all over globe from Africa to Middle East to the Pacific. One of our community service missions every year is Santa Cops in December which is a base wide event to deliver about \$8000 dollars worth of toys to Children’s hospital last Saturday. Touching story was a 17 year old young man without a family except for a pastor that somewhat “adopted” him. We were able to surprise him a Play Station 4 and he just broke down. He had asked for a playstation 2 and this was so much more. It was a very touching and significant event.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **LTC John Bowlin** for Col Jimmie Cole – Getting ready to go to National training center in May. Going to deploy 3 task forces in the next 6 months. Still on Sutherland Avenue. Appreciate the support from the community and enjoyed ETMAC luncheon.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Lt Col Terrance Holmes** (visiting from Nashville) – the Air Force is reducing recruiting requirements for FY18. SSgt Howard Kitter is a new recruiter to the Knoxville area so please welcome him. Congratulations to Senior MSGT Chris Caswell whose pinning is on the first of January.

- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **Dennis McVey** – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *Nothing to Report*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **1st Sgt Gabe Burns** – Capt Tores is unable to attend. He is at IPC in Michigan. Returned from commanders conference in Lynchburg, Va. Preparing for next drill in Tullahoma, TN in January. This weekend doing the Seymour Christmas Parade 3-6pm and will be collection toys for tots, there. Kroger donated a building for storing and distributing toys. Last year distributed 20,877 toys to 4600 children. About the same this year, dropped 2 counties and have 4100 children but only 8,200 toys so donations mean a lot. Need volunteers to sort toys and prepare for distribution. Will put out info via Patrice.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col Taft** – TEC in NOV graduated an ALC NCO class and will graduate another tomorrow. Picked up students for the instructor certification course on Monday. On Dec 13, will be ramping up a blended learning 6 week online study and 2 weeks in attendance. July 19-20 will be the 50 anniversary of TEC so preparing for celebration of that.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Emily Wilson** – since last meeting, we have conducted 300 physicals, over 250 new assessments and shipped 150 new service members to boot camps. Have had quarterly meeting with recruiting service partners and conducted new recruiter training. Major policy announcement regarding court case of a transgender person serving in the military. As of 1 January will be accepting and processing transgender applications through stations across the country..
- Navy Operational Support Center – **LCDR Kevin Settle** – We have a drill this weekend. Thanks to all who supported Navy Ball this year. Once we come up with date for next year will get that out to you. Luncheon the way it was done this year worked out great and thanks to all for that.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – *unable to attend*
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – *unable to attend*
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** – introducing Captain Jessica Monaco joining us from remote tour in Korea so now 100% staffed. Busy Nov/ Dec. Senior Cadets were able to hear from people from other services so they could hear Navy, Marine and Army reps talk about what they do. Held a leadership panel with enlisted and officers talking to our cadets about what is leadership and what that looks like once they are commissioned. Enjoyed the luncheon and parade, a great opportunity for them to get involved in the community and get out in front of the community as they marched into Neyland. Tuesday we wrapped up the cadet change of command so new leadership is ready and in place for the new semester. Many students hitting road for Holiday travel so be mindful of that during this time of year.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Paula Penson** – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter
Back from national conference in November. Discussed aerospace education support to states, cyber patriot and scholarships for enlisted corps. Will be summarizing and sending them out so that everyone will know that they are available. Locally approved \$10,000 budget to give back to the community. Most of that came from gold tournament. Finally, Cyber defense is huge and book available for elementary kids – Sara the Cyber hero book encourage everyone to check it out. <http://a.co/bWQDOuQ>
- American Legion – **Elizabeth Carr** - legionknox.com - *unable to attend*
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> Provided a \$400 grant to Ben Atchley Veteran Home for their programs. Terry Peyton, Activity director said a need is for wheelchair gloves. Hosted over 150 people for the 1/100th Engineer Bn at the red cross and that was successful. Looking for volunteers to be trained to go to LA because over 150,000 affected for Los Angeles fires. Currently 7 active shelters and more needed.
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> Thanks to the Red Cross for the generous donation. Have full house of residents. Positions open nursing supervisor and CNA positions open. Great place to work. All welcome to visit.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Don Smith** <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - American Legion is hosting Pearl Harbor event today at 12:45 at Lyons view. New location 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm at Redemption Church at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road. Wreaths across America was sponsored by Mayor Burchette for many years,

last year as mayor so has asked that we take it over from Knox County. December 16th at noon the wreaths will be placed at all 17,000 sites at all of the cemeteries. We will begin early next year with fundraising to ensure that we can have wreaths at all the sites next year. January 3rd at 9am we will have a pick up of the wreaths and we will need many volunteers for that.

- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – **Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> - Thanks to all who have served and are serving. Wheel chair program is going strong. Have a veteran who requested a 4 wheel drive wheel chair so he can fish and hunt. We have found one and will be given to him before Christmas. Question to Don Smith: How are funds going for Wreaths? Don Smith replied: Always can use more.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – <https://etvma.org/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> *unable to attend*
- Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> - Thanks to all members who have helped Habitat build throughout the year. Veteran recently selected for a home and will be in home by February.
- REBOOT – **Mike Simpson** – New session starts on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, a change from original date of January 9.
Join the next ReBoot Combat Recovery 12-week Program and focus on the Spiritual Aspects of Combat. ReBoot is a course, not a support group, providing practical help for service members and families dealing with the after affects of combat. The first class will be held Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Farragut Church of Christ, 136 Smith Road, Farragut, TN. Dinner and childcare are provided. To sign up or for more information, contact Stacey Nichols at snich@tds.net or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at mike@visionaryhorizons.com.
Also member of Stockings from Us, putting together stockings for service members on deployment so special thanks to ETMAC and MAJ Mckeen for finding units to get these stockings out to.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Freddy Owens** <http://tnvhc.org/> - Program is starting to develop a method of recognizing women veterans, by some means yet to be determined. Working with John Becker to determine what we can do to identify these women veterans on a day to day basis. VA is receptive to this idea so going to push that more the next year. All of hospitals in U.S are rated by the VA as to what their proficiency is. First time, Mountain home received 4 out of 5. There are 11 mental health councils in Knoxville and all are rated either a 4 or 5. We also have a suicide assessment program and want to ensure that is available to all military and Veterans. Father was a Pearl Harbor survivor and wish could be at the Pearl Harbor event today and has great respect for all who served.
- ESGR – **Jack D'Araujo** <https://www.esgr.mil/> - Army guard and air guard have a little over 3,000 still serving on active duty. Additionally, Army Guard and Air Guard have about 9,600 on state active duty. Starting initial planning stages to take employers to Barsto, CA to introduce them to what their employees do on their military assignment. Last week had executive planning meeting to plan activities for 2018. Urgent priority is to engage as many employers as we can so that our Guard and Reservists are being supported in their civilian employment endeavors.
- Honor Air – **Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - planning 2 flights, Wed April 11, flight # 26 and then early October. Cutting back to two instead of normal three because number of WWII veterans getting slim and same with Korean Veterans. Most attending are Vietnam Veterans. Cost of flights significant with the aircraft expense up over \$12,000. Also, planning a virtual flight to give those veterans who are physically or emotionally unable to make the trip the chance to experience the flight without the actual physical exertion of it. Think of anyone you might know.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - VA unveiled the Veterans ID card but system is temporarily down. If you don't have a smart phone or email address will have problems. Older vets asking if their might be a walk in clinic available for those who are technologically challenged. Not sure of the answer yet but will keep you updated.
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Lyle Allen**- Looking for Veterans who need help with mental health issues and would like to overcome stigma of mental health issues. Retired Active Duty so able to access base and willing to speak with units to address the services of the Knoxville Vet Center. Moving to West Knoxville soon and will keep you updated on that.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> - Final funds coming in for Mud Run. We used \$3000 to Wounded Warrior regiment, \$2000 to the Young Marines North, \$2000 Young Marines Bonneyman Detachment, \$500 Wreaths across America and donated \$10,625 to help various

causes including disaster and red cross funds for Florida and Texas Hurricanes. In March, Sevierville detachment will host the South East division conference and in June hosting the State Conference so we will have a lot of Marines coming from out of area to East Tennessee.

- Mountain Man Memorial March –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> - *unable to attend*
- MOWW – **Owen Haddock** <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – We will host meeting on Dec 13, 11am – 1pm. RSVP for luncheon with speaker.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Steve Thompson** <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - fishing first, it is fantastic right now. Just had Christmas dinner with 49 people at Red Cross. Great to see families and veterans healing. 10 registered to build rods and that starts in February. Brian Rice at University of TN called and part of class to develop an online fundraising campaign and a physical fundraising and we did a video campaign and an event at Hexacon Brewery and raised \$2500 for us. Nationally joined with an organization, Getmainlobster.com and \$5 per order goes to us.
- Veteran Appreciation Program –<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - *unable to attend*.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Catherine Bearden** for **Clyde Vincent** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - *unable to attend*.
- Women Marines Association – **Lindsay Long** <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*.
- Rolling Thunder – **Brenda Owensby** <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - Honored last month to hold appreciation breakfast for the honor guard for various funerals honoring our men and women who have served. Means so much for the families and hoping to make it an annual event. Tennessee is one state that does not have commemorate license plate for POW/ MIAs so we are gathering signatures to get those for cars and motorcycles as one of ways to recognize them and provide education to the public. Interested in suicide prevention and PTSD. Changing meeting location to Powell Community Center, 1708 West Emory Road on the 2nd Sunday at 3:30. Thursday, Jan 18, we are holding fundraiser at Blaze Pizza with 20% of profits between 5-8 pm will go to support Veterans. Will give flier to Patrice with details.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - *unable to attend*.
- **Buzz Buswell** – Breakfasts for Veterans and their guests will be held at the Powell community center at 1708 West Emory Road on the third Saturday of every month at 8:00 and is hosted by different organizations. All are invited to come out for this event.
- Tennessee Veteran’s Business Association **Steve Stiltz** – <https://gotvba.com>
Monday, January 29th & Tuesday, January 30th, 2018
Annual TVBA Keynote Dinner, Veteran Job Fair & Business Expo
Celebrating the veteran business community, our Champion Partners and veteran supporters!
Monday, Jan 29th - Exhibitor Setup, Cocktail Reception, Keynote Dinner & Awards 5:30 – 9pm
<https://gotvba.com/events/tvba-annual-keynote-dinner-reception/>
Tuesday, Jan 30th - Veteran Job Fair & Business Expo, Lunch Buffet for Exhibitors
Crowne Plaza Knoxville. 9am – 5pm
- **Lee Johnson, MSgt. USAF, Retired**– Working to convince board of 22 people to change name of Lakeshore park to **Veterans Park at Lakeshore**. Need everyone’s support. To get involved, call 865-925-3419 or cell: 865-566-8987. Email: ibelieveinamerica@yahoo.com
- **Last thing:** 2018 is the Year of the Air Force. Looking for a great speaker from the Air Force.

NOTE - Next meeting will be held one week later than normal

Thursday, January 11, 2017
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

**For input or
corrections,
contact:**

