



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- DECEMBER 7 Pearl Harbor Memorial Service at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery (Lyons View Pike) at 1 pm.
- JANUARY 25 1st Annual Veteran Owned Business Vendor Day & Veteran Preferred Job Fair (8807 Kingston Pike) for more information go to www.jointvba.org
- APRIL 13 HonorAir Knoxville Flight #9 to Washington, D.C.

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, December 2nd, at the American Red Cross, Joe Mazzola presiding. A total of 55 members and guests were present. The November meeting summary was approved as written. The treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$11,242.56.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** The memorial has been vandalized again and will be looking into installing security cameras. "Honor Our Fallen" is a new fundraising campaign for the memorial, for more info go to <http://www.etvma.org/honor-the-fallen/> This campaign helps ETVMA research, engrave names, and complete upkeep on the memorial. For more info email Joleen at joleen@etvma.org It costs \$300 to add each name and anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial go to <http://www.etvma.org>
- **Honor Air:** Flight # 9 will be Wednesday, April 13th and it will include Korean War Veterans. Honor Air spokesman Sam Hardman was honored as a "Home Federal Home Town Hero" recently. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Gene Bayless):** Recently completed a survey with zero deficiencies. The home is currently full with 140 residents. They are always looking for organizations to spend time with the residents. If you're interested, please call 862-8100.
- **Knoxville Chapter of the Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Jess Hernandez, has been named Interim Executive Director for our Blount County Chapter and Janice Campbell, has been named as Interim Director of the Knoxville Chapter's Service to the Armed Forces. The SAF grant continues and they have funds to assist organizations through June 2011 with Yellow Ribbon events and other programs. They also have 3 Nursing Assistant Training Scholarships available to military families. During the month of March, "Be 1 by giving \$1" will be a statewide fundraising campaign.

- **Social Security Administration Hiring Vets (James Dudley):** Looking for qualified Veterans and also Wounded Warriors to hire. Go to www.USAJOBS.gov for more info. You can also send resumes to James Dudley at 8513 Kingston Pike.
- **Web Site (Laimon Godel):** The web site had 1,907 visitors in November. If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **Announcements**
 - **Veterans Day Luncheon (Patrice Collins):** – There was 470 plates served. The featured guest speaker was General Craig McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau. John Becker of WBIR received the Civilian “Warrior” Award.
 - **Commissary Sale (Joe Mazzola):** In Chattanooga on December 10th, 11th, 12th.
 - **Clarence Brown Theatre (Patrice Collins):** Free tickets to “A Christmas Carol” on December 8th to active duty military only. Contact Patrice for more info.
 - **Economic Impact Study (Joe Sutter):** Looking to finalizing the report in January, 2011.
 - **Veteran’s Day Parade (Gene Bayless):** Very successful parade with 104 units. Parade was broadcast live on WIVK (107.7 fm) and WBIR will broadcasted the parade on their cable channel.
 - **Marine Corps League (Laimon Godel):** Completed the pavilion at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home. The cost of this project was \$45,000. There will be dedication in the spring of 2011. The Marine Corps League is sponsoring the movie “Chosin” that will be free on December 4th.

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (LtCol Mike Angle):** Cadets participated in many Veterans Day activities including the parade and luncheon. Recently at the Air Force ROTC Commanders Conference, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Schwartz, named the UT Air Force ROTC program the best “Medium” detachment in the nation. Thanks to the Red Cross for supporting the cadets “Thanksgiving Luncheon”.
- **UT Army ROTC (LtC Don Evans):** Cadets participated in many Veterans Day activities including the parade, luncheon, a “Poppy Drive” with the VFW in Harriman, and fundraising for the Memorial Man Mountain March. Commissioning 7 2ndLT into the Army on December 10th. Brigadier General Robin Akin will commission the cadets. Looking for ideas to find good organizations to donate to.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **US Army Recruiting Company (MAJ Jason Deel):** Participated in the Veterans Day parade and luncheon. Talked about the “March 2 Success” webpage which is a free tool that provides educational content to improve test SAT, ACT, state exit exams, and ASVAB scores. For more info go to www.march2success.com
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (Commander Darrell Neeley):** New location will be completed in August and will officially move in September, 2011. Recently received 4th straight “MEPS of Excellence” for the quarter. Thanks to Air Force ROTC for invite to present Navy classes to the Seniors. Only MEPS in nation to make testing goal 7 years in a row. Currently has a civilian doctor position open to oversee medical department.
- **134th ANG Air Refueling Station (Captain Keith):** Great response from Veterans Day activities and had 160 from the unit in the parade. Recently sent 2 jets to Germany full of supplies for Wounded Warriors who have not received their personnel belongings.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Richard Howard):** Fully participated in Veterans Day activities. Thanks to the Red Cross for all support. Thanks to the ROTC for allowing use of facilities at UT. On 2/10/2011, they will have a Change in Commandant ceremony. Col Howard will be retiring in February and Col Bradley McRee will take the command through July, 2011.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (LTC John Wolfe):** Took command in July, 2010 and is reporting that LTC Adam Roth recently made the “Colonel” list. Thanks for the recent support for the “Welcome Home Warriors” ceremony and the “Change of Command” ceremony and also with Veterans Day

activities. Thanks to the Red Cross and the VFW for donations to the family readiness group. Thanks to all programs that assist with job placement for the soldiers.

- **119th Command and Control (1stLT McKeen):** Fully participated in Veterans Day activities. Thanks to the Red Cross for sponsoring Christmas party.
- **Navy Operations Support Center (CDR Grant):** Proud to be apart of Veterans Day activities.
- **278th Army National Guard (COL Jeffrey Archer):** Recently had a “Freedom Salute” ceremony for its soldiers. The Yellow Ribbon program continues to assist soldiers from recent deployment to Iraq. Cuts to counter-drug program as seen in media, will affect 80 personnel state-wide. Suicide rates for National Guard and reserves continue to rise and considering new programs to assist the soldiers in need.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion (MAJ James Rivenbark):** Fully participated in Veterans Day activities. Thanks to the Red Cross for sponsoring holiday activities.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (John Dyess):** Currently there are 94,600 reservists and guardsmen on active duty. Looking into a “Community Dinner” for those who have taken the oath to serve. For any questions regarding ESGR contact John Dyess at jdyess2010@gmail.com
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams and Barry Allen):** On January 25th, they will be having a Veteran Vendor Day at Rothchilds. It will be a business to business networking event along with a job fair. Approx. 50 companies are already signed up to attend. All military units and Veteran organizations are invited to participate. No cost for the units and non-profits. Major General Mari Eder, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve will be the guest speaker. Go to www.jointvba.org for more info.
- **Knox County Commission Meeting (Joe Jarrett):** If you have anything you want to communicate to the public and bring it before the county commission contact Joe Jarrett (215-2327) at the city county building and he will make sure you have a 5 minute spot at the meeting.
- **VFW Post 1733 (Tom DeHoog):** IRS recently visited post 1733 and audited through 2008.
- **Jim Mungenast:** Announced the recent death of Major General (retired) Fred Forster

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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