



## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### January 10, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 26 Wreaths Across America Pick up 11am at Knoxville National Cemetery on Tyson St.
- JAN 28 TVBA Dinner with speaker Lt Col Oliver North and Lee Greenwood to sing National Anthem. For info contact **Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000 –<https://gotvba.com/>
- JAN 29 TVBA Job fair at Knoxville Convention Center. <https://gotvba.com/>
- FEB 1-3 Remote Area Medical's 1000<sup>th</sup> expedition at Chilhowee Park's Jacob Building. Gate will open by 12 midnight on Friday evening. Ticket distribution begins about 3am. For more information, see this link: [RAM Knoxville](#)
- FEB 7 Suicide Prevention by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network training at 9:30am at Knoxville Chamber of Commerce immediately after the ETMAC meeting.
- MAR 8 Dayton's Pest Control Sporting Clay Tournament Benefitting Knoxville Habitat for Humanity @ Chilhowee Sportsman's Club Price \$500 for a team of 4. Register at 865/523-3539 ext. 104 or [Sporting Clay Tournament](#)
- MAR 3<sup>rd</sup> week – Loudon County Veteran Resources Job Fair. For info, contact David Webb, 865-403-1606
- APR 10 Honor Air Flight #28. April 10, 2019 <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- 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/>
- MAY 6 Annual Medal of Honor meeting and tables will open up beginning of the year. Honoring a Marine this year, Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert\\_L.\\_Kinser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser)
- By JUN 30 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

OCT 19 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park.  
<https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>

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

**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, **January 10, 2018**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **70** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
  - Maj (Ret) Scott Alley with the Civil Air Patrol
  - MSgt Sara Eldred with TEC for Air National Guard
  - Capt Michael Laverdure (USAFR) with 916 MXS Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, also Knuckle Busters Auto LLC dba AAMCO at 104 Stekoa Ln Knoxville
  - Lacey Mellott with Knoxville Habitat for Humanity
  - Jane Jolley with Knox County Mayor's Office
  - Darris Upton with the Knox County Mayor's Office (Navy Vet)
  - Lorraine Whitson with Coldwell Banker
  - SFC (Ret) Jeremy Athy - Army Recruiting Command
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland** – Thank you for coming out on such a cold morning. Suicide training after Feb 7 ETMAC meeting. Should last one hour.
- **Treasurer's Report: Owen Ragland for Treasurer Derren Burrell** –
  - Start balance \$ 13,532.18
  - Deposits \$ 348.46
  - Expenses \$ 1,104.45
  - End balance \$ 12,776.19

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.

- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins** – [www.ETMAC.org](http://www.ETMAC.org) Joleen Dewald is experiencing some health concerns and will be out for a while. Patrice is helping her out with Mountain Man March for the time being. Donations to help ETMAC pay for parking and donuts are welcome. Please pay your dues for 2019. You may pay through the website or send/bring a check.

### **MILITARY UNIT UPDATES**

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – MAJ Karen Oland – unable to attend**
- **119<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations Squadron – unable to attend**
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – CPT Hulon Holmes** – Reported on their current activities including 16 rescues in the Smokey Mountains over the past 2 ½ years. He requests that anyone hiking in the winter dress appropriately, don't wear black and bring a flashlight or cell phone so they can find you in the dark.

- 134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing – **LtCol Bryan Hooks** – Safety inspection going on. Expecting busiest year in a while. UEI coming up and will impact every organization on the base. Will be involved in refueling for flyovers for Governor’s Inauguration and the Super Bowl.
- 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Kelly Copeland -278 ACR** - We are preparing for an overseas troop rotation. Next month we will have a change of command when LTC(P) Brad Bowlin will take Command of the 278th ACR and replace COL Jimmie L. Cole, Jr
- 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **TSgt Brandon Carver** – Met 132% of mission for 2018 and added two new Recruiters, one in Morristown and one in Oak Ridge. 50 young airmen looking for a community event to volunteer/participate in each month.
- 489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – MAJ **Justin Belford** – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *unable to attend*
- Co D 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt **Cullen Tores** – 4,000 children provided with toys through Toys for Tots in our community.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Lt **Col John Capra** – 2 classes starting with 300 airmen on base currently. Col Lovely leaving IG Brown. New commander coming in May.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **SFC (Ret) Jeremy Athy** – Thanks for all the support in the community.
- Military Entrance Processing Station – Capt **Ethan Frazier** – Requesting help with training on Suicide Prevention. Owen will connect with Amy Dolinky of TN Suicide Prevention Network.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Drill this weekend. Focusing on training this year with anti-terrorist, active shooter. Facility being upgraded. Looking for services for free legal and tax advice.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Major Ally** – **nothing to report**
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** *unable to attend*
- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col **Matt “Ocho” Castillo** - *unable to attend*
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** –FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - *unable to attend.*

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – Cyber security/anti scam training program being rolled out geared to seniors. Will be provided to any groups that need the training, not just veterans. [https://secure.afa.org/contact\\_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter](https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter)
- American Legion – **Bob Dewald** [legionknox.com](http://legionknox.com) FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - *unable to attend*
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - Unable to provide lapse funding for Coast Guard. Ben Atchely home was provided with dry erase boards by Red Cross. They are available to provide support to veterans
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - Five open beds currently.

- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis** <http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still looking for veterans that want to socialize. Picking up cemetery wreaths on 26 Jan.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – **Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - Looking for employers to submit applications for National Commander's Award. Winner will be flown to National Convention to receive award. EOY # DSO Knoxville, 3,200 interviews and filed over 2,900 claims with an 89% approval rating. Transported 1500 veterans to Mountain Home. Also, have given out over 200 powered wheelchairs.
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – **Reid Gerhardt** - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association **Joleen Dewald** - <https://etvma.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> – *unable to attend*
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jack D'Araujo** <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> Briefed approx. 800 airmen during Commander's Call. Maj. Gen Max Haston retiring. Maj Gen Jeff Holmes replacing him. FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/>
- Honor Air – **Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - Flight #28 will take place on April 10, 2019
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - 2 homes available currently for veterans. Building again this spring- Approximately 2 homes a month. Always need volunteers. Lacey Mellott talked about their Sporting Clay fundraiser event coming up on March 8. See the event section for details.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Ed Junod** - <http://tnvhc.org/> – unable to attend
- Knoxville Career Center – **David Webb** - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – email: [david.m.webb@tn.gov](mailto:david.m.webb@tn.gov) or call 865-403-1606. Unemployment rate is lower for veterans than for the general population. Multi-Employer Job Fair coming up on Jan 16 at the career center. Loudon County having a Veterans Stand-down March 16 from 10am to 2pm. Lunch included. Legal and medical persons available. 20 or more employers will be there looking to hire veterans. Will be held in Lenoir City. More details to follow.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: [thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org](mailto:thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org) or call 865-215-5645 Gentleman looking for a disabled vet to donate an AT power wheelchair to. Knoxville Police Dept. has received a grant for a cyber security position and would like to hire a vet that has been medically discharged.
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Lyle Allen** - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> - **nothing to report**
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> unable to attend
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) Have been meeting jointly with MOWW. Made 15 high school presentations and 3 university awards. The university awards included \$500 as a stipend to the student.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** - <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – See report for MOAA.

- Mountain Man Memorial March- Patrice Collins –<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. Working on setting a hotel location currently. More to come.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –Cindy LeMarr - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> -Meet the first Tuesday of each month at the American Red Cross. New season starting with fly rod building classes. Instructor this year began as a participant and has grown into an instructor. He is also teaching the participants to add embellishments to the rods. Tie building class is in February. Fishing will begin in April. The trips include all the gear needed as well as food for the day.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –Michael Simpson – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> - 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](mailto:snich@tds.net) or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at [mike@visionaryhorizons.com](mailto:mike@visionaryhorizons.com). New dates being considered. Winter is a hard time for the veterans to make the effort to attend. May wait until spring to begin a new class.
- Rolling Thunder – Carlos Hollifield - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. – 32 years ago, about 200 veterans (mostly motorcycle riders) made a trip to DC to bring the plight of POW and MIA to the attention of lawmakers. Due to high costs, this will be the last Ride to the Wall on a national level. There are currently 750K to 800k riders each year. There will still be regional and local events, just not the national one. The mission is still important. The group was able to lobby to upgrade the Stolen Valor Act from a misdemeanor to a felony carrying a much higher penalty.
- STAR – Horses & Hero's Program – Cathy Dolson - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - 2 classes currently. They are going to ride through the winter because of strong interest.
- 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** – no report. [http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior\\_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955](http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955) –
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - April 6 is 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Heritage Ridge Run (5k) at Sharps Ridge. To sign up, follow this link. [Ridge Run](#) Anyone welcome to be a part of the Foundation. Currently working on Sharps Ridge. Next meeting is Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at Lincoln Park Clubhouse 916 Shamrock Rd. Knoxville. Looking for volunteers for the Ridge Run.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –Ivette Torres <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> – Have an office in Knoxville and Oak Ridge. They take care of homeless veterans, helping with housing and job placement.

- Wreaths Across America- Buzz Buswell reported that there were more individuals that participated this year than ever before. Approx. 11k of the 16k graves were covered this year. There will be a final pick up at the Knoxville National Cemetery on Tyson St on Jan 26 at 11am.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** *unable to attend.*  
<http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> -

**Next meeting: Thursday, February 7, 2018**  
**@ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am**

**For input or corrections, contact: Kim Spencer**  
**865/691-0898**  
[kim@nallssherbakoff.com](mailto:kim@nallssherbakoff.com)

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