



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

February 7, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Vet to Vet TN is accepting nominations for their **1st Annual Freddie J. Owens Memorial Honor Awards**. Please go to <http://womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org> for the nomination information. Deadline is August 15, 2019.

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

FEB 16 **Presentation of an Action Track chair** to SSG (ret) Dameon Berry at Halls Service Center Tire Pros 3725 Cunningham Rd, Knoxville at 1pm.

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 16 **Loudon County Veterans Resource and Job Fair:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., War Memorial Building, 103 B Street, Lenoir City. If you would like to hire a Veteran, this is the job fair to attend. There is no cost to attend this event. We will provide a table and two chairs for each employer or resource provider. Lunch will be provided. If you need electricity in your booth, please include the information in your RSVP. Please RSVP to David.M.Webb@TN.gov no later than February 16th. For additional info, contact David Webb, 865-403-1606

APR 6 **Veterans Horticultural Therapy Workshop** at Bee Ridges Farm, 816 Bull Run Rd. Clinton, from 10:00 until 16:30 with a family dinner and bonfire to follow. For more information see [UTGardens](#)

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 **The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association** presents their **9th Annual Medal of Honor Evening**, Honoring World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Elbert Kinser, United States Marine Corps. From Greenville, TN. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser
The event will be held Monday, May 6th, 2019 at The Historic Foundry Building at 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN. Click here to purchase your tickets. <https://etvma.org/support/moheve/>

- 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 **Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Annual Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park.** -
 SAVE the DATE - <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - more info to follow at a later date.

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, **February 7, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **82** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 Willie Franklin; A Home 4 Heros/TheLostvets.com
 Jane Hanson; The Veterans Honor Village in Anderson City.
 Rich Groves; The Independence Fund
 Brandi Glasscock and Kay Watson with Benefits to Work, Tennessee Disability
 Deidre Kaywood nursing student shadowing volunteer coordinator with Caris
 Jim Humphrey with Maryville College works with Veteran Students
 Trevor Harvey director of Veteran Services at Pellissippi State (member 134th ARW)
 Bill Conner Readiness Manager with 134th
 David Molleo Jr. Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator with ARNG; Meditation
 John Mustaleski with Allstate
 Jacob Thompson with Habitat for Humanity Restore
 Brad Bledsoe Disabled Vet Outreach
 Natalie Donahue with Dignity Memorial
 Buddy Kemper Family Assistance for TN Army Guard
 Gary Armstrong – A Home 4 Heros
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland** – Invitation to attend suicide prevention training after meeting adjourns
- **Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Derren Burrell** – Approx \$15,000 in operating account. Anticipating some requests for grants.

 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 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 – Joseph Westfall** – provided support and security for 1,700 individuals attending RAM free medical clinic previous weekend. MLA in June.
- **119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron** – SMSGT Williams - completed Tabletop Operation in Greeneville; collaborated with State Leadership on cyber threats
- **1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion – CPT Hulon Holmes** – Deployment preparations for upcoming rotations

- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lee Hartley** – Video presentation was shown of the South Carolina Air National Guard Fighter Jets & Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th ARW providing refueling to the SC ANG security aircraft over Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium stadium during the super bowl. See full video here. <https://www.wspa.com/news/sc-nat-l-guard-conducts-training-exercise-ahead-of%20-super-bowl/1737857764>
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **LTC Brad Bowlin** - - We are preparing for an overseas troop rotation. Last weekend we had a change of command and COL Jimmie L. Cole, Jr was promoted to Brigadier General.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Mike Ram** filling in for TSgt Kitter. Col Holmes promoted. 20 new recruits last month. Volunteering with National Bass Pro Tournament.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – *unable to attend*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – *unable to attend*
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Col Kerry Lovely** – two 3-star generals attending graduations next week and they will be visiting local ROTC detachments. 2-day sexual assault prevention course hosted. Change of Command May 31st.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** – partnership with Cadet Command. Career Fair on the 11th. Seeing older individuals coming in.
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **Capt Ethan Frazier** - Nothing to report.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Drill this weekend. They do approx. 27 funerals a month. New security protocol at their location. They have added handicap and overflow parking.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – last month had mandatory suicide training for all cadets and adults nationwide. CAP is the only agency that can do military high frequency communications and are currently conducting nationwide training.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** – Shut down for most of January. Had to cancel ceremonies during that time. Ron has been elected to serve another year. Fishing Show was a success. Boat Show coming up Feb 14-17. They will be handing out safe boating literature. Will begin crew training when water warms up and will be providing boat inspections free of charge. Also provide public education. Provide safe boating displays at sporting goods stores. 20 potential new members.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** – 10 new cadets started in January, and now have over 100. Graduate and commission 15 in May. Will host Area University Commander.
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** – <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - unable to attend.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – nothing to report
- American Legion – **Bob Dewald** 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/> - Provide support to families when service members are deployed. Offer coping strategies for families.
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger – <http://www.tsvh.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - 3 open beds currently. Rated as 5-Star facility.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Gary Ellis <http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2nd Tuesday evening. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still looking for veterans that want to socialize. March 29th Vietnam Veteran Memorial Ceremony at 10am at John Sevier Veteran Cemetery.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - unable to attend
- 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 Patrice Collins - <https://etvma.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> – Memorial dinner coming up May 6, 2019. Go to website to register. This year they will be honoring Sgt. Elbert Kinser, USMC
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – Jim Mungenast <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> Looking for good companies to be nominated for awards. Also provide help for Reservists and Guard members that may have any issues with their employers. Bosslift coming up soon. Recognizing award winning organizations at UT Basketball game.
- Honor Air – Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - Flight #28 will take place on April 10, 2019. Invitations have gone out. Orientation will take place the end of March.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - Will have a home available soon. Building again this spring- Approximately 2 homes a month. Always need volunteers. Sporting Clay fundraiser event coming up on March 8. See the event section for details. Restore employee Jacob Thompson talked about store. It's located on Downtown West Blvd. 10% discount offered to veterans. Proceeds from store go toward building homes in Knoxville. Always need volunteers to help at store.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Ed Junod - <http://tnvhc.org/> – Taking nominations for Freddie J Owens Memorial Honor. 2 categories for nomination of women, one veteran/military and one civilian. Details are on website. Second annual summit will be October 3rd in Maryville. Had suicide prevention seminar last weekend hosted by Spartan Alliance. Rolling Thunder and other motorcycle organizations attended, and several new volunteers came out of that meeting. Maryville First United Methodist is host for the next Suicide Prevention Instructor course.
- Knoxville Career Center – David Webb - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – email: david.m.webb@tn.gov or call 865-403-1606. 2.9% in Knoxville, lower than national average at 3.5% Veteran unemployment is a little higher at 3.7%. Job Fair Feb. 20 at the Center and at the TVBA. Working on job fair in Loudon County on Sat, March 16.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org or call 865-215-5645 Many veterans are not aware of benefits available to them. Agent Orange benefits approved to be awarded to Blue Water Navy veterans. If you know anyone, service member or family member that fits that category, have them

contact local agencies to see if they qualify. Veterans Day on the Hill yesterday in Nashville. New legislation pending in Nashville.

- Knoxville Vet Center –**Lyle Allen** - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> -1645 Downtown West Blvd. Services free to service members. Many types of counseling available. Mobile Vet Center available.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> 7 months until Mud Run. \$10k proceeds from last event distributed to charities around the country.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - www.moaa.org Continuing to meet jointly with MOWW. Dues go toward annual ROTC/JROTC awards.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** - <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – Speaker for next meeting is retired Marine Col Tipton, Vietnam Vet and Ho Chi Minh trail pilot.
- 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. 10k available and always looking for volunteers.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Dan Moneymaker** - <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. 9 events scheduled for this summer. They could use support/donations to provide lunch at the fishing events.
- 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 or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at mike@visionaryhorizons.com. Rick Garner will be instructor. Will be starting a new class soon.
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - meet on 2nd Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. Open house on April 13 to bring their purpose to the public eye. They aren't just a motorcycle club, they are a veteran support organization. Last Rolling Thunder national event this Memorial Day. 900,000 people attended last year.
- STAR – Horses & Hero's Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - Working on spring schedule. Will be holding classes Tuesday and Thursday at South Knoxville location and Thursday and Friday at Lenoir City. They are having good success with the program. Buzz Buswell gave a Shout Out to the success of this program.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - Veteran dinner great success. Job Fair and Expo rescheduled due to bad weather.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** – https://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 Purpose is to provide support and scholarships. \$7,500 awarded last year. General Neyland golf outing coming up on April 20. Details on website. Personal and corporate sponsorships needed.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - March 30 is site cleanup beginning at 10am. April 6 is 3rd 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. Group providing access to meditation class in California will be attending as well to help and provide information.

- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Ivette Torres** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> –unable to attend
- Independence Fund - <http://www.independencefund.org/> . They provide track wheelchairs to disabled vets. First chair being given to a Knoxville Vet on Saturday Feb. 16. Details under events at the top of this report.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - unable to attend
- Military Order of the Purple Heart - **Charlie Cardwell** - <https://moph356.org/> - Meet on third Tuesday at 6pm at Shoney's on Emery Rd. Lies kept to a minimum, everyone welcome.

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

**For input or corrections, contact: Kim Spencer
865/691-0898 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, 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