

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 4, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- MARCH 26th UT Baseball “Military Appreciation Day” LSU vs. UT at 7:00 pm. All military and veterans receive free admission.
- APRIL 17th The 26.2 mile Mountain Man Memorial March in memory of 1LT Frank Walkup will be held in Gatlinburg, TN. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>
- APRIL 28th Honor Air Flight #7. For more info go to www.honorairknoxville.com
- JUNE 6th Smokies Baseball “Salute to Heroes Night” A ceremony to honor Veterans will begin at 4:15 pm and the game will begin at 5:00pm

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

GENERAL ETMAC INFORMATION

2009 at-large Board of Directors’ Bill Felton and Virgil Young rotated off of the board after their term ended on 12/31/09. Mike Crawford and Bruce McElhaney’s nominations were accepted, and they will serve as at-large directors for the year 2010.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, February 4th at the Navy Operations Support Center (NOSC), Joseph Mazzola presiding. A total of 57 members and guests were present. The summary of the December meeting was approved. The treasurer’s report shows an end of the month balance as of February 4, of \$10,298.07.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (John Romeiser):** Currently there are approximately 6200 names on the memorial representing 35 counties. There are 12 new names that will be added to the memorial at a later date. Anyone that would be interested in donating to the memorial, go to <http://www.etvma.org>
- **Memorial Day Remembrance at Veterans Memorial (Eric Nash):** A reading of all 6200 names on the memorial will take place on Memorial Day at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. Any organizations interested in taking part in this, please contact Joe Mazzola at legionnairejoe@comcast.net
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #7 will be on April 28, 2010 and have currently flown 635 WWII Veterans. To support Honor Air Knoxville, please go to <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Taylor Wyrick):** The Tennessee State Veterans Homes Board has named Ed Harries Executive Director. Residents recently enjoyed viewing “Sergeant York” at the Tennessee Theater. J.D. Norton will travel with Honor Air Knoxville on April 28, to visit the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. Any groups that are interested in doing a presentation for the residents please call the Activities Director at 862-8100.
- **Red Cross (Christy McKiernan):** Recently held a “Thank you for your Service” event at Ben Atchley State Veterans Home. Currently have 3 scholarships available for NAT “Nurse Assistant Training” for

members of the military, their spouses, and/or children. The next Red Cross Café will be held on Saturday, February 20 from 11:00 am til 1:00 pm.

- **Web Site (Laimon Godel):** Last months web-site activity had 2,000 visitors with an average of 64 visitors a day. If any organizations have a public newsletter they want distributed, please send it to Laimon Godel at webmaster@godel.com
- **Unemployed Veterans Jobs Task Force (Joe Mazzola):** Putting together a task force to encourage companies to hire our returning soldiers from deployment. If anyone knows of any companies that are hiring, please contact Joe Mazzola at legionnairejoe@comcast.net
- **ETMAC Service Project (James Dee):** On February 27th, 2010 from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm there will be an event at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home to have Veterans come in to apply for medals they have lost or never received. Veterans and families are also invited to come in with medals and ribbons to be identified. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact James Dee at jdenviro@hotmail.com
- **Field of Flags (Charles VanBeke):** “Field of Flags/Service of Memory” event will be held on Saturday, February 13th at 11:00 am at Parkway Presbyterian Church (940 Sanctuary Lane). Please car-pool because they are expecting a large crowd and parking will be an issue. For more info contact John Dyess at tnesgr@hotmail.com or Charlie Van Beke at cvanbeke@wmspc.com.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** The inaugural meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24 at 8:00 am til 9:30 am at the Knoxville Chamber. The East Tennessee / Knoxville area will be greatly served by a Veteran Owned Business Organization. This group would meet on a regular basis and provide us many benefits including networking, idea sharing, support and encouragement. If we all come together we can expand business opportunities and development, enter into new markets, gain knowledge, and potentially assist members returning from deployment in job placement.
- **Tennessee Smokies “Salute to Heroes Night” (Bob Dewald):** This year’s game will be held on June 6, 2010. A ceremony to honor Veterans will be held at 4:15 pm and the game will begin at 5:00 pm. This game is free for all Veterans and Military.

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

- **UT Air Force ROTC (LtCol Mike Angle):** A number of cadets recently completed Army Air Assault School. On February 9, 2010 they will be bringing 120 cadets to visit Ben Atchley State Veterans Home. On March 26, 2010 is UT Baseball “Military Appreciation Day”. The game will be at 7:00 pm and the Tennessee Vols will host the LSU Tigers. All military and Veterans receive free admission.
- **UT Army ROTC (LTC David Leach):** The 3rd annual Mountain Man March will be on April 17, 2010 in Gatlinburg, TN to honor 1LT Frank Walkup. Sponsors are needed to cover the operating costs of the event. There will be a Gold Star Mothers ceremony on April 16, 2010. For more details, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~utrotc/MMM/index.html>

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (Captain Max Lemons):** Recruiting is going so well that many of the incentives are ending. The age limit to enter the service varies with each branch of service.
- **134 ANG Air Refueling Station (Colonel Dearing):** Volunteers from the unit are assisting in Haiti. MG (ret) Jack D’Araujo, Jr. was recently the guest speaker at the dining out. Guard members are averaging 150 days a year of training/active duty.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Howard):** On March 1, they will have one of their largest graduations to date. The TEC received its eighth Air Force Organizational Excellence Award on January 10, 2010.
844th Engineering Battalion: Anyone interested in emailing Colonel Roth please email SFC Josh Richardson at joshua.richardson1@usar.army.mil and he will forward it directly to Colonel Roth.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Col Evans):** Recently received the Air Force Outstanding Unit award, which is the third in a row. This is the 60th anniversary year for the unit.

- **278th Army National Guard:** From Jenny Testerman; the 278th recently held the brigade hail and farewell ceremony and they unveiled and dedicated a permanent monument for the Fallen Soldiers of the 278th. Jenny Testerman continues to work with military families and is a member of the state advisory council for family programs for the TN National Guard and you can contact her at jenny.testerman@us.army.mil
- **Navy Reserve Center (CDR Greg Jones):** Hosted ETMAC and presented a slide-show video about the Navy Reserve Center.
- **489th Civil Affairs Company (MAJ Bryan Bailey):** The unit will be supporting operations in Haiti. They have a number of soldiers that are unemployed and if anyone could assist with employment contact Major Bailey.
- **Marines, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Joseph Easterling):** On January 24, 2010 Marine Sgt. Daniel Angus was killed in Afghanistan. His wife and child live in Kingston, TN. Three dozen Marines are currently training in Twentynine Palms, CA and will head to Afghanistan in March. A small detachment will be mobilizing in the beginning of March to Okinawa, Japan to assist with the development of counter terrorism. In addition, another group will head to Africa to assist with finding and destroying land mines. Starting in May, Captain Easterling will be involved with a Veterans WWII project recording their stories from the military.
- **ESGR (Joe Mazzola):** Over 143,000 guard and reserve members from the state of TN currently deployed.
- **Air Force Sgt Association (Mike Gates):** Adopted a family from the McGee-Tyson Air Base and raised \$1585 for the family. The “Santa Cops” from the 134th ANG Air Refueling Station added another \$1000 which in total gave this family \$2585.
- **Blount County American Red Cross (Karen Trotter):** The Maryville Chapter is a site for “Give A Day, Get A Day at Disney” program and people can contact the Red Cross for volunteer opportunities.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (Monty Wright):** NAMI is building ramps for Veterans who need them at their homes. Needs help with the construction part but already has the supplies donated. Please contact Monty if you can assist with building ramps. Phone: 465-7550; e-mail: montywright58@yahoo.com . On February 20th and 21st , NAMI will offer “interim voice training” to help Veterans talk about their experience.
- **AMVETS Riders (Bruce McElhaney):** On February 27th, they will be traveling to “Camp Hope”. The camp is located in Farmington, MO. The founder, Mike White, created this camp after his son Chris was killed in Iraq on June 20, 2006. Camp Hope is dedicated to providing the resources for our veterans to again enjoy outdoor activities. The goal of Camp Hope is to construct a completely handicapped lodge where veterans may participate in hunting, fishing, canoeing, skeet shooting, hiking and relaxing in a peaceful setting. For more information go to camphoperiders.org or www.chrisnealfarm.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
 East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
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