



**EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
**February 3, 2022, via Zoom**

**Upcoming Events**

ONGOING Fund raiser for Operation Honor Guard Info at <https://www.wate.com/operation-honor-guard/> Donate [at Donate today to Operation Honor Guard](#)

- 1st Sat Breakfast at the Elks Club #160 5600 Lonas Rd, Knoxville - 8:00 - 9:30am
- 2nd Sat Breakfast at Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1615 Price Ave, Knoxville - 8:00-9:30am
- 3rd Sat Breakfast at the Community Center in Powell, 1708 W. Emory Rd, Powell - 8:00-10:00am
- Last Sat: Three Breakfasts throughout our area: 8:00 am - 9:30 am at all three locations below:  
- DAV Chapter #24, 2600 Holbrook Dr., Knoxville,  
- VFW Post 5154 in Blount County, 2561 Hobbs Rd., Louisville  
- DAV Chapter #26, 530 Kingston Ave, Oliver Springs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays Rock Climbing for Veterans at The Climbing Center Knoxville from 7-9pm
- 9 FEB Legal Clinic for Veterans from Noon until 2pm 1101 Liberty St. Knoxville
- 17 FEB Food Pantry at New Life Baptist Church 1100 W Highway 23/70, Newport 11-1pm.
- 2 APR UT Army Alumni Annual General Robert Neyland Golf Outing at Egwani Farms
- 7 MAY USA Patriots Veterans Charity Softball game. Smokies stadium at 1pm. Youth clinic at 10am. Contact [Matthew.gordon@benchmark.us](mailto:Matthew.gordon@benchmark.us) for details.

For a complete listing of events, [visit http://www.etmac.org](http://www.etmac.org) and click event

***ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION***

**Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell**

Beginning Balance	\$15,324.67
Deposits	1,910.80
Expenses	90.00
Ending Balance	\$17,145.47

- **Membership dues may be paid online**  
<https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmacresources/membership->

[application/](#) or mail a check payable to ETMAC to Patrice Collins at the Knoxville Chamber: 17 Market Square, #201, Knoxville, TN 37902. Donations on our website are also appreciated.

- President Report – Leslie Purser–ETMAC is supporting the Wall that Heals as well as Mountain Man Memorial March. We will also be supporting the Air Show in the fall. Please pay your dues.
- Webmaster’s Report – Dent Young – 528 visitors with the Resources and Membership pages being most popular. Only 3% of visitors this month came from China.
- 2022 Medal of Honor Convention – Joleen Dewald. – September 6-11. There are 3 new Medal of Honor awardees.
- Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins – 2022 Veteran’s Luncheon will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> and will be honoring the Marine Corps.
- Stephanie Bohon spoke about the HIRE Initiative. They partner with organizations to solve barriers to entry for local jobs.
- **First Time Attendees**
  - Zimbo Paul with Catalyst Sports
  - Matt Gordon with Benchmark Home Loans
  - Aaron Price with Medic
  - Mark McDonald with UT Army ROTC Alumni
  - Stephanie Bohn with Hire Initiative
  - Cortney Piper with Hire Initiative
  - Suzy Yates with Ft. Campbell
  - Lt Col Jacob Corbett with IG Brown
  - Josh Higgins with James H Quillen VA Medical Center

## **MILITARY UNIT UPDATES**

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – LTC Joseph Westfall\_ Nothing new to report.
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – Col Smith - no report
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – CPT Phillip Webster – Several trainings this spring as well as supporting community events.
- 134th Air Refueling Wing –Col Jason Brock– Appreciation to ESGR for award presentation at UT. Major inspection upcoming.
- 241st Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga) - Lt Col Dave Moss – no report
- 252nd Military Police Company – TN Army NC – Cleveland and Onida – CPT Taylr Bercaw- no report.

- 278th Armored Cavalry Unit –COL Tim Shubert – building new armored vehicles. Troops in motion. COL Brad Bowlin has been promoted to Brig General. One squadron will compete for best tank crew.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – LT Col Bryan Ewing – no report
- 844th Engineering Battalion – MAJ Justin Warrick no report.
- D Co 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – GySgt Jeffrey Bryant – no report
- ETSU Army ROTC. – MAJ Scott Shard sent some cadets to Air Assault School at Ft Campbell. Planning for FPX Also helping with MMMM.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center -Lt Col John Capra – Airman leadership school as well as other classes. 150 students on campus with another 150 online. Remodeling part of the campus.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – SGT Adrienne Stewart – no report
- Military Entrance Processing Station – CPT Calvin Wu -GS5 Position open.
- Naval Reserve Center Knoxville – CDR Trier Kissell – Preparing for drill.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Col Dent Young – meetings restricted currently due to Covid. Needing assistance to work with the youth as well as other projects.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – Ron Boneau – no report
- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col William Estep - 31 Jan 22 we submitted 21 S200 cadets to compete on the Professional Officer Corps Selection Process. I suspect we should have approx. 50-60% of cadets selected. On Feb 1, I submitted two cadets (AS300/AS400) for the Society of American Military Engineers Award. Next week, on 8 Feb we have Maj Gen Wills, 19th AF/CC, will be visiting UT and AFROTC Det. 800. Maj Gen Wills is charge of all of the Flight and Special Forces Pipelines. He is scheduled to meet Chancellor Plowman, visit with Aerospace Engineering faculty, and Kinesiology Faculty and Det. 800 at LLAB.
- UT Army ROTC – LTC Justin Howe –visiting Veteran Resource Center. 23-26 Feb participating in Staff Ride. 30 Mar – 3 Apr Spring Training. 20 May will be commissioning ceremony.

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – Dick Webber – 9 March will be the next meeting for the Cyber Force initiative.
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – Bill Adams – National Unemployment rate 3.3% for veterans and 3.9% for non- veterans. Monthly multi-employer hiring events ongoing. 77 events are scheduled currently. Reach out to them for details.
- American Legion Post 2 – Mike Testerman – 7 Feb next meeting. Mid- winter conference upcoming. Oratory competition ongoing. Still working on their new building. Easter Egg hunt coming up 16 April.
- American Legion Post 212. Samantha Shreves – no report
- American Red Cross – Travis Burchett -. Looking to export resiliency training to other organizations. If you are interested, please let them know.
- AMVETS Post 75 in Newport – Leslie Purser- no report
- Army Reserve Ambassador Program Eastern TN – Leslie Purser – no report
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger – no report
- Bunker Labs – Derren Burrell – no report.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078- Pat Polis – The Wall that Heals is coming in April. Opens 21 April and will be open until 24 April. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
- Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Morristown – Leslie Purser - Last year they held 5 food pantries, 15 benefit drives and 8 funerals. 17 Feb is the next food pantry. They also had a great time on all their motorcycle rides.
- Consolidated Nuclear Securities SOS – Bonnie Harlow– Postponed Dark Horse Lodge work weekend. Participating in Female Veterans event.
- Covenant Health Military Recognition Program – Cindy Winterberger – no report
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas – no report.
- East Tennessee Veteran's Honor Guard – Jim Mungenast – WATE Channel 6 presented checks to each Honor Guard unit. Over \$77k was raised.

- East Tennessee Veteran's Memorial Association - Joleen Dewald – Never too early to be planning for Medal of Honor dinner on May 2nd at the Foundry. Sgt Troy McGill will be honored. Special pricing for veteran organizations will begin 2/1 and will only last the month of February. The event sold out last year, so buy your tickets early. John McMannis will be speaker.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) –Jim Mungenast – 50th anniversary of ESGR. The Guard and Reserve force comprises 40% of our military. First Baptist Church of Wartburg and ORNL are the two East Tennessee nominees for the Freedom Award.
- Enlisted Association of National Guard of Tennessee. SMSgt Christopher Gragg – no report
- Frontline Gardens – Stephanie Trost – Offer therapeutic horticulture events for veterans. 21 participants last year. 4 so far this year. Follow them on Facebook.
- Honor Air - Joe Sutter – Flight 30 on 13 April. The Women's Flight has been delayed until the fall because the Women's Memorial is under renovation.
- James H Quillen VA Medical Center – Dean Boros – The safety of Veterans and staff continues to be our top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to strive in providing safe care for our Veterans and a safe working environment for our staff. For our Mt Home service area, over 6,000 Veterans have tested positive for COVID-19 and we are monitoring ~650 active cases...that is almost 6 times higher than last time we met. We have 33 inpatients with COVID in our hospital at this time. There is an extremely high prevalence in the community, with a very high positivity rate, so please take appropriate precautions with social distancing, wearing a mask and using PPE to protect yourself, your loved ones, and our community. We are also still providing vaccinations. Operationally, we are continuing to expand capabilities and capacities to better serve Veterans and have ~\$70 million dollars in renovations and additions occurring at this time. We are renovating the other half of the mental health clinic to upgrade 20,000 sq ft, have an emergency department expansion in the works, and are renovating and expanding our dialysis unit. We are continuing work to increase our clinical specialty footprint in Knoxville as well. Our project for renovating a new leased specialty care Annex in Knoxville has been delayed a little and it appears we will be opening this summer vice early spring. However, we look forward to being able to provide Physical Therapy, Orthopedics, Gastroenterology, Dermatology and perhaps other specialties in Knoxville in the near future. This will be a major win for Veterans in the Knoxville area. We are also pursuing a lease so we can open a Dental Clinic in Knoxville in about another year as well. We are awaiting Secretary of the VA approval and release of the market assessment, which will then go to Congress and the President. We have some incredible growth and opportunities coming to Mt Home, Knoxville, and our service area. It will enable an outstanding trajectory and strategic plan for the next 3-5, and perhaps even 8 years.
- Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Francis D. Grady Assembly 1083 - Henry Usey – no report
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner – no report

- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Emily Hager – Creating a survey to poll the community to see what kind of services they might need that are not being met through their veteran benefits. Also working with the veteran offices as well as community partners to partner together to provide wrap around support to veterans. Hoping to bring back the Freddie J Owens Women’s Summit. Don’t know if it will be live or virtual at this point. Looking to have an art show in April to honor the Month of the Military Child. Please reach out to Emily if you are interested in participating.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries. – Attended Veteran’s Day on the Hill in Nashville to see what legislation is being presented this session.
- Knoxville Vet Center – Lyle Allen –no report.
- Marine Corps League – Ken DeBoer – no report.
- Military Order of the Purple Hearts – Chapter 356- Thomas Booker – no report
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)/ Reserve Officers Assoc.– Bill Grieve – no report
- Operation Last Mile - SSG Christopher Fairchild - no report
- ORNL Veterans Group – Lisa Bollinger – Happy to be nominated for Freedom Award. Thanks to Emily Hager for presenting a program on suicide at ORNL. Several positions open currently at the Lab. Check out their website for details.
- Pets for Vets – Heinz Lauer – no report
- Project Healing Waters – Joe Noe – no report
- Rolling Thunder –Carlos Hollifield – no report
- STAR – Horses & Heroes Program –Chelsea Taylor – programs ongoing and they have great veteran participation. Would love to have a meet and greet to increase participation.
- Team Red White & Blue – Jesse Hawe – no report
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network – Emily Hager- no report.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless - Brandon Harris – Openings in their homeless program and have money for veterans that have been impacted by Covid. Contact Brandon for more information.

- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – Steve Stilts – no report
- United Veterans Council – Natalie Donahue –. Breakfasts ongoing. Need volunteers for the Wall that Heals.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – Mark McDonald – 2 April will be their Golf Scramble at Egwani Farms. UT Veteran’s Memorial dedication will be sometime this year.
- UT Ag Extension – Eileen Legault – no report
- Veterans Appreciation Program – Larry Sharp – no report
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew– 5 March cleanup at Sharp’s Ridge from 9-12. Also hosting a Women’s Veteran Hike on 9 April.
- VFW Post 5154 in Maryville – Kerry Lovely – providing yoga classes on Wednesdays at 3pm beginning on 2.9.2022. For details, email 2016bcsurvivor@gmail.com
- VFW Post 10855 in Alcoa – Charles Robbins – no report
- VVA Chapter 1073 (Morristown) & VFW Post 3380 (Dandridge) & Walter J. ‘Bud’ Bacon Chapter Distinguished Flying Cross Society, East TN Region- W. E. ‘Whit’ Whitworth – The DFC Society Jan 25th meeting cancelled due to COVID. Bill Cauntt taped interview with John Becker (WBIR) was great when televised 13 January. VVA Chapter 1073 upper East TN donated cash support to VFW Chapter 3380 to support a broad program to provide a holiday fruit basket to the home bound and Nursing Home veterans. Quality time was spent with each served. The mutual respect shown during these visits left warm holiday feelings and an appreciation for their service. One veteran passed in early January and the family mentioned how much he appreciated the Fruit Basket and "visit" ! VVA Chapter 1073 provided floral displays at the Morristown Cemetery graves of Veterans and a special memorial service was held with TAPS. The VVA 1073 Chapter provided a FINAL CALL ceremony at four (4) veterans funerals in January that ended with a playing of TAPS at the service.
- **Next meeting: Thursday March 3, 2022, via Zoom**

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer 865/661 9856 or [kim@yourplacetoflourish.com](mailto:kim@yourplacetoflourish.com)**

**ETMAC Board of Directors:**

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Lyle Allen, At Large Director C: 423/631-2048 W: 865/633-0000 x 4407

Robert Brown, ETMAC Calendar C: 865-458-0759 [email: rl\\_brown@hotmail.com](mailto:rl_brown@hotmail.com)

Dent Young, Webmaster, C: 865/604-8621 W: 865/483-7467 [387543@tncap.us](mailto:387543@tncap.us)

## Unit and Veteran Organization Contact Information

### ETMAC

[www.ETMAC.org](http://www.ETMAC.org)

### American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor

<https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/services-by-group/services-by-group-redirect/job-placement-for-veterans.html>

### American Legion

[legionknox.com](http://legionknox.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/>

### American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/>

### Ben Atchley

<http://www.tsvh.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TNStateVetreans/>

### Bunker Labs Knoxville

<https://chapters.bunkerlabs.org/knoxville/>

### Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078

<http://www.vva1078.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/>

### Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc 18-12

<https://www.cvma18-12.com/upcoming-gatherings.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/481217796399085> Disabled Veterans Chapter 24

<https://www.dav.org>

### East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association <https://etvma.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>

### Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)



<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/>

Honor Air

<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/honorair/>

Irreverent Warriors

[dentmanofknoxville@yahoo.com](mailto:dentmanofknoxville@yahoo.com) Jesse Hawe 865/773-2128 or Richard Farrer at 615/490-5715 or <https://www.irreverentwarriors.com/>

Knoxville Habitat for Heroes

<https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/>

Knights of Columbus Henry Usey 865/246-4413

Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council <http://tnvhc.org/>

Knox County Veteran Services Office

<https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/>  
[thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org](mailto:thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org)

Knoxville Vet Center

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Marine Corps League

<http://www.mclknox.org/> Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 356

[www.moph356.org](http://www.moph356.org) Charlie Caldwell 865/368-7289 or [cdcardwell49@gmail.com](mailto:cdcardwell49@gmail.com)

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

[www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org)

Mountain Man Memorial March

<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

Project Healing Waters [FishingJoe.noe@projecthealingwaters.org](mailto:FishingJoe.noe@projecthealingwaters.org) 629-213-9707

Rolling Thunder

<http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>

Team Red White & Blue.

[www.teamrwb.org](http://www.teamrwb.org)

Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless

<https://tvchomeless.org/>

United Veterans Council of East Tennessee, Inc.

<https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/The-United-Veterans-Council-of-East-Tennessee-Inc->

[1912897478820375/](https://www.facebook.com/1912897478820375/)

UT Army ROTC Alumni Council

[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)

<https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/>

Veteran Heritage Site Foundation <http://veteransheritagesite.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundatio>

Volunteer State Honor Guard

<http://www.milhonors.com>

