

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

January 12, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

FEB 4	VVA's "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" Event from Vietnam Trip
MAR 29	Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day Annual Ceremony at World's Fair Park
APRIL 5	Honor Air Flight #23
APRIL 22	10th Annual Mountain Man Memorial March (Gatlinburg)
MAY 1	ETVMA's 7th Annual Medal of Honor Fundraiser Dinner
MAY 27	"Salute to Heroes Night" at Smokies Stadium
MAY 29	ETVMA's Memorial Day "Reading of the Names" (East TN Veterans Memorial)

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 52 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - PO1 Mark Williams, NOSC
 - Miguel Pettus, Humana Guidance Center, Western Ave.
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The November 2016 meeting minutes have been approved as written. The December 2016 ETMAC meeting was cancelled due to the weather and personnel deployed to assist in the Sevier Co. wildfire. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>.
- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** November's ending balance was \$12,974. ETMAC wrote checks for \$8,261. Made deposits of \$5,040 (primarily for Veterans Day Luncheon payments). November's month end balance was \$9, 754. In December, ETMAC wrote checks for \$2,619. Made deposits of \$4,206. December's month end balance was \$11,341. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Patrice or the treasurer at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee. Steve also gave special thanks to Owen Ragland for all that he has done and his

leadership as ETMAC president for the last 2 years. He also authorized that Owen be given an ETMAC coin.

- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** Please send any info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com.
- **Election of Officers & Board Members for 2017 (Owen Ragland):** Thanked previous Board members Jim Mungenast, Todd Johnson, and Barry Allen and officers for serving and completing their terms. Also thanked the Nominating Committee - Jim Mungenast, Joe Sutter, and Jack D'Araujo - for submitting their nomination recommendations report for President, VP, Treasurer, and 2 Board positions. President accepted their report. As a note, all Board members and officers serve without compensation. Only ETMAC members in good standing can be nominated. Candidates are also eligible for re-election.
 - ❖ **Election of Board Members to serve 3 Year Term**
 - Board members currently serving: Jack D'Áraujo, Dave Roberts, Josh Richardson, Breckenridge Morgan
 - Nominees submitted by the Nomination Committee
 - Joleen DeWald
 - Freddie Owens
 - No nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Col Lee Hartley, Jr., and seconded by Steve Dillenburg.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of President to serve 1 Year Term**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Major Stephanie McKeen
 - No Nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Joleen DeWald, and seconded by Steve Dillenburg
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of Vice President to serve 1 Year Term**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Jess Hernandez
 - No nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion to cease nominations and call for vote. Motion by Steve Dillenburg, and seconded by Joleen DeWald.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - ❖ **Election of Treasurer to serve 1 Year Term**
 - Nominee submitted by the Nomination Committee: Darren Burrell
 - No nominees from the floor submitted
 - Motion made and seconded to cease nominations and call for vote.
 - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

The ETMAC historian and secretary positions are appointed by the President. All new officers will begin serving February 2017. Owen said ETMAC attendance has increased and the group has built a synergy within the community. He said he has seen where organizations are supporting other organizations, and he thanked everyone for their participation in helping to make it successful.

- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Steven Dillenburg completed an income and expenses analysis from last year. ETMAC had a decrease of \$2,100. Owen explained that

ETMAC membership dues go toward supporting financial requests for events from military and veteran organizations. The funds also support the website maintenance. Last year, ETMAC used funds to be a sponsor for the Smoky Mountain Air Show in April. Recently, ETMAC received a request from LMU's College of Veterinary Medicine to support a grant they applied for, which focuses on veterans interested in agriculture fields for their "Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development" program. ETMAC wrote a letter to support their efforts. Owen also gave each of the unit commanders a certificate for their outstanding enlisted members who were honored at the ETMAC luncheon, so they can use it to recognize their members. Heather Hatcher will be departing as ETMAC secretary. Owen thanked her for her service as secretary for the past 2 years.

- **Special Presentation (Col Lee Hartley):** The 134th ARW sent about 20 of their service members to Sevier Co. to assist with the wildfires, and in removing debris, and later helped with the tornado disaster in other counties. The 134th ARW had a base Christmas party fundraiser and honored the Red Cross by presenting Jess Hernandez with a \$2,000 check. Jess thanked the 134th ARW. He also thanked Red Cross staffer Jackie Bridgeman for all efforts she made in quickly opening the first Red Cross shelter in Sevier Co. during the wildfire.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** ETMAC membership dues for 2017 are now being accepted. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations / units / organizations. Annual dues can be given to Patrice or the treasurer at the monthly meetings by check or cash, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee. Also, Patrice reminded everyone who sends her flyers, to please compose your email with your information already in it, so she can send it out as is by mass email.

[EVENTS]:

- **Knoxville Community Action Committee** is looking for retired military or veterans who would like to volunteer with their **Volunteer Assisted Transportation program**, where they drive Knox Co. seniors and disabled persons to medical appointments, essential errands, and other activities. CAC provides the vehicles which volunteers will be driving, and provides training classes. For more information and to apply, call the Knox Co. CAC at (865) 673-5001 or email them at vat@cactrans.org.
- **May 27th: "Salute to Heroes Night" at Smokies Stadium** will be on Saturday, May 27th this year, which is Memorial Day weekend. They're also looking for any returning military soldiers who wish to surprise their family on the field. If interested, contact Patrice and she'll give you the contact person's information. To find out more, visit <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t553>.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** Their banquet was in December in Nashville. Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson is the new commanding general for the TNSG. They will soon be getting new uniforms. They're also still recruiting new members such as veterans, former police and security officers. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Willie Posey):** Have deployed several of their members in worldwide cyber operations to support the Air Force's intelligence network. Several of their members are deploying to Washington, D.C. this month to support security during the upcoming presidential inauguration. This will be the 3rd inauguration they have assisted in.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Col Lee Hartley, Jr.):** They will be pairing with the 119th CCS in assisting them in Washington, D.C. with security detail during the presidential inauguration. They are also gearing up for inspection in May.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Andrew Wyman):** Had 4 full-time members recently depart and new ones will be starting. In the summer there will be a change of command with a new battalion commander in March. They also have an upcoming construction mission overseas.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** Air Force revamped its tattoo policy. The AF is making a lot of changes on relaxing entry qualifications. Any applicant who was disqualified prior to the changes can reengage with their local recruiter. Also, AFRC is available for any speaking engagements or events in the community.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Thanked all who donated to the Toys for Tots program, and thanked the volunteers. They were able to serve 1,600 families, and received and distributed more than 15,000 toys.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Kevin Donovan):** Have 230 students currently on campus for their NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School. They have their newly built state-of-the-art facility now, and organizations are welcomed to use their space for meetings, training events, etc.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** They are prepping for their upcoming inspection in mid-February. They have been busy recruiting applicants in all branches of service. They assessed 1,000 applicants so far this fiscal year and shipped out almost 500. MEPS can also help arrange oaths of enlistment for a group.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (PO1 Noah Jaques):** Will have a change of command on April 1st.
- **Tennessee Wing Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** They supported the wildfire efforts, and used 2 of their aircraft per day for 6 weeks covering all of East Tennessee. They helped in documenting and identifying the fires. They also have an inspection in June.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** Will commission a dozen officers in May. There is a rising trend in AF ROTC showing an increase in requirements for the officers' side as well.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Paula Penson):** They had a very successful Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament last October and raised more than \$6,000. Cyber Patriot, which is the AF Association's competition for cyber security, has 4,000 teams that compete nationwide. The State of Tennessee will have 70 teams competing this year from all different service branches. AFA is also encouraging any teachers in middle or high school to consider joining them, and are looking for teacher nominations for their Teacher of the Year Award. If you have a nominee, please contact Paula. To learn more

about AFA or the CyberPatriot competition, visit the AFA website at <http://www.afa.org/home>.

- **American Legion:** They meet the first Monday of every month at the Red Cross Office Building. For more information on the local American Legion, visit <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** This weekend they will be installing free smoke alarms to inner city homes and communities, and at-risk families. They're looking for volunteers who may be interested in helping to install. They have a list of scheduled dates you can view. AmeriCorps is also engaging veterans and service members in community activity, and those interested can sign up to participate.
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home (Doug Ottinger):** Thanked the Red Cross and the veteran service organizations for all their support in the birthday parties and events they hold for their residents every month. Also thanked Larry Sharp with the Veterans Appreciation Program.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):**
[EVENT]:
 - **April 22nd:** 10th Anniversary of the *Mountain Man Memorial March* which is held in Gatlinburg, TN. They will soon be meeting with the Sevier County police chief and fire chief to discuss alternate routes for their starting and ending points due to the wildfire aftermath and debris blockage. 150 runners have registered so far. You can register here for the event at <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>. Saturday, April 22nd, is the race, and Friday is the opening ceremony. ETVMA said the Gold Star Families have chosen to pay for their own lodgings this year, and have decided proceeds should go to the Sevier County Rescue Fund toward wildfire relief efforts.
 - **May 1st:** The annual *Medal of Honor fundraiser dinner* is Monday, May 1st. This year they will be honoring WWI MOH recipient J.E. "Buck" Karnes, U.S. Army, who passed away in 1966. His family has been invited to attend the event. MOH recipients from recent conflicts will also be attending as special guests.
 - **May 29th:** Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day, is ETVMA's "*Reading of the Names.*" Volunteers are welcomed to read names starting at sunrise at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park. They will be reading all 6,000+ veteran names on the Memorial. They're currently looking for volunteers for the event. Eight additional names will be added to the Memorial this year. For more information or to volunteer, email Joleen at <mailto:joleen@etvma.org>.

Joleen also encouraged everyone to visit the new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on E. Governor John Sevier Hwy. The dedication ceremony was in November 2016. Joleen thanked everyone for their support. For more information on ETVMA, visit <https://etvma.org/>

- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Freddie will not be available for any Veterans Day events this year. He will be in Washington, D.C. reading names from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Council worked with Covenant Hospice's Volunteer-to-Volunteer program, which pairs veterans to visit with veterans in hospice care. The Council also conducted QPR training in Morristown and presented more Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemorative lapel pins. This March, they will be having Phase II of "When War Comes Home" at Concord United Methodist

Church, and will be training them on the responsibilities of a veteran friendly congregation. Anyone is welcomed to participate. The event is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will also be visiting Owen Ragland's church, and speaking with them in becoming part of the Veteran Friendly Congregations program. Freddie presented Owen with a Vietnam Veteran 50th Anniversary Commemorative coin. To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit their website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.

- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Bob Williams):** They'll be having a Yellow Ribbon event Jan. 21-22nd at the ARNGB. ESGR will be supporting the event.
- **Honor Air:** Flight #23 will be Wednesday, April 5th, and will have veterans from WWII, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War. Flight #24 will be in August, when they will be taking all Vietnam War veterans. And Flight #25 will be this October. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** For veterans' services and benefits assistance, contact Tom Humphries at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** They recently supported an event where local students received scholarships from the MCL. They're already prepping for the Mud Run for later this year. The Fleet Reserve Association just finished their essay competition, an essay contest for grades 7-12 and the theme was "What Memorial Day Means To Me." A local student's essay was nominated to be sent to the regional competition, and then later could be selected to go to the national competition. The national prize is \$5,000. MCL is also holding an Armed Forces Day ceremony and will soon have more information on the event. For more information, visit <http://mclknnox.org/>.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Owen Haddock):** MOWW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting. Membership is open to officers from all uniformed services to include the Coast Guard, the National Health and Human Services, and the National Meteorological departments. Their next guest speaker will be Capt Willie Posey with the 119th CCS. The meeting is on Feb. 8th. Owen also spoke about Leo Holloway, who had passed away in December 2016. Owen had given his eulogy. Owen also wrote an article in Mountain Escapes magazine about Leo. Here is the link to his story - <https://issuu.com/mountainescapesmagazine/docs/mountainescapes-january2017-issuu>
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (Cindy Manz):** They have fly tying classes right now on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Red Cross Office Bldg. from 6-9 pm. Tuesday and Wednesday are the same class, in case you miss Tuesday's class. Dan MoneyMaker teaches the classes. They will start building rods in February, and will fish in the spring. Feb. 8th is their regional meeting in Murfreesboro. They also have an all women's event coming up in October in Florida. It will be a 4-day retreat. PHW currently meets once per month, every Tuesday, at the Red Cross Bldg. at 6 p.m. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** The program is currently revamping its website, and bringing in more participating businesses. VAP is a resource program for individuals and businesses that are committed to providing discounts, products, or services to veterans and military members. Go to

<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> to post your business or to learn which businesses are offering discounts to veterans and military members. The program also provides participating businesses with a decal to post on their door/window to identify the business as a member of the Veterans Appreciation Program. VAP gives some of its proceeds back to the military community. Contact Larry for any questions about the program at (865) 603-1974 or by email at VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com.

- **Veterans Heritage Site Foundation (Pearl Rich):** They turned in their official design proposal to Knox Co. Mayor Tim Burchett. It was received favorably. They will pick 1 design out of 3 provided. Mayor Burchett will also be reaching out to City of Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero to make it a county-city project. Pearl thanked everyone for their support. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more about the Veteran Heritage Site Foundation, or to join or donate.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** On Jan. 24th, VVA will be taking Vietnam veterans on a trip to Vietnam and will be returning Feb. 4th. John Becker with WBIR will be going with them. Don will provide the time and location of their return soon so the East Tennessee community can welcome them home. VVA chapters across the state had collected funds for the Gatlinburg wildfire relief efforts, and have received more than \$5,000. They're working to identify military members and veterans to whom they can distribute it, who have a specific need as a result of the fire. Feb. 8th is the 2nd Annual "Veterans Legislative Day" at the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville. Contact Don if you wish to participate or for more information. On Wednesday, March 29th, at 10 a.m. is the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day Annual Ceremony at World's Fair Park. VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. For more information on the Capt. Bill Robinson VVA Chapter 1078, visit www.vva1078.org.
- **Women Marines Association (Lindsay Long):** They will be having their Women Marines Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, at Aubrey's Restaurant at 4 p.m. They will also have a celebration event next month.
- **Women Veterans of America (Pearl Rich):** Pearl attended the Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down in September and met a lady there who was not able to afford Christmas gifts for her children. WVA helped provided Christmas gifts for them.
- **Rolling Thunder TN Chapter 3 (Linda Owens):** They'll be having a chili cook-off in March and will have more information soon on date, time, and location. They are also collecting food for the Blount Co. food pantry.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Reminded everyone that last month was the 75th Anniversary on the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Joe told a brief story from that day.
- **President's Closing Statement (Owen Ragland):** Owen thanked everyone, and said to keep those who are deployed and their families in your prayers, as well the wildfire victims, Capt Ferguson's daughter who has leukemia, and Owen's son-in-law who is deploying. He also encouraged everyone to continue to support the community and to be a leader.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. You do not have to be military/veteran to join, need only a desire to support ETMAC's mission.

- ❖ Parking validations are available for those who park in Market Square Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice for a parking validation.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2017, at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.