

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

July 14, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JULY 22	Monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House (Merchants Dr.)
AUG 6	Gulf War Veterans' "Welcome Home" BBQ & Picnic (Cove at Concord Park)
AUG 20	3rd Annual "Hope Gala" Fundraising Event for Veteran Homelessness
AUG 27	American Legion Post 2 Annual Memorial Ride
AUG 27	UT Medical Center's "Man Run" for Prostate Cancer Awareness
SEPT 2	Project Healing Waters' Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Fundraising Banquet
SEPT 10	MCL's Jim Putman Memorial Rifle Match (Volunteer Rifle & Pistol Club)
SEPT 17	Marine Mud Run (Melton Hill Park)
SEPT 23-24	VVA's Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pinning (Walmart in Turkey Creek)
SEPT 24	Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down (Natl. Guard Armory, Sutherland Ave)

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, July 14, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 61 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - SSG Ryan Larkin, US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command
 - Capt. R.C. Sangil, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment
 - Lt Col Lee Hartley, Vice Commander for the 134th Air Refueling Wing
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The June 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>.

- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$10,470. ETMAC wrote checks for \$351. Made deposits of \$102. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$10,221. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Steve or Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.
 - Owen reported that *Tim Romero from Enterprise Holdings* attended last year's ETMAC luncheon and was so impressed by what ETAMC is doing in the community that his company gave a \$2500 donation to support ETMAC's ongoing mission. Owen gave much appreciation to Enterprise Holdings. The check has been deposited but was not included in this month's treasurer report.
- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** 87 viewing sessions. 98% were new sessions. 99% of visitors were using Chrome browsers. 54% were male, and 46% female. 86% of visitors were from the United Kingdom, followed by U.S. visitors at 7% and Russia visitors at 2%. Please send any info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):**

[EVENTS]:

 - **Aug. 20th:** The *3rd Annual "Hope Gala" for Veteran Homelessness* is Saturday, August 20th, at 6 p.m., at Jackson Terminal, 205 W. Jackson Ave. The Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless will be hosting the Hope Gala in an effort to raise funds to move homeless veterans and families into permanent housing and to bring awareness to veteran homelessness in our community. Dinner will be served. A guest speaker will be featured. Hope Gala tickets are \$50 each, or \$400 for a table of 8. Donations are also welcomed. All proceeds will go to helping local homeless veterans. Patrice is a ticket table captain, so contact her at (865) 806-4487 or by email at pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com to reserve your tickets. Visit <https://tvchomeless.org/hope/> for more event information.
 - **Nov. 11th:** The *Annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon* is Wed., Nov. 11th at the Knoxville Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. Seats are limited to 400 and will sell quickly, so get your tickets early. This year's luncheon will feature a guest speaker from the Marine Corps. Owen is currently taking recommendations from the Marines for guest speaker. More details will be posted to the ETMAC website soon. Contact Patrice for any questions.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Officials from the Smoky Mountain Air Show sent a thank you card to ETMAC for their sponsorship during the event. ETMAC's brand was exposed to 75,000 people per day. Owen said the Air Show did an outstanding job in recognizing the sponsors. Col Lee Hartley from the 134th ARW said it was a tremendous event for East Tennessee and that the response was triple from what they were expecting.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** Successfully completed a multi-state emergency communications exercise for the Southern Region. Brigadier General Kenneth Takasaki will be retiring on Aug. 6th. Colonel Craig Johnson, Ret., who last served as the commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, will be his replacement. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Willie Posey):** Working with their 624th Operations Center partners in supporting a real world exercise. Received their unit manning document in May, and are now waiting on further results from the National Guard Bureau in D.C.
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion (LTC Pat Wade):** Finishing up their reorganization from swapping over aircraft to Black Hawks at McGhee Tyson ANGB. Now have 11 of 12 authorized aircraft that are medical/ambulance helicopters. In April they picked up 3 helicopters from the New Hampshire National Guard. Since March, they've conducted 4 rescues in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by teaming up with park rangers and TEMA. Last weekend, the crew members that performed these rescues were awarded Sikorsky Rescue Awards from the Adjutant General and a representative from Sikorsky Aircraft. The unit also has conducted training on capabilities of the aircraft and had orientation with Anderson County emergency management and first responders. Similar training is set for July 23rd with Claiborne County's emergency management team. The battalion is also working with ESGR on an airlift demonstration for 20 employers who employ soldiers from their unit.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Lt Col Lee Hartley):** Deployments to U.S. Central Command are ongoing. In the last year, they have deployed more than one third of their guardsmen. In April, they started partnering with 1-230th in their new mission in combat survival training for their air crew. Recently, the state worked on Tennessee Maneuvers, which started in 1942 when Tennessee was preparing to train for World War II. This year, the purpose of the exercise is to "maintain a positive, public awareness while building and maintaining trust and confidence in the state's military forces and to ensure the value of the state's citizen soldiers are continually evident within the state and the community." The 134th ARW sent a number of members to Memphis for an earthquake exercise. They also recently assisted in refueling support to the 347th Rescue Group in a rescue mission of 2 fishermen in Bermuda who had been burned. On July 16th, the remains of WWII U.S. Army Air Forces Private Evans E. Overbey, who was from Elizabethton, TN, will be interred in Johnson City, TN. The ARW will be supporting this with a flyby.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Capt R.C. Sangil):** Recently returned from a Warfighter exercise, which exercised their regimental headquarters and squadron headquarters. Also had members at Camp Shelby, MS for annual training. A month ago they represented the Tennessee National Guard in the Sullivan Cup, which is a tank crew competition. They will be teaming up with the North Carolina National Guard tank crew team to represent the United States in the Worthington Cup, which is Canada's version of the tank crew competition. The 2 teams will be the only ones in the competition from the United States. Over the next couple of years, they will have a big rotation at Ft. Hood, TX and a huge training event at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in California.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Aug. 13-14th is their Job Fair and Family Day. September 17th is the Marine Mud Run.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Kevin Donovan):** Currently have 200 students on campus for NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School. Civil Air Patrol is on campus for their Regional Staff College classes. Are prepping for INLEAD, an international NCO leadership development seminar, which TEC will host in

September. They will have 40 students from countries throughout the world, from Canada, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland.

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** They process about 200 new recruits per month. Just finished their student testing program for the 2015-16 school year, and are getting ready to roll into their 2016-17 school year testing.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (LCDR Jeremy Farmer):** They participated in Gatlinburg's Fourth of July parade along with the Marines. July 16th is the one year anniversary of the shooting at the Chattanooga NOSC. Commander Farmer asked everyone to keep the Marines and sailors and their families in your prayers. This weekend is also their monthly drill for their sailors. Will have 400 Marines and sailors in attendance.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CDR Dave Roberts):** There have been several lives lost during the month of July. In the local area, there have been 2 drownings. They've investigated almost 15 boating accidents with injuries, a number of boating collisions, and boating under the influence incidents. Commander Roberts said education can help prevent this. He said they offer safe boating classes, can inspect vessels, and can come out and speak to your local units.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Capt Drew Ferguson):** Have 13 cadets that will be attending field training this summer at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. Cadets are selected for leadership field training during their sophomore or junior years. Are anticipating 40 new cadets to start in the fall, which will bring their cadet wing total to 85 cadets. Major Michael Wilson is in Florida now, and wanted to pass along his thanks and goodbyes. Capt Mark Farley will be returning to the Detachment. Capt Ferguson also introduced TSgt Meighan McAnney, who is an NCO of the detachment who has been there 2 1/2 years. Capt Ferguson also expressed his thanks to everyone for the thoughts and prayers on behalf of his daughter Daphne, who was diagnosed with Leukemia. She has been in remission for a couple of months now.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Steve shaved his head to support Luke Caldwell, who has a brain tumor. Steve is dedicating his training (50 miles of weekly training) for the Atomic Man Triathlon, coming up in October, to Luke. Steve shared the Caldwell family's thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Steve asked everyone to continue praying. Luke will also be AFA's special guest of honor at their Annual Brig. Gen. Walter J. "Bud" Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament on Oct. 11th. To learn more about AFA, visit their website at <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Bill Frazier):** Saturday, Aug. 27th is the American Legion Post 2 Annual Memorial Ride. Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the Tennessee Smokies Baseball Park. The ride will end at the Harley-Davidson in Clinton, where there will be food and music. The ride is for motorcycles and automobiles alike. The American Legion is also preparing for the Veterans' Day Parade; you can now register online at <http://legionknox.com/>. AL had a Knoxville City Hall meeting July 14th to resolve a zoning issue so they may sell their property and find a new home. AL has been in Knoxville since 1919, which is 5 months younger than the American Legion itself, nationally. If anyone has things they need help with, AL can be of service to your groups. Contact them if so.

- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Thanked everyone who attended last month's celebration of the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes 25th Anniversary. Thanked John Dyess and ESGR for their participation in presenting certificates to the veterans. He also thanked Don Smith and the VVA for their support in providing Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pins to their Vietnam veterans.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Had an outreach event with VVA in Morristown last month. 100+ veterans attended. The Council is helping the veterans establish a peer support group in Morristown. Attended a Korean War veterans' luncheon last month with more than 200 persons in attendance. They also had 4 justice-involved veterans graduate from the Veterans Treatment Court - 2 in Monroe Co. and 2 in Loudon Co. Interim Director Dan Snyder, of the VA Medical Center in Johnson City, was present at the ceremony. The Council also held an outreach event in Cherokee, NC for Vietnam veterans, and presented Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pins to Vietnam veterans. If you know of any Vietnam War veteran without a lapel pin, you can contact Freddie, Don Smith from VVA, or Knox Co. VSO Tom Humphries so the veteran can be properly presented with one. Recently the Council received the VA Office of the Inspector General's Report back in reply to their 2014 inquiry asking for an investigation into several of their concerns. A copy of the Council's reply to the findings is available upon request. Contact Patrice for a copy. Aug 27th is the 9th Annual Man Run event to raise Prostate Cancer Awareness in which Freddie was asked to be the spokesperson as a prostate cancer survivor. The 10K Race starts at 8 a.m. 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 8:15 a.m. \$15 registration fee for military members, and \$25 regular fee for individuals. 100% of the proceeds will benefit prostate cancer research, outreach, and educational programs in East TN. To sign up for the Man Run, visit <http://www.utmedicalcenter.org/cancer-institute/calendar-events/the-man-run/>.

- Owen Haddock recently wrote an **article in *Mountain Escapes Magazine*** featuring the Council. Article can be found on page 11 of <https://issuu.com/mountainescapesmagazine/docs/mountainescapes-july2016-issuu>

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 (Jack D' Araujo):** There are currently 22,000 guardsmen and reservists involuntary serving Title 10 Active Duty, and 5,000 on voluntary status. ESGR participated in a Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment program with the 117th Military Police Battalion from the Tennessee National Guard. July 28th will be the signing event where Knox Co. Mayor Tim Burchett will sign his support to a proposal to extend military leave to all guardsmen and reservists to 30 days, from the current 15 days which the current law requires. They hope this will be a model for other employers.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #21 took place June 8th. 149 Vietnam War veterans were onboard. They had a huge Welcome Home turnout from the community greeting them upon return to McGhee Tyson Airport. Flight #22 is planned for October 5, 2016, and will have WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans on flight. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.

- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Effective July 1, 2016, property tax relief rules were relaxed to repeal the rule that 100% Permanent and Total disabled veterans whose income limit exceeded \$60,000 per year were not eligible for property tax relief. The income cap has now been repealed. For veterans' services and benefits assistance, contact Tom at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** The Marine Mud Run is Saturday, Sept. 17th, at Melton Hill Park. They're looking for teams, sponsors, and volunteers. For information on the Mud Run, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>. Sept. 7th-11th is Marine Week in Nashville. They're expecting 700 Marines. The week-long event will entail the U.S. Marine Band and static aircraft displays. MCL's Jim Putman Memorial Rifle Match is Saturday, Sept. 10th, at the Volunteer Rifle & Pistol Club. All are invited to participate. Their Jack McGivney Memorial Pistol Match is Saturday, Oct. 15th. To learn more about the MCL and for more event 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 all uniformed services to include the Coast Guard, the National Health and Human Services, and the National Meteorological departments. Their July 13th meeting guest speaker was Scott Johnson, a current FBI agent and former rescue pilot that flew during Black Hawk Down in Somalia. The meeting had a big turnout which lead to an overflow room. They've been focusing on speakers related to Homeland Security. Owen was asked to become a part of MOWW's National Security Program. Their next meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 10th and will feature guest speaker Major Hank Hamblin, a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan.
- **Project Healing Waters (Dan Moneymaker/Cindy Manz):** Had their meeting last week and picked up 5 new members. Are averaging 4 new members per month. This weekend at Miller's Island on the Clinch River is their women veterans' only retreat. PHW has hosted 4 outings from other PHW groups all over the state. They are currently taking any old fishing rods or even broken ones, as they can repair them. September 2-3, 2016 is their tournament, which is only in its 3rd year and the local PHW has helped make it the 3rd largest moneymaking tournament in the entire PHW. If you're interested in attending the Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge Fundraising Banquet on Friday, Sept. 2nd, from 6-9 p.m., visit <http://www.smokymountainslam.com/> for more information. Dan introduced Cindy Manz, who is a spouse of a military veteran who participated in PHW who passed away in September. She is passionate about PHW and has continued to be a part of it since. She is now the project assistant lead with Steve Thompson. PHW was awarded scholarships from Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg. They will have 8 participating. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Veterans Heritage Site Foundation (Jessica King):** Thanked everyone who came out to support their Pancake Breakfast in June. Raised \$908. The Foundation met with the City of Knoxville recently to discuss the design of Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park. They will be putting a Mount Volunteer, which will be made from recycled metal, on the side of the Ridge. It will feature Tennessee war heroes and will be viewable from the interstate. Sept. 3rd is the Alcoa Freedom Fest 5K Run/Walk, which they will be

fundraising at the Blue Slip Winery downtown Alcoa. There will be live music all day and fireworks in the evening. Tickets are \$5/person. Admission for children age 10 and under is free. Nov. 5th they'll be having the first Veteran Heritage Ridge Run, a 5K Trail Run on Sharp's Ridge Trails. Also, June 22nd they had their monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House on Merchants Dr. The veteran's beer muster event takes place on the 22nd of every month, in support of the "22 Too Many." The Beer Muster is from 6 p.m. until close. David Lawson, one of their Heritage Site Foundation members, and a professional photographer, has made some prints if anyone is interested in buying. Proceeds will go to the Sharp's Ridge Park Project. 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):** Presented 80 commemorative lapel pins to Vietnam veterans at last month's Walmart event, 56 pins to Ben Atchley residents, and 95 at the annual VFW State Convention in Murfreesboro last month. The 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pins are given to Vietnam veterans to thank and honor them for their active service during the Vietnam War. By direction of DOD, each pin must be presented to each individual it is given to. The pinning must be done from an organization who is a commemorative partner. VVA will be setting up their next pinning event for Sept. 23-24th at the Walmart in Turkey Creek. Please bring a copy of your DD214 or equivalent with you. Eligibility Criteria: For veterans who served on active duty from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 30, 1975. Veterans do not have had to serve in Vietnam to be eligible. (The same eligibility holds true for VVA membership). If you have an organization that has members eligible, contact Don to make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. For more information, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

[EVENTS]:

- Aug. 6th: Gulf War Veterans Welcome Home BBQ & Picnic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Cove at Concord Park. Admission is free. Veterans and their families are welcomed. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Please register online at the chapter's website prior to the event at www.vva1078.org. Service organizations and units are also welcomed to attend and set up a table at the event.
- Sept. 23-24th: VVA Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pinning at Walmart in Turkey Creek

VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families (Carla Kimble):** Please refer any homeless veterans to VOA/SSVF for assistance with services such as housing and case management. Office phone: (865) 524-3926 or email Carla at ckimble@voamid.org.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl Rich):** Their next meeting is July 16th at 10 a.m. at the Red Cross Building on Middlebrook. Pearl attended the recent homeless veterans' burial held and was asked on behalf of the WVA to accept the plaque and flag on behalf of the homeless female veteran. Pearl said she is honored to accept it. WVA is preparing to host the Annual Tennessee Women Veterans Summit to be held in Gatlinburg April 28-30, 2017. They're currently seeking sponsors. On Aug. 20th they will be having a yard sale. Please let them know if there are any items you'd like to donate. WVA can pick up the items from you. They will also be at the September Veterans Stand

Down event and are collecting clothing items for the homeless women veterans at the event. If you have any to donate, please let them know.

- **Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program - Berry's Funeral Home (Janet Guess):** Thanked everyone who supported the Homeless Veterans Burial program held in June. Carla Kimble with VOA/SSVF also received a plaque and flag on behalf of one of the homeless veterans during the memorial. Another Homeless Veterans Burial event will take place in 6 weeks. On July 28th they will be hosting an informational seminar, where they will provide a free dinner and present an overview of veteran burial and spouse benefits and pre-arrangements. The informational seminars are held the 3rd Thursday of every month. For more information on the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program, visit <http://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-us/veterans/homeless-burial.page>.
- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** A program for individuals and businesses who 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. Through the program, Larry was able to help Retired U.S. Army Captain Micah Smith get hired in the Chattanooga/Cleveland area. Contact Larry for any questions about the program at (865) 603-1974 or by email at VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about Army Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds, whose heroic actions while a POW, and brave acts of defiance while being held at gunpoint by a Nazi commander saved nearly 200 Jewish-American POWs during World War II in a German POW camp. Edmonds is the first American serviceman to be given the "Righteous Among the Nations" award by Yad Vashem to this present time. The award recognizes heroics of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

❖ 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, August 4, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.