

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

July 9, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JULY 10 TN Veterans' Business Association's 5 Year Anniversary Party

JULY 13 Green Meadow Club Warrior Golf Tournament for Wounded Warrior Project

JULY 16 Women Veterans of American Info Meeting on veterans memorial park

JULY 17 Smoky Mountain Service Dogs' Graduation Ceremony

JULY 18 Just Add Water's Scuba Diving Event for Veterans Appreciation Day

JULY 18 Women Veterans of America Monthly Meeting

AUG 3 American Legion Post 2 Monthly Meeting

AUG 11 Vietnam Veterans of America Monthly Meeting

AUG 12 Military Order of the World Wars' Monthly Meeting

AUG 15 Saw Works' Band Saw 2015 Brewery Event for Project Healing Waters

AUG 15 American Legion's Charles "Ken" Gray Memorial Ride

AUG 23 Project Healing Waters' Sporting Tournament Event

AUG 29 2nd Annual Hope Gala Fundraising Event for Veteran Homelessness

SEPT 26 Marine Mud Run

OCT 2 UT Army ROTC Alumni Council Golf Tournament

OCT 7 Honor Air Flight #19

OCT 12 Air Force Association Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

OCT 17 Vietnam Veterans of America's Welcome Home Gulf War Veterans Event

NOV 11 Annual Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by American Legion Post 2

NOV 11 ETMAC's Annual Veterans Day Luncheon

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 9, 2015 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 Owen Ragland
 - **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Chad Rogers, Project Healing Waters
 - Robert Bogus, Project Healing Waters
 - Adam Palmer, Saw Works Brewing Company
 - Jessica King, Commandant for Chapter 44 Women Veterans of America
 - 1st Sgt. Symonette, Knoxville MEPS
 - Ms. Terry Smiley, Tennessee Members 1st Federal Credit Union
 - Sara Miller, Knoxville Habitat for Humanity
 - Emily Feedback, Knoxville Veterans Center
 - Travis Lowe, Just Add Water
 - Chief Master Sgt. Edward Walden, new Commandant at Paul H. Lankford Enlisted Professional Military Education Center
 - **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** One change made in June meeting minutes: the First Annual Flag Retirement ceremony for American Legion Post 2 took place on June 14th, not July 14th. Minutes have been corrected.
 - **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$13,561. ETMAC wrote checks for \$210 and made deposits of \$178 from membership dues. As a result, ETMAC membership dues are ahead by 25-30% compared to last year's. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$13,529. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual 2015 dues can be paid to any ETMAC officer or on the ETMAC website at <http://etmac.org/>
 - **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** Website viewership grew this month. Had visitors of 1,124 to the ETMAC website. 69% of those views originated from locations not determined. 28% of views came from the U.S. The website was not visited this last month in the top 10% by China as it normally is. Viewers last month originated from Brazil, Russia, the UK, Malaysia, Spain, and Italy. 46% were male viewers and 54% female. More than 60% of the visitors ranged in ages from 18 to 24. Total number of new visitors: 1,041, of which 83 were returning visitors. Please send anything to be added to the calendar to Barry Allen, ETMAC Webmaster, at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
 - **Guest Reports:**
 - **Project Healing Waters (Wayne Nobles, Robert Bogus, & Chad Rogers):** Sunday, August 23rd they will be holding their sporting clay tournament at the new Blackberry Farm Smoky Mountain Sports Club in Louisville, TN. Final details will be sent to Patrice, who will send further details by email later. Wayne Nobles then introduced Robert Bogus who was appointed the associate program lead for PHW in Knoxville. Bogus explained they are working on an upcoming fly fishing event at the South Holston River in August and then introduced Chad Rogers, also of PHW. Rogers announced the Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge, which is their 3rd largest event that assists in their fundraising. Josh Callahan, who won the PHW's Tennessee Valley Region Participant-of-the-Year Award, searched for a beer distributor for their fundraising event, and was introduced to Adam Palmer, of Saw Works Brewing Company. Saw Works has joined to help raise funds for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.
 - Project Healing Waters is an organization registered with the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**; 3 cents per dollar spent go to the local Knoxville Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. Log on to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> to participate.
- For more information on Project Healings Waters, visit:
<http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

- **Saw Works Band Saw 2015 Brewery Event (Adam Palmer):** Saturday, August 15th, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saw Works Brewing Co. will be holding their First Annual Band Saw 2015 Brewery Event. Proceeds will be donated to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Saw Works will be having its 5th year anniversary and is celebrating with Band Saw 2015, which entails a lineup of 5 live music bands, local food trucks, and new beers brewed - a special beer in particular Saw Works named No Easy Day IPA, and will be donating \$2 of every case sold to Project Healing Waters. They will be selling the packaged product and rolling it out for the first time at the event. The can is designed with a painting of Josh Callahan, member of Project Healing Waters, painted by his wife Jessica, also a member of PHW. Also have received commitment from Project Healing Waters' National Office to assist them in working with military bases around the U.S., starting in the Southeast. Received commitments from both Kroger and Food City. The No Easy Day IPA will be sold in cans exclusively. Their goal is to raise \$30,000 for Project Healing Waters on August 15th. General admission tickets for Band Saw 2015 are \$25 each. Anyone who comes in military uniform gets in free. They're hoping for 2,000 attendees to join them. Adam Palmer said Saw Works Brewing Co. wants to use their resources for wounded veterans and has an amazing opportunity to do so to help. He said Project Healing Waters has been a fantastic partner and looks forward to a very long partnership with them. He wants all to spread the word about the fundraising event, and said to visit their website for more information: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1587078>
 - **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Most of the events discussed during the monthly meetings can also be found at the ETMAC website on the online calendar: <https://www.etmac.org/calendar/>
- **Just Add Water's Free Scuba Diving for Veterans Appreciation Day (Travis Lowe):** Saturday, July 18th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Just Add Water will be holding a free scuba diving event for Veterans Appreciation Day, hosted by Rhea's Diving Services, Inc., at 313 Whitecrest Drive, Maryville, TN 37801. No charge for veterans to scuba dive. The introduction class will last about 2 hours. Just Add Water's goal is to raise enough funds to create scholarships for veterans that want to pursue their first scuba diver certification as a way of saying thank you to all veterans for their service. Bring your bathing suit, a towel, change of clothes, and a desire for adventure. Contact Travis Lowe at (865) 977-0360 with any questions and to reserve your spot.
- **2nd Annual Hope Gala for Veteran Homelessness (Ed Goodman):** Saturday, August 29th, at 6 p.m., at the Jackson Terminal, 205 W. Jackson Ave., the Tennessee Valley Coalition to End Homelessness will be hosting the 2nd Annual Hope Gala in an effort to raise funds to move homeless veterans and families into permanent housing and to unmask veteran homelessness in our community. Ed Goodman is the Supportive Services for Veteran Families' outreach coordinator for TVCEH TN and is heading the event. TVCEH headquarters is at 531 Callahan Drive, Suite 102, Knoxville. They cover 21 counties and have 4 satellite offices - Jefferson City, Oak Ridge, Sweetwater, and one in Kentucky. In Fiscal year 2014, Ed said they were able to place 334 veterans and their family members into permanent housing. Veteran homelessness is the primary part of their organization's mission. They are currently trying to maximize their capability to help homeless veterans, and last year they began the Hope Gala annual fundraiser. Last year's Hope Gala raised more than \$17,000, and this year they're hoping to raise \$30,000. Special guest speaker will be retired U.S. Air Force Captain Bill Robinson, who is identified as being held as a POW longer than any other enlisted man in U.S. history. The Gala will also have a silent auction and they are currently accepting donations for the auction. Hope Gala tickets are \$50 each and you can buy from Patrice. Donations are also welcomed. Ed thanked everyone for their service, and stated "Anyone that fights for our homes should not have to come back home and not have a home." For more details on the Hope Gala event and ending veteran homelessness, visit <https://tvchomeless.org/hope/>
 - Patrice Collins is the table captain for the Hope Gala and is selling 4 tickets. Contact her if interested in buying a ticket.

- **ETMAC Veterans Day Luncheon (Patrice Collins):** On Wednesday, Nov. 11th, ETMAC will be hosting its annual Veterans Day Luncheon. Every year ETMAC honors an outstanding enlisted person from each unit in the area. More details to come later. The guest speaker will be from the Army this year. Speaker to be determined.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Spoke on Green Meadow's Warrior Golf Tournament event (details below). Last year the event raised \$4,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project. They're also looking for sponsors. Owen also reported that ETMAC is ahead on dues compared to previous year. He thanked everyone for paying their membership dues, said it enables ETMAC to assist different groups in the community. If it's your first time at ETMAC, write your email address in the attendance log and ETMAC will add you to the email list. ETMAC emails the meeting minutes and upcoming events in the community.

[EVENT]:

- July 13th: Support the Warrior Golf Tournament at Green Meadow Country Club. 11 a.m. is Check-in. 12 noon is Lunch. 1 p.m. starts the 4-Man Scramble Shotgun Tee Time. All proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project. Call (865) 414-2017 for more information.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Major Jody Ogle):** Spoke about their new mission they are moving toward as the 119th. They are in mission conversion, a 2 year process they'll be spending a lot of time on administrative things with the National Guard Bureau. Are actively training and have much of their team headed to San Antonio, TX to complete their training. Chief Browning is heading up their Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) team which they're sending up to Wisconsin for 1 week for a joint service exercise which also will involve several civilian agencies.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** Team back from Germany after viewing the new mission helicopters. There are 37 total Black Hawks on the boat and Tennessee will get 10 of those. It has been reported the Black Hawks are in good condition. Should see them in Tennessee the first of August. The distribution plans have still not been finalized. LTC Clawson visited the National Guard Bureau in D.C. last week to obtain information on the structure but it's still a very fluid document based on the ARI. While in D.C., he also met with U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander's military legislative liaison and was able to discuss Tennessee's mission and their focus toward the future. Medevac just completed their support of the 278th. They did 5 real world medevacs and had 6 critical patients they were able to take care of. Lots of training missions as well. And to support Camp Shelby, MS efforts they did 8 live-fire missions. In October they hope to have a better idea of what their helicopter structure will look like and will have placed the helicopters in all 3 locations. They also plan on having a Family and Employer Day, where families can come out and view the new helicopters and employers can come see what the new mission is. Everyone in the community is invited.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ John Bowlin):** Has returned home from Camp Shelby, MS and still has one battalion there. Brought everyone home safely. They're in recovery phase now, getting ready to go back next year. Have a few overseas missions and a warfighter exercise. Are in a transition period this year. Gained 3 more companies which bring them up to 33 companies, one of which is the engineers in Morristown. Expressed appreciation for everyone's support.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion (MAJ Bryce Wunder):** Annual training will be in August. Had 2 successful rotations - the National Training Center rotation and a warfighter exercise with the Texas National Guard at Ft. Hood, TX. Lots of logistics, but good missions overall. They did have JRTC rotation scheduled for 2016 but no longer. They may still get it back. Major Wunder is leaving Tuesday for JRTC in Louisiana for 2 years. CPT Adam Stickley will be his replacement. CPT Stickley is on a mission right now at Ft. Knox to prepare and sign for their ranges they'll be using in September. Major Wunder said it has been great working with ETMAC and says hopefully it's a model he finds in Louisiana as well. Has worked with ETMAC, the Red Cross, and other organizations and it has been an excellent 3 years he said.

- **844th Engineering Battalion (CW3 Kelly Harper):** Currently have soldiers overseas supporting operations in Asia. Their mission is humanitarian and supporting infrastructure such as sidewalks, school houses, drilling wells, and other concrete operations, which is what they will be doing on future operations in Africa and Bulgaria, and on post infrastructures at Ft. McCoy, WI.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** Prior Service enlistment program is coming along nicely. Will send their 1st person for basic training in 10 days. Have had lots of personnel changes. Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Richard Mendez is moving to another assignment. The change of command ceremony will take place on July 22nd. Also, their production superintendent is retiring. Also have 3 new recruiters coming in this summer - 2 at their Alcoa office and 1 at their Kingston Pike office.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Jessica Meyeraan):** Today is TEC's 47th birthday. 47 years ago today they graduated their 1st non-commissioned officer academy. And the last 47 years they turned out 40,000 non-commissioned officers and 20,000 airmen. They're celebrating their past but also their future. Construction project update: 40% complete, running along ahead of schedule. June 2016 is the deadline to make it operational. Col. Meyeraan gave thanks to Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross, to ETMAC, to the 134th Air Refueling Wing, and to the Knoxville Police Department for supporting their Family Day event on June 12th which was very well attended. Red Cross brought beverages and helped serve lunch. Fire Department brought their truck. Police Department brought their car. There was a bounce house for the kids. Gave a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped support it. Last week they had 340 graduates, consisting of non-commissioned officer academy and airmen leadership school. One of their airmen recently dived into a river to help save an elderly man's life. Their non-commissioned officers served in the local community turning in 600 hours, from volunteering at a local children's shelter, the veterans' home, and Habitat for Humanity. Yesterday TEC welcomed 187 non-commissioned officers and looks forward to 70-80 airmen next week. Currently have 70 Civil Air Patrol members on campus for their Southeast Region Leadership school. Next week they look forward to welcoming ARNG fire chiefs on campus.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** LCDR McGehee took over as the new commander on June 12th. Also introduced 1st Sgt. Symonette, who started at MEPS July 1st.
 - **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** MEPS processes recruits and swears them in and also makes available for people to go out there for their groups and administer oaths for them. Owen said he has done this in the past and it's a great opportunity and a great way to know what's going on with MEPS.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (PS2 Felix Garcia):** Have drill this weekend. Also likes to promote Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Said he knows a few who suffer from PTSD, and has pitched the idea to them of joining Project Healing Waters.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** This month they have become the 6th Center of Excellence in the U.S. through the organization called STEMspark, a Knox County-based educational coalition that is responsible for promoting STEM schools in this area. AFA nominated STEMspark to become a Center of Excellence. There were 5 others that preceded them: Los Angeles school district is one that has had great success and San Antonio is another. It will allow them to bring additional resources to the schools in this area. Last year they had 24 schools compete in East TN. Goal for this year is higher and this will help accomplish it.

[EVENTS]:

- July 14th: 4 p.m. - Smoky Mountain Service Dogs' Graduation Ceremony will be held at Tellico Village Community Church at 130 Chota Center in Loudon, TN. SMSD invites all to join them for the "Passing of the Leash" ceremony to honor and celebrate the service dogs Nitro and Stryker, who were raised by the Dillenburg and McKeen families. And to honor these 2 veterans: U.S. Army veteran (Ret.) Ike Weaver of Maryville who suffered injuries during combat in Vietnam, and U.S. Air Force veteran (Ret.) Daniel Belcher of Clinton who suffered injuries during combat in Iraq. The ceremony recognizes SMSD

trainers and volunteers who have played major roles in preparing the service dogs for a life of service and in facilitating a better life through canine companionship and service. For more information, visit <http://www.smokymountainservicedogs.org/index.asp>

- **October 12th:** The Air Force Association will be holding their annual Golf Tournament. Steve said it's a great event and a major fundraiser for AFA. The funds go toward their local schools for teacher recognition and grants.
- **American Legion (Mike Testerman):** Their first Flag Retirement ceremony was held on June 14th, where more than 300 flags were retired. They're going to try to make it an annual event. They also had a recent ice cream social with 60-70 attendees, and will be doing the event again in August with local ROTC units. Their state convention will be in Murfreesboro where they'll be working with the shooting team. Veterans Day Parade is Nov. 11th. Further details to follow. Currently are working on their annual membership drive. Their goal is to be a service post to help veterans. Thanked Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross in permitting them to use the Red Cross facility for their meetings.

[EVENTS]:

- **Aug. 3rd:** Next monthly meeting at Red Cross Bldg., 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville.
- **Aug. 15th:** American Legion Post 2 is sponsoring the Charles "Ken" Gray Memorial Ride named "Ride the Rhino to the Island." The event is a fundraiser for the American Legion. \$20 per motorcycle or automobile. The 138 mile ride starts by departing at Tennessee Smokies Stadium at 12:30 p.m. to arrive at The Island, 131 Island Dr., Pigeon Forge. For more information, visit their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Post-2-Knoxville-TN/146872528462>

Mike also spoke about the Scholastic Clay Target Program, a competitive shooting program for youth from 9 years old to high school age and college level. They had their state tournament in Nashville on June 22nd, where they had 2,500 young people participate in a shooting event that lasted a week long. The state champion for age range 13-14 year olds shot 100 straight. Phenomenal shooters, he said.

- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Still have 2 to 4 Nurse Assistant Training Program Scholarships available. Applicants can be active duty, military, guard/reserve, or veteran. Deadline is September. Let Red Cross know of any nominations and RC will contact them. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.redcross.org/tn/knoxville/local-programs/nursing-and-health-education>
For any questions, see Jess or contact the Red Cross office at (865) 584-2999.
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Doug Ottinger):** The veterans' home currently has open beds if anyone knows of a veteran who is in the hospital or on a waiting list. Their veterans' home demographics are as follows: 93 of their 140 residents are age 81 or older. 27 residents are older than 90. Nationally, a typical nursing home has residents whose average age is in the 70s. The veterans' home recently took 10 of their residents to the gun range at Moose Lodge. Every one of them shot well, and one was age 88.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** May 2, 2016 is the date set for ETVMA's annual fundraiser dinner. U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient Ray E. Duke is their honoree; he was the only Tennessee Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War. He too was a WWII veteran. He was also a POW and died on Veterans' Day. More event details to follow. Before the end of the year, tickets will go on sale. WWII Medal of Honor Marine recipient Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr.'s remains are coming home to Knoxville where he grew up. ETVMA will work with the Marine Corps League in doing a memorial event for him when his family members are in town. Also, in joint venture with American Legion, ETVMA is trying to raise \$38,000 for the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states. Currently is just under \$20,000. Looking for any organizations to support the project with the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. For more information or to donate, visit <http://hwwmohfoundation.org/>

- **East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Courts (Freddie Owens):** Knoxville VTC may be the smallest one in the state, but they receive more phone calls than any other location in the state. Still have 7 justice involved veterans (JIVs) in the court system and all are progressing very well. Melanie Cordell, CEO of TN Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, is working with them to convert over the former property that was once the TN Military Institute in Sweetwater. Contact Freddie if interested in helping. Don Dare with WATE 6 news reported on Hillenglade Farm in Nashville, a therapeutic horse farm for a place of healing for wounded veterans, many coping with PTSD. The farm holds a POW day in September. Contact Freddie for more information in learning more about the horse farm. He will give the website and information to anyone seeking help and who wants to register.
- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** About 24,000 guardsman and reservists are still mobilized from federal active duty. The Army, Guard, and Reserve represent 15,000 of that number. The Air Force, Guard, and Reserve is 6,000 of that number, which does not include many of the airlift and air refueling missions all over the world. ESGR held its annual awards luncheon on June 24th for employers who support the Guard and Reserve. Thanked everyone for their participation. Col. Thomas Cauthen, Commander of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, was guest speaker who gave a great presentation. Ret. Maj. Gen. D'Araujo said the Army is reducing its numbers by 40,000 within the next 2 years. He said that's not an insignificant factor as it will cause a lot of turmoil as people are separated early. There is also a commission, chartered by Congress, who is to study the future of the Army, which will affect the size and impact of the Guard and Reserve force. In Feb. 2016 they report their findings to Congress, and then we'll have a better idea of the impact it will have on the Guard and the Reserve.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Honor Air Flight #19 will take place Oct. 7th. They'll be sending out letters later this month to those eligible participants. They'll be taking Vietnam War veterans on this flight for the first time. They should start receiving replies back in 2-3 weeks from those veterans confirming their ability to go on the flight.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Congress approved H.R. 91, Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, which creates a veteran's ID card with picture, name, and an ID number (no SS no. used). Veterans do have to pay for the card. Card will be produced by the VA. Bill passed unanimously. It goes on to be signed by the President next to become law. Also, veterans who worked on C-123 aircraft that were used during the Vietnam War are now deemed to have presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. Those veterans should apply for VA benefits. For more information, visit the VA website at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp> For questions or assistance, contact Tom Humphries at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Jim Williams):** WWII Medal of Honor Marine recipient Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr.'s remains are coming home after 71 years. His remains were found in May. September, possibly Sept. 26th, is the tentative date the family will bury him in Knoxville in the family plot. Jim reported that the Marine Corps League shooting at Camp Perry has started. They will have shooting matches in October. All are welcome to participate. For more information or to view the dates, visit <http://mclknox.org/>
 - **[EVENTS]:**
 - Sept. 26th: Marine Mud Run. Registration is open. Inform your units and in-service rivalry of the Mud Run event. For more information, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** MOWW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothschild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting. Dr. Henry Fribourg will be their next guest speaker. Dr. Fribourg is a Jewish resident in Knoxville whose family fled the Holocaust in 1941. MOWW also announced Phil Claxton, who is secretary for the Vietnam Veterans of America, is one of their newest members. Membership is open to all uniformed services to include the Coast Guard, the National Health Service, and the National Meteorological departments.

- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** July 10th is TVBA's 5-year anniversary. They'll be celebrating on the rooftop of Scruffy City Musical Hall on Market Square at 7:30 p.m. He also commended Saw Works and expressed his appreciation for what they do and urged support for their August Band Saw event.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Phil Claxton):** They have been a VVA Chapter for 3 years. Their membership is growing: 140 members now. They are trying to get 1,000 members, which is only 10% of the Vietnam veterans in East Tennessee, he said. Tell any Vietnam veterans you know about them if interested in joining. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Building, 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville. Their first fundraiser was at the Walmart on Chapman Highway where they brought the Vietnam Travelling Memorial Wall just for Tennessee on June 12th-13th. It was a great experience to see the love people had for the veterans. Collected \$5,000 in donations. Many viewers were associated with Vietnam veterans and their spouses or were young people. VVA will try to make it a monthly event. Oct. 17th is the Welcome Home Gulf War veterans event. More details to come. Phil also asked for Patrice's remaining 2 tickets for the Hope Gala she was selling. He said VVA is trying to be more integrated with the rest of the veteran organizations. VVA wants people to come to them with any projects needed, as they have members who want to get more involved. Also, Knox Co. Veterans Service Officer Thomas Humphries has come to speak with the group about veteran benefits. For more information on VVA or their upcoming events, contact Don Smith by email Donandmarysmith@aol.com or by phone at (931) 335-0477.
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Erin Haverland):** Their Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project helps veterans in need of case management, job training and placement, transportation services, and referrals, and for those veterans who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Erin says their services are specifically geared toward employment and can help provide veterans with gas funds, bus cards, and clothes. Call (865) 524-3926, Ext. 235, 241, or 254 for more information. Their office recently moved locations from Magnolia Avenue and is now located at the Volunteer Ministry Center at 511 North Broadway, Knoxville, TN.
 - **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Dan Helton):** Said he was proud to be serving with SSVF.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Jessica King):** Has been a Chapter in Knoxville for 2 years and has grown increasingly during that short time. Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park is actually a veterans memorial park. They met with Joe Walsh, director of Knoxville City Parks and Recreation, and his maintenance superintendent. WVA said the Director was on board with them for whatever improvements are needed. WVA is in process of raising funds. They are also requesting a giant flag pole surrounded by military flags to be planted on top of Sharp's Ridge. Attend their informational meeting and lend any support as they want feedback from the veterans community. Their informational meeting is July 16th at 6:30 p.m., at the Fountain City Lions Club meeting hall in Fountain City Park. If you know of a woman veteran, active duty, or reservist, WVA meets at the Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home on the 3rd Saturday of every month. For more information, visit their website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>
- **UT Army ROTC Alumni Council (Keith Shields):** Has been recently recognized as an alumni council for the University of TN. Will be holding their first golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 1 p.m. at Three Ridges Gold Course in Knoxville, in conjunction with the Army to help raise funds for scholarships. Visit their website for more information: <http://volarmy.org/>
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Read a brief story about an 18-year-old Marine at sea in 1944.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland):** Thanked all of the organizations and appreciated the synergy between the different groups. Thanked Jess Hernandez from the Red Cross for what they do in the community and their support of these organizations. Veteran organizations want to be known as service organizations and want to support each other. Notify Barry Allen of any meeting times and events to add to the ETMAC calendar and any contact information that needs to be updated.

- ✓ To become an ETMAC member, go to <http://etmac.org/> or see any ETMAC officer after the meeting. You do not have to be military or 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 to have your parking validated.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 6th at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.