



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

June 1, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- JUNE 3 RAM Salute to Service at Knoxville Downtown Island
- JUNE 3 Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Annual Tolling of the Boats Ceremony
- JUNE 6 Habitat for Heroes Volunteer Orientation
- JUNE 17 American Legion Annual Golf Tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course
- JUNE 24 American Red Cross Pedal for the Red at East Jackson Avenue
- JULY 13 ETMAC meeting Chamber of Commerce

For a complete listing please visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 8:30am at the American Red Cross. American Red Cross Regional Service to the Armed Forces Manager, Jess Hernandez presided over the meeting. A total number of **54 members and guests were present.**
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Jess Hernandez.
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - MAJ Joseph Westpaul, Tennessee State Guard, SF5 Civil Affairs Coordinator
 - Kim Spencer, financial planning firm – The Nalls Sherbakoff Group, LLC; Two owners are retired Army Colonels.
 - Kathryn Bearden, Intake Coordinator for Volunteers of American Housing Program
 - Steve Burman, Project Healing Waters
 - Rita Medlin, Veterans Administration, The Women Veterans Project
- **Treasurer's Report:** *unable to attend*
- **Webmaster's Report:** *unable to attend*
- **Veterans Scholarship Fundraiser:** *unable to attend*
- **Habitat for Heroes: Rick Garner** (<http://www.khfh.org>)

Number of groups represented in the ETMAC organization have volunteered in the past to help build homes for Veterans. Currently, there are over 30 military and veteran families in our Habitat Homes. The homes are purchased by the homeowner and they are able to move in, in about 90 days so accelerated from 12 months to 14 months that it normally takes. Veterans are looking to move into homes this Summer and Fall and volunteers are needed to help in different ways, not just construction. Volunteer coordinator is Trinity Edgar at tedgar@khfh.com or 865-523-3539 x108.
- **ETMAC Announcements:** Patrice Collins introduction of self.
 - Introduction of new Secretary, Bonnie Harlow with Holiday Inn Knoxville West at Cedar Bluff, Veteran of the U.S. Army, Military Intelligence
 - **Joint Operation** being planned jointly by Senator Bob Corker, Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressman Jimmy Duncan, Mayor Madeline Rogero and Mayor Tim Burchett, is similar to what was held a few years ago called Rally point. It is a big event for all the Veterans and Military and non-profit organizations that provide services to them. There are fliers in the back. Military

- units and Veteran's Organizations will be setting up booths. Contact Jane Jolley (865) 637-4180 or email: Jane_Jolley@corker.senate.gov for more information.
- RAM is having their **Salute to Service**, June 3rd, this Saturday at theoxville Downtown Island. There are fliers in back or more information online at ETMAC.org calendar.
 - July meeting will be a week later on July 13th because of the 4th of July so we will do it the 2nd Thursday of July.
 - Patrice will be on vacation starting tomorrow. Don't call or email if at all possible, please wait until back from vacation the following week.
- **President's Report:** *unable to attend*

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):**
Presently participating in maneuvers coming up this month with 278th. They are having family days on weapons familiarization again this month and next month across the state. They are always recruiting so if you know of anyone pass on the information on the TNSG visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **1-100th Engineer Battalion:** *unable to attend*
- **119th Command and Control Squadron:** *unable to attend*
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion:** *unable to attend*
- **134th Air Refueling Wing:** *unable to attend*
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (COL Jimmy Cole, Commander of 278th):**
Last meeting mentioned how busy things are with the number of days that their soldiers are expected to participate in training preparing for deployment. 278th is currently in the middle of deployment to Ft. Hood, Texas which started in between May meeting and June meeting. About 98% of the equipment has arrived in Ft. Hood which is several thousand pieces of equipment that was either line hauled or railed out to Ft. Hood. There are presently about 1000 troops on the ground and remainder to depart this weekend. They will be at Ft. Hood until end of June and some of the rear party until the beginning of July. Soldiers will have about 84 training days between now and the end of May, about 3 months away from family and job and deployment after that so a lot of expectations. We will be at the national training center at Ft. Irvin, CA next April. Next few months, will be working on communication strategies to get out to leaders in community so everyone understands requirement and importance of what is going on over the next couple of years. Last couple of weeks, they held a joint educator orientation event with about 20 educators out at our flight facility at McGhee Tysons with educational briefings on what they can bring to table for students of the community and help them to become better leaders in the community.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion:** *unable to attend*
- **844th Engineering Battalion (SM Josh Richardson):**
Continues to prepare for a major exercise at Ft. Chaffee through the month of July so busy with preparations. After that we will do some local stuff for the remainder of the year.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):**
Attended the Salute to Heros night at the Smoky Stadium where there was re-enlistment ceremony. Major Mckeen did an amazing job, as always, singing the National Anthem. It was an awesome event and show of patriotism. Also able to participate in a fitness event at Rocky top crossfit. Without school in session freeing up 6-10 hours a week, need some events to participate in so if anyone knows opportunities in community to let him know – parades, competitions, etc.
- **Coast Guard Recruiting East TN Region –** *unable to attend*
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):**
Thanked the Red Cross for Military Kids Serve, Too! Event. His daughter and Marines participated and it was a great event. Also attended the smokies game where they did color guard and his daughter got to throw the first pitch, so lots of fun. Busy season coming up with a group of marines coming in Sunday taking part in the First Squad competition at Camp Pendleton, CA going against other combat engineer battalions and then supporting the infantry with mountain warfare in Bridgeport later in the month. On a sad note, this will be his last week, got orders to Camp Pendleton but his replacement is CPT Cohen Torres checking in on Monday coming from Quantico. Thanks to everyone for supporting him and family but also the support of Delta company.

- **Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend***
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center - *unable to attend***
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (1SG Yveline Symonette): *nothing to report***
- **Navy Operational Support Center (LCDR Kevin Settle):**
Upcoming events family day will be held on July 9th. Will get more info out to Patrice. Still in the planning stages. Upcoming drill dates are June 3rd and 4th, July 8th and 9th and August 12th and 13th. Have entered the 101 critical days of summer and will look to red cross to help with training in dealing with heatstroke and other dangerous conditions that may arise in the summertime. Just had a recent Change of command, the RCC commander CAPT Gagnee in Jacksonville, FL in charge of the SE region
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young) - *unable to attend***
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CAPT Dave Roberts):**
May was national safe boating week so get a report card on how they did for the previous year through to past May. Good news number of instances down but bad news is that fatalities are up. Reportable accident is damage above \$2000 or injuries requiring more than first aid. Didn't do so well and he takes that personally because they are in the prevention business. Their job to educate. 85% involved in incident never had any kind of training for water and boating safety. They are available and willing to do that, to come to where you are and talk about water safety and boating safety. We are surrounded by beautiful lakes and opportunities to enjoy them but there are many things to remind you of. 10 days ago a family had to grieve; their son didn't graduate high school. Somehow that young man ended out of the boat, wasn't wearing a life jacket and could not swim. He never surfaced. Happy to talk to your commands and continue to push message that life jackets won't work if you don't wear them. Simple and easy message but now, people are grieving over something that didn't have to happen, something that is so preventable. Particularly if you are not a swimmer. Not understanding that, guess it is not cool but we are doing everything that we can to change that. This weekend will be busy, closing the river for the power boat race downtown. However, if you need anything just call and will do whatever they can to help.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster)**
Twelve (12) 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned in May. Seventeen (17) cadets just left out for field training this summer to see who will qualify to be the next batch of Officers in a couple of years. All that he has to report.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association – *nothing to report***
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen DeWald):**
May was very busy. Started with Medal of honor dinner. Have a Limited number coins remaining for this year Honoring James Ernest “Buck” Karnes if you are interested for a \$20 donation and some from previous years to round out your collection. Next year will honor Alvin York which will be held on the first Monday of May, May 7th.
We had the Run for the Wall with all of the bikes that came through. Want to thank all of the organizations that helped to feed them.
Finally, Memorial day, reading of the names, want to thank Stephanie who showed up at 4am along with other members of Post 2 who showed up for that event.
- **American Legion (Joleen Dewald):**
Thanked everyone for coming out to the reading of names and annual memorial day ceremony on Veteran's Day Monday, very pleased with weather and attendance. Sons of Legion is having a golf tournament at Three Ridges on June 17th, Saturday before Father's day \$220 per team includes cart and lunch with all money going to the to Sons of Legion for the Special Olympics and Joy of Music School.
- **American Red Cross (Tom DeHoog):**
On May 20th, Armed Forces Day, the Red Cross was honored to host the Military Kids Serve Too! Day at Dollywood. 232 youth crossed the stage and recived the Red Cross Challenge coin. Additionally, 184 parents attended. We received a \$25,000 grant from Dollywood to offset the cost of this program. Pedal for the Red is coming up June 24th, 25th and 26th in Knoxville and asking for volunteers to help make this event possible.

- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Happy to report that only have one empty bed so and that they have a few positions open, a couple of LPN and CNA positions so if you know of anyone who is looking for a great job and a way to serve, then have them call at (865) 862-8170.
- **Habitat for Heroes** – *already reported out*
- **Veteran's Scholarship Fund** – (Mike) Always looking for opportunity to help out with a Veteran who is transitioning, is happy to do so. Turned over to Dr. Todd White, President of the Brewing and Distilling Center, www.brewinganddistillingcenter.com. A trade school who welcomes Veteran students to assist with transitioning by giving them a trade skill within the distilling industry with lots of opportunities and interest in hiring veterans. About 30-35% of his students are veterans and they are getting great jobs in the industry. As a new school, are not on the GI Bill yet but working towards the steps to be approved for that, but in the interim, the Veteran's scholarship fund is offering money towards that and they are working together to raise as much money as possible for that fund. Call Dr. White at 865-622-7511 or more info or email: todd@getbdc.com
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddy Owens):**
 Last week met with Mike Hammond, criminal, general sessions and fourth circuit court clerk who has been checking into records, over 1650 cases and some of them Veterans in Knox county going back 17 years that have paid fines to get records expunged and to return their rights to vote but have not had this happen. They are working together as part of a committee with a non-profit organization dedicated to , Community Step up together with UT law department and legal aid and with the support of Mayor Tim Burchette and Mayor Madeline Rogero to set a date of October 28 where these individuals will come to the court house. Mayor Burchette will have someone pull all the records so when they come to court, they won't have to wait for paperwork to be researched, that it will all be there ready for them. They have also dropped the fee from \$420 to \$180 which is good because these folks have a hard time getting the money and finding a job so we are grateful for this joint effort to get this done.
 See story: <http://wate.com/2016/05/04/knox-county-criminal-court-clerk-computer-errors-kept-some-cases-from-being-expunged/>
 Care cuts program this Sunday under the bridge, start between 9-10am. Never know how many will turn up. Dropped off clothing and they are very appreciative
 To learn more about Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit <http://tnvhc.org>
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jim Mungenast):** General Frank McKinley who headed up the national guard and became a member of the joint chief of staff retired and then came to the Air Force Association to be our president and CEO and is now going to be national chair for DOD committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.
 Sad news is that State Chair for ESGR, Carl Lambert is in hospice. He is a great man of faith and has a great attitude for someone whose days are numbered. Please keep him in your prayers.
 Asked Bob Williams, committee member to talk about
 Thanks to MAJ McKeen, COL Hartley and COL Coffey and men and women of 134th that keep planes in air. May 17th, we took 41 people including employers and public officials on refueling training mission of F-16 pilots off the coast of Charleston, SC. Lt. Governor, member of the state senate, member of the state house and Gen Johnson, Assistant S-2 and his son was co-pilot on one of the planes. Fantastic trip that gave employers an opportunity to see what men and women do when they are away from their civilian jobs. COL Cole was talking about the amount of training that is going on and and what is critical is to try to get soldiers and airman to advise you where they are employed so that we can invite those employers on some of these flights and training programs because less than 5% have ever worn the uniform in the United States Military and they don't have an idea of what doing that entails – have never been on a military base and have never seen or participated in any kind of military activity. It is vitally important that these employers experience what their guardman and reserve do. Critical that we get the right people, employers, officials, just anyone who needs that experience of insight into the lives and the sacrifices that our military make.
- **Honor Air** – *Unable to attend. Next flight is Wed., Aug 2 – all Vietnam Veterans*
<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- **Knox County Veteran Services Office (Tom Humphries):** *nothing to report*
- **Knoxville Vet Center** – *nothing to report at this time-* Patrice acknowledged that Steve Parella is retiring end of June. He has been a huge support of our military in our area so a huge thank you for all he has done in the Military and in the community.

- **Marine Corps League – (Eric Nash)** Right now we are ramping up for mud run on Saturday, September 17. Looking for teams, sponsors and volunteers. More info can be found at <http://www.knoxmud.org/>. The Reserve Association is starting the annual writing essay youth 8-18. That will be coming out in the next month. The Submarine Service will be holding their tolling of the bell service this Saturday in Oak Ridge.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March (Joleen Dewald):**
We don't have date yet but will start ramping up with fundraising in September once school starts. <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com>
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Owen Haddock):** Last week had a Vietnamese family come and speak to the group. An article was prepared but decided to defer due to their fears of retribution against them or their family back home. Don't have a speaker yet for this month. Looking for ideas.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (Steve Burman):**
Just had a wounded warrior event with 9 warriors and 8 of project healing water Veterans from the local area. Fish were caught and it was very successful. Another event is coming up in 2 more weeks. Very successful events and amazing to watch veterans and warriors come out of their shells when they are standing in water. <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>
- **Veteran Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):**
Continues to be connection between veteran friendly businesses in East Tennessee and the Veteran community. June 17 at 8:30 will have a Veteran appreciation breakfast at the Powell Community Center off of Emory Road and is initiated by Mayor Tim Burchette and is for all veterans, a free breakfast and is the first one that has been held here in Knox county. Come out and socialize and be a part of it. Following that Veterans appreciation Program is sponsoring an event on July 15 again at the Powell community Center. No fliers yet, but he will send an email to Patrice and she will distribute that out.
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation (Patti McGrew):**
The design center has assigned 2 architecture to work on the wall and have set a meeting on the 21st to work on design. June 10th are having the annual meeting, it will be a picnic on Sharps Ridge Veteran's Memorial Park from 12-2 so would love for you to come out. Last thing is time to renew or join the Veteran's Heritage Site Foundation. Membership is a \$25 fee that helps us to work on these parks and supplements any of the other fundraising programs. Anyone can join. Don't have to come to meetings, but it provides a support and the meetings are the 4th weekend of the month at Red Cross building at 6:30pm if you want to come and see what we are about. Would love to have more members and a show of support.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1076 (Don Smith, President):** Would like to take every opportunity to present 50 year pins to Vietnam area veterans. Gave several out at the Salute to Heroes out at the ball park and at the run for the wall event on Memorial Day. This Saturday, we will make presentations at the Remoate Area Medical event and on June 23 and 24, we will be set up at Turkey Creek Walmart to do that again. Mayor Burchett is taking steps to bring a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall from Washington, D.C. on October 4th – 8th so we will be a host for that event. We would like as many military units and organizations to be involved for 24 hour coverage of the wall. We are meeting on the 29th of this month to coordinate at the Red Cross at 6pm. He will send information to Patrice on the meeting and the event.
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down:**
nothing to report
- **Women Marines Association (Lindsay Long):**
This Saturday in Oak Ridge, WWII veteran Eileen Neiler who was one of the first females to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. She will be speaking at 11am at Secret City Festival. She is 93 years old and has quite a story. Honoring all Veterans on Saturday. For more information, <http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2017/5-19-17%20Celebrate%20Our%20Heroes.pdf> or look at Secret City Festival Website <http://www.celebrateoakridge.org/>
- **Rolling Thunder (Robert Sullivan standing in for Brenda Owensby):**
Had a very Successful ride to Washington. The director of Veteran's affairs rode with us. We are going to be at Secret City Festival this Saturday and will be passing out information on Prisoner of War issues for service members and their families.

- **Veteran Caregivers (Stephanie Trost)** yellow ribbon fund. Have partnered with Wounded Warrior family support . So what they do is when a Veteran is going for medical care, we provide daycare for that family. They set up service so when that veteran caregiver comes home, it is clean and a meal is prepared. They also provide care for when an veteran is homebound and that caregiver needs to go out of town for her own medical care or needs some time away for personal reasons that a caregiver can come into the home and provide respite care. They have their own website – Wounded Warrior Family Support and is not affiliated with the wounded warrior project <https://www.wwfs.org/> They service all veterans from any era. We are supporting post 911 Veterans through the yellow ribbon fund. Had a great partnership with Boeing. They are providing intense training for PTSD, not for the veteran but for the caregiver taking care of that veteran; teaching caregiver to navigate caring for Veterans with PTSD from the home. Positive new approach and is a real need. Also, we are Partnering with Smoky Mountain Service Dogs and as the families are receiving the dogs, we will become a sponsor of that family in the care and expenses of that dog.
- **Lori Marsh, Red Cross**, Pedal for the Red on June 24th. Collaborating with visit Knoxville on the Pedal for the Red annual fundraiser. Joe Thompson has been in here on several occasions to be an advocate for the event and fundraising that we need to do to provide the services that we provide for Veterans and disaster relief. We need participants and teams for this family friendly event. You get to ride in a closed course that champions will be riding on the next day. Really need some fun competition between military groups. Army vs. Navy vs. Marines. Fliers are in the back or all the information can be found at <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/events/pedal-for-the-red>.

Tied into the June 24th Pedal for the Red weekend, we are doing a 100th anniversary celebrate red tail gating event on Sunday June 25th. We are celebrating our 100th year in Tennessee and we will have a tailgating tent at the finish line from 1p – 5p and you are welcome and help us celebrate our 100th anniversary.

- **Buzz Buswell** –Don Dare, WATE was inducted into the OCS Hall of fame. That ceremony ends up being reunion. Don called from Ft. Benning where he was with officers from the Army and the Republic of Vietnam that went through OCS in Fort Benning in 1969 and brought their year book. 42 of these officers came to Ft. Benning in April 69 and Oct 69 were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants. They had escaped during end of the War and Don called to say that he met these guys and that in their yearbook, he was their tactical officer. Asked if he remember it and said he did.

Next Meeting – Thursday, July 13, 2017

Knoxville Chamber at 8:30 a.m.

ETMAC webpage: Send material to be added to the calendar to:

admin@etmac.org

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.