

# EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## **June 2, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| JUNE 8  | Honor Air Flight #21  |
| JUNE 11 | Women Veterans of America Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's (Merchants Dr.) |
| JUNE 18 | American Legion Golf Tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course               |
| JUNE 22 | Monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House (Merchants Dr.)      |
| JUNE 30 | Army Recruiting Change of Command Ceremony for CPT Neal and CPT Deel      |
| JULY 11 | Smoky Mountain Veterans Golf Classic at Green Meadow Country Club         |
| AUG 27  | UT Medical Center's "Man Run" for Prostate Cancer Awareness               |

**STAY CURRENT: [WWW.ETMAC.ORG](http://WWW.ETMAC.ORG)**

### ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. Vice President Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total of 58 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Vice President Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
  - SSG Steven Thomas, new recruiter with Army Knoxville Recruiting Command
  - Luke Evans, Navy veteran, works with schools on education benefits
  - Cindy Manz, Project Healing Waters
  - Carla Kimble, program manager for VOA/SSVF
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The May 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 \$15,089. ETMAC wrote checks for \$4,424 (\$4,000 toward the Smoky Mountain Air Show and \$300 for NOSC). Made deposits of \$150. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$10,815. 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.

- **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](mailto:barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com)
- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** Larry began a program for individuals and businesses 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. Contact Larry for any questions at (865) 603-1974 or by email at [VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com)
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):**
  - [EVENTS]:
    - **June 4th:** Remote Area Medical's *Salute to Service*, a special commemoration for veterans and their families. Gates open 10 a.m. Ceremony at 11 a.m. Event will be inside RAM's hanger at the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport. This free event includes military vehicle displays, memorabilia, a parachute drop, and music performed by the Tennessee Wind Symphony and the Smokyland Sound Barbeque Chorus.
    - **July 11th:** *Smoky Mountain Veterans Golf Classic* at Green Meadow Country Club in Alcoa. Registration starts at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. 4-player scramble shotgun starts at 1 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Honor Air program. \$100 tournament fee before July 6th. \$110 thereafter. Hole sponsorship is \$100. For more information, call (865) 414-2017 or email at [smveteransgolf@hotmail.com](mailto:smveteransgolf@hotmail.com)

### MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** 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. Col. Tony Shipley, 3rd Regiment Commander, is still recruiting personnel to establish communication detachments at all National Guard armories in East Tennessee. June 25th is their nationwide communications exercise. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Chris Morin):** Their unit manning document came in. 11 members will be going to support their cyber mission partners in July.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Capt Stephanie McKeen):** Drill is this weekend. Capt McKeen and others will be travelling to Memphis to prep for a statewide exercise. Have several deployers returning home in July. They also will be announcing on the morning of Honor Air's June 8th flight how much money they raised from the Smoky Mountain Air Show, and will be presenting the check to Honor Air founder Eddie Mannis.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (CW3 Kelly Harper):** In April they were at Ft. Pickett, VA and laid down 19 miles of pipeline. In May they had a range at Ft. Knox, KY. Later they will go back to Ft. Pickett to disassemble, clean, and store the pipeline.

- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Family Day is Aug. 18th. Please contact them if any organization is interested in setting up a display at the event.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Lt Col David Meece):** Currently they have a break in between classes, until it gets busy again July through September. Lt Col Meece reminded everyone June 6th is the 72nd anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command (CPT Jeffrey Neal):** It is CPT Jeffrey Neal's last month here. CPT Andrew Deel will be his replacement. CPT Neal reports that the command has been more successful than it has in the past 5 years. June 30th is the Change of Command Ceremony at 10 a.m. at East TN Veterans Memorial in World's Fair Park. Everyone is invited.

### VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Present, nothing to report at this time. To learn more about AFA, visit their website at <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Bill Frazier):** Participated in Mountain Man Memorial March which was very successful. Are preparing now for the Veterans Day Parade and parade information on the site should be up soon. On June 18th, AL will have their golf tournament at Three Ridges Golf Course in Knoxville, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution. They are looking for sponsors and volunteers. Also, he encouraged any group with Vietnam veterans to get with Don Smith of VVA, as he can help hold a special pinning ceremony to present the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pins. On the 22nd of every month a group meets on the corner in front of West Town Mall to bring awareness that 22 veterans a day are lost to suicide. For more information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** They will be supporting Remote Area Medical's Salute to Service event this Saturday, June 4th. Jess encouraged everyone to come out and support the event.
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Next week the Tennessee State Veterans' Homes will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. In honor of this, each day next week they will be honoring a branch of service: Monday - Army, Tuesday - Marines, Wednesday - Navy, Thursday - Air Force, and Friday - Coast Guard. Everyone is welcomed to come out and celebrate any day. They will have cake and be honoring each branch of service. Doug says if you plan to attend, email him at [dottinger@tsvh.org](mailto:dottinger@tsvh.org)
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Thanked everyone who came to the Memorial Day event and for all the volunteers who helped set up. Had 101 readers. ETVMA dedicated 8 new names to the Memorial. They will be dedicating new names next year that will include names of those who have been killed in training accidents and other actions that were not war-related conflicts. If you know a name that may meet that criteria, please let Joleen know or email her at [joleen@etvma.org](mailto:joleen@etvma.org) For more information on the ETVMA, visit <https://etvma.org/>.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Next week is their 4th graduation ceremony for Monroe County's Veterans Treatment Court, in which they will have 2 individuals graduating. All are welcomed to attend the graduation at 1:30

p.m. at the Monroe County Courthouse. 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/> or call (865) 305-8583 for more information. 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 (John Dyess):** There are currently 27,026 reserve personnel mobilized on active duty. Of that number, 15,860 are reservists or guard members. Since 9/11, there were 926,438 individuals that have been mobilized. There has been a shift in using combat support and combat service support units rather than combat arms. Bob Williams was recognized by ESGR in its recent statewide meeting and honored for his accomplishments and all he has done for ESGR.
- **Honor Air:** Flight #21 will take place June 8, 2016. The flight will be all Vietnam War veterans. 150 onboard. After June's flight, next flight is planned for October 5, 2016. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** June 11th is the Secret City Festival and they will be there to participate. The Marine Mud Run is Sept. 17th. They've had many sign up and are still looking for teams, sponsors and volunteers. Eddie recognized Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion as doing an outstanding job in supporting the Marine Mud Run and in developing the course. For information on the Mud Run, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>. The next Rifle Match is in September. The Young Marines marched in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Coming up on June 6th, at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on Gov. John Sevier Hwy., they'll be holding services for 6 homeless veterans around 12:30 p.m. To learn more about the MCL, visit <http://mclknox.org/>.
  - **Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program - Berry's Funeral Home (Jeff Berry)** June 6th, at 1:30 p.m. they will have a burial for 3 Army veterans, 3 Navy veterans, and 1 Air Force veteran - which is their first female homeless veteran. Berry's Funeral Home departure is at 1:10 p.m.
- **Military Officers Association of America (Bill Potter):** MOAA has combined some of their meetings with the MOWW. Last month they joined in presenting three \$500 scholarship award presentations - one to the AF ROTC unit, one to Carson- Newman University's ROTC unit, and the other to the UT Army ROTC unit. MOAA also helped present awards to 8 high school JROTC units. They have a Gold Bar Program, where they present these to graduating high school seniors going into military service. Last weekend they were in D.C. participating in a Rolling Thunder demonstration.
- **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. June 8th their guest speaker is WWII

Army Air Corps veteran James "Bud" Mynatt, who flew 38 missions during the D-Day invasion. In July, they'll have Scott Johnson, a current FBI agent and former rescue pilot that flew during Black Hawk Down in Somalia. Owen is currently working with MOH recipient Gen. James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.), on a Vietnam history project.

- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** Steve introduced Cindy Manz, who participates with PHW. Last month they hosted 6 female veterans and 10 male veterans at Rabbit Run Retreat in Norris, TN. In July is their women's only outing with 18 registered. Steve gave thanks to the Young Marines who are now attending their monthly meetings. PHW has 2 participants going on national trips to Montana. The Clinch River chapter has been awarded the Chapter Excellence Award for their volunteerism of almost 10,000 hours thus far. PHW was awarded 5 scholarships from Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg. They had 4 participants attend the Arrowmont school last year. 26 people attended their first PHW Maryville chapter meeting. Little River Trading Company sponsored the Maryville Pint Night event; PHW raised more than \$1500. The Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge fundraising tournament is September 2-3, 2016. If anyone is interested in becoming a sponsor or donating items to their silent auction, please let Steve know. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation:** They are selling Pancake Breakfast tickets for \$6 per person, for their June 11th event at Applebee's on Merchants Drive, from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. They are looking for volunteers to be servers. Donations are also welcomed. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more about the foundation, or to join or donate.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** They renamed their chapter the Capt. Bill Robinson VVA chapter in Knoxville. They'll officially announce this at their next meeting. AF Capt. (Ret.) Robinson is the longest serving enlisted POW in history, he was held a prisoner for 7 1/2 years. VVA will be at Remote Area Medical's "Salute to Service" event where they'll be presenting the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pins. The commemorative pins are being given to Vietnam veterans to thank and honor those veterans who served during active duty in the Vietnam War. By direction of DOD, each pin must be presented to each individual it is given to. Thus, VVA will be setting up the following below events to help present these to Vietnam veterans.

(\*\*\*Please make sure to bring a copy of your DD214 or equivalent with you to the below locations)

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).

**[EVENTS]:**

- June 24-25th: Knoxville Center Walmart (they will also have the Vietnam Travelling Memorial Wall on display)
- August 12-13th: Turkey Creek Walmart

If you have an organization that has several members eligible for these pins, contact Don to help make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. The pinning must be done from an organization who is a commemorative partner. VVA and Daughters of the American Revolution are both commemorative partners. For more information, visit

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>. 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 them for assistance and services.
- **Women Marines Association - Rocky Top Chapter (Lindsay Long):** They'll be participating in September's Marine Mud Run. Their WMA National Convention is in July in Portland, OR. They are also joining Project Healing Waters in attending their upcoming all-women outing. Said last weekend's Rabbit Run Retreat event was amazing and that Project Healing Waters does a wonderful thing for veterans. The Women Marines are trying to raise money so they will have women guides on their PHW outing. In July, they'll be raffling a PHW's fly rod that was specially made. Pearl Rich was elected as the WMA's area director for the Southeastern Region.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl Rich):** Reminded everyone of the Pancake Breakfast (tickets: \$6 per person) on June 11th at Applebee's on Merchants Dr., from 8:15 a.m. to 10: 15 a.m. You can buy tickets online at the WVA website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>. Proceeds benefit WVA and the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project. Also, June 22nd is the monthly "Vet-Together" Beer Muster at The Pint House on Merchants Drive. The veteran's beer muster event takes place on the 22nd of every month.
- **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about a pilot who learned his "assumed" pilot instructor was actually a photographer. Joe said never to assume, always ask.

- ❖ 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, July 14, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.**