



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

June 6, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUN 14 Vet Center's 40th anniversary celebration. 10am until 2pm at the Knoxville Vet Center. 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28, Knoxville
- JUN 15 Honor Air Virtual Flight for veterans unable to make the flight to Washington DC. The event will be held at the Bridgewater Event Center. Doors open at 0900 and the flight will depart at 1000. Applications may be found at <https://www.honorairknoxville.com/>. Completed applications should be sent to Jan Rector at jrector@honorairknoxville.com, or call 865/859-9279 and leave a voice mail if you wish an application to be mailed to you.
- JUN 22 Athens Area Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual Benefit. Special guest will be President George W. Bush. Details at www.athenschamber.org or call at 423/745-0334.
- JUN 22 Car wash to support the Navy Ball. 2509 Winfield Dunn Parkway in Kodak from 12pm until 3pm.
- JUN 24 Second Annual TVBA Golf Tournament at Green Meadow Country Club. Details will be available on their website: <https://gotvba.com/>
- By JUN 30 Shop with Impact. Help to drive Veteran homelessness to ZERO. **\$25 donation** with **100%** of proceeds to identify where veterans are on streets in 12 county region. <https://tvchomeless.org/our-shop/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TVCHomeless/> Instagram: @TVCHomeless
- AUG 17 Heroes, Hops and Harvest – 401 Sleepy Valley Rd. Madisonville 6pm until 10pm. There will be bluegrass music, farm to table food, and locally brewed beer. Tickets are \$75. For more details, <http://bit.ly/yrf-hhh>.
- OCT 4-6 Saving Families Marriage Retreat for Military and First Responders. The fee is \$300 to cover lodging and meals. Registration may be submitted online at <http://servingmarriages.com/retreats.htm>.
- OCT 19 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>
- NOV 3 War Dog Memorial March 2pm until 4:30 pm at Pellissippi State Community College on Hardin Valley Rd.
- NOV 8 ETMAC Veterans Appreciation and Awards Luncheon at Hotel Knoxville (former Marriott Hotel behind Women's Basketball Hall of Fame). This year we celebrate the year of the Army. Additional details to follow soon.
- NOV. 11 94th Annual Knoxville Veterans Day Parade organized by American Legion Post 2 with assistance from the City of Knoxville.

Every WED Combat Coffee Hour (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>) for all Veterans, 7:30-8:30am at the Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28

For a complete listing of events, 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 6, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of 82 were present.
 - **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - **PO1 Steven Brasher with US Coast Guard Recruiting**
 - **William Rabchenia Retired Navy with Clean Heart Ministries in Sparta TN**
 - **Randy Lomax (E-3) with Clean Heart Ministries**
 - **Paul Smalley Chief Petty Officer (Ret) with Clean Heart Ministries**
 - **CPT Jacqueline Bradford with 489th CABN**
 - **Capt Andy Shelton AF ROTC Det 800**
 - **William S Moorehead MSG with 489th CABN**
 - **Terry Anderson**
 - **Lt Col Dave Moss with 241st EIS**
 - **LCDR Galo Cavalcanti with MEPS**
 - **President's Report – Owen Ragland-** The Veterans Luncheon will be held on Friday, November 8th at Hotel Knoxville. This year we will celebrate the Army. The parade will be on the following Monday, Nov. 11.
 - There have been changes under the Mission Act. Please use these links for more information: To find an urgent care provider - https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Urgent_Care.asp
To find an urgent care provider in VA's contracted network - <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.
To see an overview of the new program - <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/index.asp>
and here is a list of local clinics that are approved to date. <https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/>
- Owen introduced the new Chamber of Commerce President, Mike Odom, who moved here from Round Rock Texas where he was President and CEO of the Chamber for 4 years. Prior to that, he was in Baton Rouge LA.
- ETMAC has signed up to be a part of the Amazon Smiles program. A portion of any purchases will come back to ETMAC. There is no cost to the person purchasing through Amazon, and you can sign up through the Amazon website. ETMAC also receives funds through UT's Campus Chest program.
- **Webmaster's Report - Owen Ragland for Col Dent Young-** Last month our website had 537 visitors, an increase of 24% over April. Most visitors were from the US. Owen also requested everyone visit the website and verify your information for correctness.
 - **Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell –**
 - o Start balance \$ 15,593.35
 - o Deposits \$ 1,120.38
 - o Expenses \$ 271.00
 - o End balance \$ 16,442.73

Membership dues may be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.

- Other ETMAC Announcements - **Patrice Collins** – www.ETMAC.org Patrice asked outgoing commanders to give incoming commanders information on choosing honorees for the upcoming Veteran's luncheon.
- Eddie Mannis with Honor Air gave an update on the Virtual Flight being held on June 15, 2019 at the Bridgewater Event Center for veterans unable to make the physical flight to Washington DC. Anyone wishing to be there for the "Welcome Home" be there at 10:30am. 29th Flight will be on Oct 22, 2019. The spring 2020 flight will have a special focus. Details to follow.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall**- Participating in the Shake and Fury exercise in Middle TN.
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Col Chris Smith** – the unit is involved in Cyber security for the Air Force. They are 104% manned currently. Kent Vanover then gave an update on Kayak Fishing with Christ. Their website is: <https://www.kayakfishingwithchrist.org/> You may reach Kent at 865/803-8146. Kayak Fishing with Christ is having a meetup the 27th through the 30th of June at Dogwood Lodge in Soddy Daisy TN. The event is free for veterans and their families.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **CPT Hulon Holmes** – Troops in motion. They are participating in Shake and Fury at the New Madrid Fault. They have aircraft participating in several activities in different locations. They just had a Meet and Greet with new Chief Ranger Lisa Hendy in the Smoky Mountains National Park, continuing their positive relationship with the park.
- 134th Air Refueling Wing - **Col Lee Hartley** –Troops in motion. Also participating in the Shake and Fury exercise. Having joint exercises with the 1-230. Col Tommy Cauthen, former Commander of the McGhee Tyson Air Base and 134th ARW, will be the next Tennessee Air National Guard Chief of Staff and will be promoted in August.
- 241st Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga) **Lt Col Dave Moss** – they are the AT&T of the Air Force. They are also participating in Shake and Fury and have people in several locations.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **LTC Brad Bowlin** Troops in motion.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **TSgt Brandon Carver** – Two new recruiters coming in for Alcoa and Knoxville, and they are reopening the Oak Ridge Office. Prior Service Program will reopen in October.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion **CPT Jacqueline Bradford**. - They provide support to combat units down range to return areas to pre-conflict state. Part of Ready Force and are looking for qualified officers.
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – **unable to attend**
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – One more meeting before moving to Sacramento.
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt Cullen Tores** – **unable to attend**

- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center –**CMSgt Steven Durrance**- New Commander is Col Kenneth Lozano. Students are volunteering in many areas.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** – **unable to attend**
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Emily Wilson** – Change of Command on June 14. She introduced her replacement LCDR Galo Cavalcanti, and she expressed how much she has enjoyed being a part of ETMAC.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Security upgrades mostly complete. Drill this weekend. They will be hosting MEPS Change of Command on the 14th. They are having a car wash to raise money for the Navy Ball on June 22 from Noon until 3pm at 2509 Winfield Dunn Parkway. The Ball will be on October 19 at the Hilton in Alcoa. Change of Command will be September 15. CDR Scott Moss will be his replacement.
- Navy Recruiting – Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center – **HM2 Josh Dixon**- **unable to attend**
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – **unable to attend**
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** – **unable to attend**
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** - They commissioned 11 cadets this spring with another 4 to be commissioned in August. They have 20 at Field Training and are expecting 60 new cadets in August.
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** –FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - **unable to attend.**

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Paula Penson** - **unable to attend**
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – **David Webb** – US unemployment is at 3.9%, State of Tennessee is at 3.2%, the Knoxville area is at 2.8% while Knoxville proper is at 3.1%, The National number for veterans is 2.3%. June 18th at the Knoxville Expo Center will be a job fair for law enforcement. That will be from 4pm until 7pm. The Job Center on Middlebrook will host job fairs for different groups; the 19th will be with multiple employers from 10am until noon, the 20th is the state job fair with state departments as well as the University of Tennessee represented and is from 9am until 2pm, and the 21st is specifically for welders from 10am until noon. August 20 will be a resource fair from 9am until 3pm at The National Guard Armory on Sutherland Ave. There will be a veteran’s job fair on the 21st of August at the Job Center on Middlebrook Pike from 10am until noon.
<https://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/Veteran/veteran.aspx>
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** - **unable to attend** - legionknox.com
FB:<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> -
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - They are currently in need of blood donations, especially Type O.
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TNStateVetreans/> - They received an excellent rating from the Federal Oversight Survey and have maintained their 5-Star rating.

- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Buzz Buswell.**
<http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2nd Tuesday evening. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still looking for veterans that want to socialize. They were named Chapter of the Year and will hold that title until July.
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 -Garrett Hanas - unable to attend <https://www.dav.org> FB-
<https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/>
- East Tennessee Veteran's Honor Guard- **Herb Kraehmer** – **unable to attend**
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association- **Joleen Dewald** – **unable to attend** -
<https://etvma.org/> Fb <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>-
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jim Mungenast**
<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> FB:
<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> They recently had the State meeting with Corky Rogers, the Commissioner of Vet Service in attendance. Jim reported that the volunteers of ESGR brief all units each year on their rights under USERRA. They also brief employers on their rights and responsibilities. They would appreciate being on Commander's calls for five minutes to brief attendees.
- Honor Air –**Eddie Mannis** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - See Eddie's report above.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - No report today.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Emily Hager** - <http://tnvhc.org/> – **unable to attend.**
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries**
<https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org Blue Water Navy has been approved for anyone serving on a Navy ship within 12 miles of the coast where Agent Orange was being deployed. This could impact as many as ninety thousand Vietnam vets. Also reported on new Community Care rules. Prior program has ended. Vets still must go through their primary care VA doctor to be referred. However, urgent care will be available as those facilities are approved. Check the website above for details.
- Knoxville Vet Center –**Lyle Allen** - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> -The Vet Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary with an open house on June 14 from 10am until 2pm. The address is 1645 Downtown West Blvd. #28, Knoxville. Stop by to see displays. They have counselors available.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> **unable to attend.**
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - www.moaa.org – They gave awards to 15 different high school units and 3 to college detachments. They continue to meet jointly with MOWW.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** www.moww.org – All are invited to their meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. They will have a surprise speaker at the meeting this month.
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Joleen Dewald** – **unable to attend.**
<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> LIKE us on FB:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Steve Thompson** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>
LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> - They are now 7 years old and have many success stories that show how this program helps veterans. Cindy reported on the 18 vets they hosted from Wounded Warriors.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –**Darrell Williams** – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> - Reboot is a Faith-Based Combat Trauma Recovery 12-week Program that provides practical help for service members and families dealing with the after effects of combat. They are working on recruitment this summer and Darrell will be happy to speak to groups. His number is 423/312-4752
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** - <http://www.rollingthundern3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>
- meet on 2nd Sunday of every month, 3:30 at the Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849. Their focus on awareness of MIA and POW from all wars. There are 1589 currently listed as unaccounted for. There are 26 from the state of Tennessee. He also reported that President Trump has reversed the decision to halt the national meeting. They believe that over 1.3 million people attended the national meeting. Wreaths Across America donated two hundred thousand dollars.
- STAR – Horses & Hero's Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - They have four new participants beginning next week giving them a total of 15 currently. Many of the participants are coming back to volunteer.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless- **Brandon Harris** – <https://tvhomeless.org/>
unable to attend.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Patrice Collins** (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - They will be having their annual golf tournament at Green Meadow on June 24. Steve Stilts is the new owner of the organization.
- United Veterans Council – **Janet Guess** – They hold a veteran breakfast each Saturday somewhere in the area. The first Saturday each month it will be held at the Elks Club on Lonas. The second Saturday it is held in Anderson County. Contact Buzz Buzzwell for that location. The third Saturday is at Powell Community Center, and the fourth is at DAV in Oliver Springs. They are raising money for Wreaths Across America and will be at 24 area Food City stores on Flag Day Weekend. They will be accepting non-serviceable flags that weekend as well.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** – http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 – The major fund raiser is a golf tournament that has been rescheduled for June 22 and will be held at Egwani Farms. Sponsorships are still available.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Jessica King Hodge** – <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> They are helping with the Wreaths Across America events on Flag Day Weekend. Sharps Ridge began 4 years ago with an idea for the park, and the master plan has now been approved by the city of Knoxville. It will include a war dog memorial park. They will have a war dog march on November 3 to raise money for that park. There will be a cleanup day in the fall on either 9/21 or 10/20. Details to follow.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Ivette Torres** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - They will be having a Veterans Resource Fair on August 20 at the Armory. They assist vets with jobs and housing.

- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost – They continue to provide outings for caregivers and their families. They also connect veterans with groups that provide services that are needed. <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - They will be having a fundraiser on August 17th at Pokeadot Hops and Garden. A Farm to Table event that will include craft beer. The website is <http://bit.ly/yrf-hhh>

**Next meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2019 (please note meeting is 2nd Thursday)
@ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am**

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer
865/691-0898 or kim@nallssherbakoff.com**

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