

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mar 7, 2013 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 4	ETMAC Meeting at NOSC
APRIL 19-20	Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN
APRIL 24	HonorAir Knoxville Flight #14
MAY 2	ETMAC Meeting
MAY 4	AFA hosting State Convention and Banquet – Crown Plaza
MAY 6	East TN Veterans Memorial Association 3rd Annual Medal of Honor Evening – Foundry at World's Fair Park
JUNE 6	ETMAC Meeting
JULY/AUG	NOSC along with Harley Davidson Ride/Concert for Wounded Warrior Project

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Red Cross of Knoxville ETMAC President Barry Allen, presiding. President Allen welcomed all members and guest.
- 56 members and guests were present, and the February meeting summary was approved as distributed with no corrections.
- The Treasurer's report shows \$330 written in checks of which \$300 went to the Mountain Man Memorial March. The deposits for the month totaled \$3,917 leaving a balance of \$15,274.
- The following were presented by the Chair:
 - President Allen formally acknowledges and thanks John Becker for the story he did on the ETMAC organization
 - President Allen formally acknowledges and thanks Laimon Godel for changes he made to the website
 - President Allen formally acknowledges and thanks the Red Cross for being a wonderful host
 - Reminder from President Allen that there is a form on the ETMAC website for request to sponsor individual/group actions – board votes for approval

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Johnson University – Drew Foster** - Designated as a military friendly school – Would like to work with Veterans wishing to return to school.
- **Joleen DeWald** - Mountain Man Memorial T-shirts are being sold by - \$15 – cash, check, and credit accepted.
- **The Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard – Fred Adomat** - founded in August of 1987 – has provided full military honors for over 6000 funerals for fallen comrade - is a non-profit, volunteer member organization –needing donations.
- **Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Event – Barry Rice** –Thanked Dept. of Veteran affairs for luncheon which included all the area elected Representatives for Veterans issues; Governor will be presenting a proclamation in honor of “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” at the legislative plaza in Nashville later in the month. Pigeon Forge “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” parade and events will be 15-17 of April – more info at: www.welcomehomevietnam.com .

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Brian Delamater** – nominated seven cadets for “rated” positions; five were awarded pilot slots and one was awarded a combat systems officer slot. Several cadets will be traveling for a base visit which is being funded by the University of TN. Commissioning thirteen cadets on 9 May. Thanked John Becker for his Service & Sacrifice story about one of the cadets.
- **US Air Force Recruiting Command – MSgt Jeremy Israel** – Recruiter out of Oak Ridge – did not book any jobs in the month of February – attributed to funding issues.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – First Sergeant Schaffner** – Commander Isaac unable to attend, tentative change of command date @ 24th of May.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron – Lt Col Sam Keener** – Upcoming compliance inspection; big focus on furlough and sequestration issues.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – Col (Ret.) Jeff Archer** – 14 April at 1300 hrs. will be the Regimental change of Command at West High School Football field. Facing the same issues with furlough and sequestration as other units in the state.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion – Lt Col Cliff Faulkner** – Rebuilding year with 30 new soldiers – new enlistees off the street.
- **844th Engineering Battalion – Josh Richardson** – Fort Hunter Liggett – 29 day exercise consisting of three elements.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt Charles Hunt** – Several Marine teams are mobilizing for events in the upcoming future in support of OEF rotation.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – MSgt Cavanaugh** – Currently have 300+ students to include a Canadian student. Will be hosting a Bulgarian student in the next class.
- **Naval Operations Support Center – Chief Todd Johnson & CDR Kurt Jordan** – Preparing for the Anchor dedication; Will have Congressman Duncan as well as the 14 year old son of the fallen sailor. Thanked John Becker for covering the dedication story. Excited about hosting the April ETMAC meeting
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 - Dave Roberts – DVCDR USCG Aux** – Hosting safe boating courses – dates are on the ETMAC website.

MILITARY & VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald** - hosting 3rd Annual Medal of Honor Evening in honor of Corp Paul B Huff on 6 May at the Foundry – cost \$75 per person/\$500 table of eight before April 1. After April 1 cost of table goes to \$600; looking for host community vendors.
- **American Legion – Marty Everett** – Supporting the Mountain Man March; planning Memorial Day function; planning Veterans Day parade (Monday - 11 November, 2013); hosting a golf tournament – 15 June – Three Rivers GC.
- **Air Force Association – Steve Dillenburg** – 4 May – hosting State Convention & banquet at Crown plaza – honoring Eddie Mannis; will award teacher of the year at convention.
- **Honor Air – Joe Sutter** – Honor Air has named its student ambassador program in honor of Sam Hardman – WBIR covered the story; flight #14 – April 24th - branching out to other counties; flight #15 – OCT 2013.

- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger** – introduced new member of staff - Tyler Martin who has helped take care of Sam Hardman.
- **ESGR – John Dyess** – Number of mobilized Guard/Reserve - Just over 53,000; Growing concern over employer perception that the Guard/Reserve folks will go back to traditional role (one weekend a month, two weeks in the summer) – simply will not be the case - leaders needs to educate the community on the new operational Guard/Reserve role.
- **2014 Medal of Honor Convention Update – Joleen Dewald** – Starting in Sept after the event in Gettysburg, Knoxville will actually begin to carry the banner; 9-13 Sept 2014 will be the conclusion of the event.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March – Joleen Dewald** – (6th year); 19 & 20 April (largest crowd to date) – expecting @ 560 marchers this year and 90+ Gold Star Families; asking for sponsorships for weekend expenses for GSFs. \$150 will sponsor a GSF's hotel and meals for two days. Go to www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com to sponsor a family or to register as a marcher.
- **TVBA – Barry Allen spoke on Jonathan Williams' behalf** – Brown and Roberto sponsored five thousand dollar prize for best business proposal (six submissions) – discovered a need to hold classes on the appropriate way to write a business proposal – details upcoming.
- **American Red Cross – Knox & Blount Counties – Jess Hernandez** – limited funds (only) for Guard/Reserves for: Utilities, gas, grocery, rent, etc. Have funds for bus tickets for transporting VETs to Dr Appts.
- **Knox County Veterans Office – Buss Buswell** – Focusing on Outreach and Awareness.
- **East TN Department of Veterans Affairs – Commissioner Don Smith** – Sequestration does NOT affect the VA budget at all – EXEMPT; Groundbreaking on two state veterans in near future; legislation just passed to allow funeral homes to release remains of veterans in order to receive proper burial.

**Next meeting – Next meeting – Thursday, April 4
Naval Operations Support Center, 2101 Alcoa Highway**

- **ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to webmaster@godel.com
- **The meeting was adjourned at 0925.**