

# **EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

## **March 6, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

MARCH 29	First Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony – ETVM-Worlds Fair Site-10:30 am
MARCH 31	Premiere of the “Medal of Honor” Documentary
APRIL 6	Big Orange Salute to Military Kids
APRIL 11-12	Mountain Man March
APRIL 16	Honor Air Flight #16
MAY 5	East TN Veterans Memorial Association-4 <sup>th</sup> annual Medal of Honor evening
MAY 31	Salute to Heroes Night – Smokies Stadium
SEPT 10-13	Medal of Honor Convention

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

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

- The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held at the Knoxville Red Cross office on Thursday, March 6, 2014. President Barry Allen presided over the meeting. The meeting opened with members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Allen welcomed six new guests
  - President Allen “coined” Jess Hernandez for Red Cross’s Support of ETMAC
  - President Allen thanked Capt Matthew Mckeen for Recording minutes for Capt Stephanie McKeen
- 69 members and guests were present, and the February meeting summary was approved and distributed with no corrections
- The Treasurer reported \$1,439.71 in checks written, \$480 deposits were made - leaving a balance of \$14,555.52
- The Webmaster report shows a total of 1,466 Visitors browsed the site/Averaged 52 per day
- ETMAC is still looking for a Webmaster

### **Guest Presentations by:**

- First Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony – ETVM-Worlds Fair Site-10:30 am – POC Sue Dauber
- Mane Support – Don Long, Program Director – FREE individual and group support for military men and women suffering from combat stressors – for more info: [dwlong@manesupport.org](mailto:dwlong@manesupport.org)
- Fishing with a Soldier – Col (Ret) Tim Dearing/Terri Volland – Fishing Tournament/poker run in which a boater will be paired with a service member/veteran - June 7, 2014 – Loudon, TN; For more info: [timd360@gmail.com](mailto:timd360@gmail.com) or [terrivolland@vollandbaits.com](mailto:terrivolland@vollandbaits.com)

## MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **UT Air Force ROTC – Maj Michel Edwards** – Business as usual, spring break coming, Maj Edwards will be retiring and working in Oak Ridge
- **UT Army ROTC – Lee Dalton**– April is awards ceremony – invitations to come
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command – Maj Jared Hull** – Struggling in reserve recruiting – need ages 17-34 years of age
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control Squadron – CMSgt Randy Browning** – Col Franklin is in Colorado; 134<sup>th</sup> and other units in the State have helped absorb cuts; Looks like bridge funding will come from AF Space Command
- **I-230<sup>th</sup> – LTC Mel Clawson** – Have several folks leaving for OEF; Thanked “Service and Sacrifice” for doing a story and trying to gain support for H.R. 3930, the National Commission on the Structure of the Army Act to counter the Army's plan to eliminate the Kiowa Warrior helicopters and replace them with Apache and Lakota
- **278<sup>th</sup> – LTC Keith Scott**– Final IPR for training this summer; will have an active duty battalion training with them
- **Affairs Battalion –Maj Bryce Wunder**– recently asked to support Blount County veterans Association with a color guard for a Purple Heart ceremony – 28 March.
- **Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Michael Lambert – Business as usual; Training exercise scheduled in May; Just finished inspections;
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Tim Cathcart** – Funding starting to trickle in for additional dorm rooms to add more students; Change of Command on 22 of May – all invited
- **Naval Operations Support Center – CDR Kurt Jordan** – Prepping for Drill weekend
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol** – Lt Col Dent Young – For more info on the Civil Air Patrol go to [www.tncap.us](http://www.tncap.us)
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – CDR Dave Roberts** – Sequestration still taking a toll on the coast Guard; Boating season will be starting up – remind your folks about proper SAFETY!

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald** – May 5, 2014 will be annual Medal of Honor evening – invitations to come; for folks wanting to use the site for events, please go to <http://www.etvma.org/contact-us/> and fill out the appropriate form; Memorial ceremony need volunteers to read names
- **2014 Medal of Honor Convention –Joleen Dewald** – Commissioned a Documentary on MOH recipients which will play in Knoxville on 31 March at Regal Cinema (Downtown) \$25 general admission and \$75 VIP; Volunteers for the convention in September should go sign up on the website - [www.mohknoxville.com](http://www.mohknoxville.com)
- **Mountain Man Memorial March/Co-sponsored by UT and American Legion Post 2 – Lee Dalton** – April 11&12 – Registration is open <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com> ; Still need volunteers to work and participate; also need supplies for the Gold Star mother breakfast – list forthcoming
- **American Legion – Marvin Tuggle** – Immediately after the reading of the names at the ETVMA site on Memorial Day the American Legion will hold a ceremony featuring CPT Bill Robinson (the longest held POW); April and May AL will be presenting medals to Cadets at UT/Knox for outstanding achievement.
- **Air Force Association – Steve Dillenburg** – State AFA Convention – Nashville- 3 May – units will be receiving “outstanding unit” awards
- **Ben Atchley Veterans Home – Doug Ottinger** – Facility just Won “Best of the Best” Award – second year they have won
- **ESGR – Jack D’Araujo** – Guard and Reserve called to active duty declined to 41,000; Commended the 1/230 for their resolve in trying to maintain their current model of assigned helicopter. Things to think

about: DoD budget cuts will reduce the growth in military pay, tri-Care consolidation and reduced subsidies to commissaries; ESGR is available to speak at units

- **American Red Cross – Knox & Blount – Jess Hernandez** – “May 6” – Heroes Luncheon – Joe Thompson, co-chair of the 2014 Medal of Honor Convention, will be guest speaker; RC has several scholarships for CNA training
- **Knox County Veterans Affairs office – Buzz Buswell/Tom Humphries** – 100% Disabled Vets have an expedited social security process – contact office for info
- **Bount County Veterans Affairs Office – Nathan Weinbaum** – 20 March 6:45 Purple Heart ceremony, Saturday 22 March First annual PTSD Walk at 10 am outside Blount County Court house
- **Marine Corps League** - Howard Rains is the new Commandant for the local MCL; Sept 13, 2014 is the annual Mud run which will raise funds for ETVM and Smoky Mountain Service Dogs; Tennessee Dept of Trans rebuilt the sign at Alexander Bonnyman Memorial Bridge
- **Vietnam Veterans of America – Gary Ellis** – Currently have 90+ members with a goal of 1,000; for info on joining email ppclaxton@hotmail.com or [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org); Next meeting on March 11, 7 pm at the Red Cross (Middlebrook); Participating in Vietnam Veterans day and Mountain Memorial March
- **MOWW – Nolan Sharbel** – May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Convention at Crowne Plaza Hotel; Organization meets the second Wednesday each month at Rothschild Conf. Center – 11am; April will start JROTC awards program; Website – [www.mowwregionV.net](http://www.mowwregionV.net) or 865-693-8170 or [0.haddock@comcast.net](mailto:0.haddock@comcast.net)
- **Project Healing Waters – Steve Thompson** – Time to start fishing again; Bass Pro has partnered with Project HW to help VETS build their own rods to fish; Six events scheduled for this year
- **Volunteers of America –Melanie Finuf** – Had a successful Job fair last month; March 19 is the next Job Fair but in need of employers;

**Next meeting - Thursday, April 3, 2014 – Knoxville Chamber – 2014 Economic Impact Report will be released to the media and ETMAC members**

**ETMAC Webpage:** Please send anything to be added to the calendar to [webmaster@godel.com](mailto:webmaster@godel.com)

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am**