

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

March 3, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- MARCH 26 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" Ceremony at World's Fair Park
- MARCH 26 Next Cleanup Day for Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project
- APRIL 5 Project Healing Waters' Pint Night at River Sports Outfitters
- APRIL 11-15 "Navy Week" brought to you by the U.S. Navy Band to local Knoxville venues
- APRIL 13 Honor Air Flight #20 & Welcoming Home Veterans at McGhee Tyson Airport
- APRIL 16-17 Smoky Mountain Air Show with the Blue Angels
- APRIL 22-23 Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg
- APRIL 29-30 5th Annual Women Veteran Summit in Chattanooga
- APRIL 29-30 RetroRunning Weekend Event in Pigeon Forge
- MAY 1 Red Cross' Month of the Military Child Event at the Knoxville Zoo
- MAY 2 ETVMA's 6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening
- MAY 30 Memorial Day "Reading of the Names" at the East TN Veterans Memorial

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 66 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Ernest Rivera, Veterans' Pre-College Program at McGhee Tyson ANGB
 - CSM Ron Coats, Commander of the 1-100th Engineer Battalion
 - Col. Steve Holbert, USAF Retired, Veterans Military Honor Guard of Pigeon Forge
 - Capt Larry Winters, USMC Retired, Unit Commander for Knoxville Young Marines
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The February 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 \$13,517. ETMAC wrote checks for \$274 and made deposits of \$2,618. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$15,861. 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):** 487 total number of sessions this past month. U.S. visitors were from Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Most active day was Feb. 4th with 43 sessions. 387 new users. 96% were from the U.S. 948 total page views. Most visited pages were the ETMAC home page, followed by the Resources page and Calendar page, then by "Military-Air Force" page, and the Membership Application page. Please send anything to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Classes at McGhee Tyson Air Base (Darren Dunlap, Maryville College):** Have been offering classes to veterans at McGhee Tyson Air Base since the Fall. They've been targeting those needing assistance in obtaining their Associate's degrees. The next round of classes start soon and deadline to register is March 15th. Have 2 classes currently which are accelerated at 7 weeks long each. Tuition costs are reduced for military members, veterans, and their families.
- **Veterans Military Honor Guard of Pigeon Forge (Steve Holbert):** Have been working to establish the group in the last year and plan to be fully operational by this spring. They provide numerous patriotic activities, one being "Military Funeral Honors" graveside services. At least 75% of their members must be military veterans or still on active duty, but their other membership also includes veterans and civilians, both men and women. The civilian members are First Responders such as members from the Police Department, Fire Department, Highway Patrol, the Rescue Squad, etc. They also include members who are directly related to military veterans. If you reside in Pigeon Forge, or live in or near Sevier Co., they would like to add you to their list of supporters and potential members. For more information on the Pigeon Forge's Veterans Military Honor Guard, contact Colonel Steve Holbert, USAF Retired, at (865) 428-0704 or by email at fsholbert@charter.net. You can also visit the Pigeon Forge Honor Guard's website at <http://pfhg.org/>.
- **RetroRunning Weekend in Pigeon Forge (Steve Hall):** Friday and Saturday, April 29th-30th is the RetroRunning event at the Pigeon Forge LeConte Event Center and this year's theme focus is to honor all veterans. The weekend event is a race for runners to dress throwback '60s, '70s, and '80s. There will be live bands, workshops, and activities for all ages. U.S. Air Force Colonel Lee Ellis, Ret., who is a former Vietnam POW, will speak Friday at 5 p.m. to pay tribute to veterans and their families. Friday will be "Veterans Appreciation Day." Veterans enter free of charge that day and will have the opportunity to partake in free dance lessons, a 3 hr. running school, listen to live bands cover retro music, and attend free seminars such as on identity theft, elder law, or learning to make your own brew. Proceeds benefit local charities. For ticket information, check out <https://goretrorunning.com/> Also, mention code "25 TO Honor Guard" at the entrance and a portion of the non-military/veteran member's registration fee will go toward the Pigeon Forge Honor Guard.
- **Young Marines Change of Command Ceremony (Larry Winters):** Larry announced that Sat., March 5th, at 2 p.m. is the Change of Command ceremony for Virgil L. Young, Jr., who was the former unit commander for 13 years for the Young Marines. Larry N. Winters will be their new commander. The ceremony will be held at Eagleton Elementary

School in Maryville, TN. Larry said he is privileged to be commander. They're currently training 29 young Marines in their program.

- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** Monday through Friday, April 11-15th has been designated as "Navy Week" for our metropolitan area. Knoxville is one of fifteen cities that were selected for the 2016 Navy Week program. Rear Admiral Terry J. Moulton, USN, who is Deputy Surgeon General, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and a Tennessee native, will be meeting with several groups during the week.
 - Monday, April 11th - at 12 noon, a 38 piece Navy band will be performing on the Market Square stage.
 - Tuesday – the Navy band will be performing at Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home. That afternoon the band will play the National Anthem at the Tennessee Vols' baseball game.
 - Wednesday - Admiral Moulton will lay a wreath at the East TN Veterans' Memorial and the Navy Band will play thereafter. Time TBA - estimated late afternoon/early evening.
 - Saturday- April 16th, the U.S. Navy's parachute team, the "Leap Frogs," will be parachuting into Neyland Stadium before the Orange & White game. The Navy Band will also be playing at the game.

Patrice will send out a schedule soon listing all the Navy Band's upcoming performances and locations.

- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** ETMAC will be a sponsor at the upcoming Smoky Mountain Air Show, and will be donating \$4,000 toward the effort. Owen said ETMAC will be the sponsor around the reserved seating area, which seats up to 1,000. The Air Show tickets will depict the ETMAC logo as well as the link to the website. ETMAC's ability to do this is partly due to the growth of the organization and the number of individual memberships and corporate sponsors. Owen said ETMAC started out with 10 members and has grown to 60-70 members covering almost 40 organizations and units.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland):** MAJ Oland and SGT Joshua Frye will be representing the regiment at the ETMAC monthly meetings. They're both local to Knoxville. On Sat., March 12th, the TNSG will be having a drill and communications exercise at 9 a.m. at the TN Army National Guard Armory on Sutherland Ave. All are invited to attend. Let MAJ Oland know if interested and she'll leave your name at the gate (you will need a photo ID to enter). They'll be sending a dozen of their non-veteran members to Smyrna, TN soon for leadership and initial entry training. MAJ Oland calls it boot camp in 2 days. They have enlisted and officer classes there. Training focus this year is on the continuity of communications in the event of a disaster such as earthquakes, extreme weather, or electromagnetic fault events. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **1-100th Engineer Battalion (CSM Ron Coots):** March 12-13th is their battle assembly. CSM Ron Coots is their new commander and will be preparing for their division yearly training brief next month. Will have an informal pinning ceremony for Coots' promotion from sergeant major to command sergeant major.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Captain Chris Morin):** Are still in conversion and starting to participate in cyber operations. Main focus right now is cross-training their personnel into the new career fields that they need to support that conversion. They received confirmation that their squadron numbers are staying strong at

142 members, which include both full-time and part-time. They're also still waiting on their unit manning document in order start the recruiting and more formal training.

- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion (LTC Pat Wade):** Are in unit conversion from an air cavalry squadron to an assault helicopter battalion. Have 8 MEDEVAC air ambulance Black Hawks stationed at McGhee Tyson ANGB and 4 of the utility Black Hawks on site. They recently combined forces with the 134th ARW to conduct survival training for their air crew members. They took an air ambulance to the McGhee Tyson Air Base and hoisted 4 of their air crew members to train them for rescue missions. The 134th ARW, in turn, will serve as observer controllers on Sunday at a big survival exercise. The Annual National Guard Association of Tennessee Conference is March 10th-13th in Murfreesboro. Their unit also has individual weapons qualifications training in Tullahoma the weekend after the conference.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Capt. Stephanie McKeen):** Drill is this weekend and the next weekend is their National Guard state conference. The Smoky Mountain Air Show is April 16th-17th. The Blue Angels are secured to perform as well as other civilian acts. Will have several static aircraft displays. Capt. McKeen says Friday is the best day for retirees to come out and watch the air show practice. You can show your military ID at entrance. Friday will mimic the exact show that will be presented to the general public that following Saturday and Sunday. Gates open at 10 a.m., so get there early for parking. First act starts at 11:30 a.m. To view the list of available volunteer opportunities still available, go to <http://www.volunteerknoxville.org/> and type in keyword "air show." For more information on the upcoming show, visit <http://smokymountainairshow.com/>.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ Jim Shubert):** Are planning an external combat training rotation in Ft. Stewart, GA and Camp Shelby, MS over the next few years. Will have their next few operations which will involve high intensity and gunnery. Have soldiers at Ft. Campbell, KY this week for tank gunnery prepping. In April they'll have a Change of Command possibly at West High School. CSM Vincent Roach will be replaced with CSM Darren "Tracy" McDow. They're also working on a brigade warfighter exercise in June, where they'll take 750 soldiers to Camp Atterbury, IN for training and link up there with an active component from Ft. Leavenworth, KS. The other 4,000 soldiers will be sent to Camp Shelby, MS to execute gunnery and live maneuver training for 2 weeks. In June, they will also be having Tennessee Maneuvers, which is a huge statewide joint exercise, in which both the TN Army and Air National Guard team up with the local and state governments and emergency management systems to simulate a natural disaster. He reports that Tennessee has the 5th most number of earthquakes in the country. They're also prepping for exercises at Ft. Stewart, GA in 2017. Over the next 2 years their rotating event will be in Ft. Irwin, CA for high intensity conflict training. MAJ Shubert will be transferring out and MAJ Colby Tippens will be his replacement as the 278th's operations officer.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** Had their annual recruiting banquet last month at the McGhee Tyson ANG Base, where recruiters from 7 states attended as well. Gave a big thanks and sincere appreciation to McGhee Tyson. As of this month, they will be sending half of their squadron's entire prior service requirement back into the Air Force by the end of the month. Officer training school is a huge emphasis and they're still looking for skills in the mechanical and engineering fields. They're looking to increase their officer training school from the civilian sector. The Recruiting Command will have a recruiting asset at the Smoky Mountain Air Show this year – an Air Force performance laboratory, which has been completely redesigned, all new, interactive, with 7 different stations. The AF recruiting commander spoke at their annual banquet about the opportunity to recruit and grow the Air Force. The focus is to inspire,

engage, recruit. MSgt Robson said every person in the room has the opportunity to inspire someone for military service.

- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (CPT Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Have 4 admin and maintenance inspections in the next few months. Will be going to Fort Knox this month to build permanent bunkers and take part in demo training. They'll be going to Minnesota with the 224th and then later will participate in counter IED training.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Lt Col David Meece):** Colonel Jessica Meyeraan sends her regards; she is in 3rd week of TDY. At the end of this month, TEC will be graduating one of its largest NCO classes, at 240 students. Anyone with access to the base is welcomed to attend the graduation ceremonies. March 31st is graduation at 9 a.m. for the NCO academy. Next week they will highlight a second round of a course they developed - a general officer's support staff course, where they teach enlisted aids, civilian assistants, and executive assistants on proper training to support their general officer. Col Meyeraan will be changing command on April 29th at 9 a.m. She'll soon be the new Chief of Staff for the National Guard Bureau's Joint Staff. Col. Kevin Donovan will be taking her place at TEC.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** They had 4 ground teams and 5 aircraft in Pinson, TN searching for 2-year-old Noah Chamberlain. Search was unsuccessful. More than 700 people in all were part of the search. CAP is preparing for their summer training and will also be involved in Tennessee Maneuvers. Next month they will be training for the TBI and the DEA on things they help them with throughout the year as well as starting training for Ft. Campbell's Joint Terminal Attack Controller program, where they simulate various aircraft for them. The planning cycle for TEC's support for their regional staff college has begun. They haven't released the materials yet, and already have half a dozen students signed up.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt. Col. Jack Lancaster):** Recently, they had their first inspection in 4 years, and passed. GAMA Cup starts in 2 days. Have 8 detachments from around the Southeast region coming to UT to engage in the sporting competition. They're also preparing for a trip to D.C. They'll be taking a group of cadets out to Bolling AF Base, Andrews AF Base, the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, and several other places. Capt Andrew Ferguson's young daughter Daphne was diagnosed with Leukemia and has undergone 4 rounds of chemo. They are going to proceed with her bone marrow transplant. Lt. Col. Lancaster asks everyone to keep Capt. Ferguson's family in your prayers.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** 54 state high school teams are competing in the CyberPatriot competition - 26 of them from East Tennessee. The student championship round was a month ago. East TN retained the state championship: Farragut High School won for the 5th straight year. Regional rounds will take place this weekend. Farragut may have a chance to make it to the national competition this year. Civil Air Patrol from McGhee Tyson ANGB is the All Service Division state champion. Steve thanked everyone for their efforts and said it was very successful. For more information on the AFA, visit <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Marty Everett):** Their building is for sale. Have engaged a realtor and are looking for a new location. Thanked Jess Hernandez and the Red Cross for allowing them to hold their monthly meetings at the Red Cross Office Bldg. For information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.

- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** April is the month of the military child. Red Cross will be having 2 free events open to local military families to honor the military children. Saturday, Apr. 30th is the first event in Chattanooga at the Creative Discovery Museum. Then Sunday, May 1st, will be their second event at the Knoxville Zoo. Each event has 100 slots available on first-come first-serve. There will be free t-shirts and a special coining ceremony for the kids. Military children ages 1-17 and their families are welcomed. Register to participate for these free events.
 - Steve Dillenburg reports the following event is also in conjunction with the April Month of the Military Child: April 24th is a UT Baseball game. 250 tickets will be available for military children. ETMAC supported the event with a donation.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** The East TN Veterans Memorial will have the U.S. Navy Band playing at their location during Navy week. They're working on preparations right now. Looking to schedule it for 4 p.m. It will be open to the public.

[EVENTS]:

- April 22-23rd: **Mountain Man Memorial March** in Gatlinburg, TN. Registration is open. Are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the water stations. For more details on being a runner, to sponsor a Gold Star family, to volunteer, or to make a donation, visit <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>. WWII MOH recipient Woody Williams, USMC, will be the keynote speaker for the opening ceremony. Due to the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states, a memorial honoring Gold Star Families in Knoxville will be placed at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. Joleen said they hope to break ground Sunday, Apr. 24th. To support the project with the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation or to donate, visit <http://hwwmohfoundation.org/>
- May 2nd: Will be **ETVMA's 6th Annual Medal of Honor Evening** at The Foundry at World's Fair Park. Social hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner & presentation at 6:30 p.m. This is ETVMA's annual fundraiser dinner. They will be honoring Korean War MOH recipient SFC Ray Eugene Duke, U.S. Army, who is from Whitwell, TN. He was the only MOH recipient from TN who was a POW. Guest speaker is Professor Douglas Lovelace, Jr., from the U.S. Army War College. Registration is online. Individual ticket prices are \$75/person, or \$500 for a table of 8 purchased before April 1st. \$600 after April 1st. Contact Joleen for any questions or visit the ETVMA website at <https://etvma.org/> to purchase your tickets.
- May 30th: **Memorial Day "Reading of the Names":** You are welcome to show up and get in line to read names starting at sunrise at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park. Will need between 70-85 readers. Are also currently looking for volunteers to set up chairs and tables.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** The Council was asked by the VA to help secure a telehealth system in rural counties. The Council has since set up telehealth in both Loudon and Monroe counties. They secured a location in Loudon County at the courthouse. Monroe County's location was secured in one of the attorney buildings, which will be fully staffed and opened once a week on Wednesdays. Helen Ross McNabb Center will also have their military services program in Monroe Co. on that Wednesday of each week. Helen Ross McNabb has a grant-funded Military Services program open to all military service members, veterans, and their family

members who suffer from any mental illness. Individuals will not need insurance to be part of the program. No fees will apply. For more information on Helen Ross McNabb Center's Military Services, call (865) 637-9711. Next Tuesday the Council will be conducting their first suicide prevention training on March 8th for 76 individuals from ROTC units in Knoxville at Central High School. If you'd like more information on these programs or the Council, contact Freddie or learn more at the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council's website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.

- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** There are currently 21,000 involuntary on active duty and more than 4,000 on voluntary active duty under Title 10. Most of the voluntary are air refueling and airlift units from the Air Guard. On April 15th they'll be hosting more than 100 employers for an event at McGhee Tyson for the Air Show. Last week they reviewed the official briefings from the National Commission on the Future of the Army. The Commission recommended to the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Army that there be no further reductions to the Army Guard and Reserve endstrength, and to the active Guard and Reserve in the FY2016 budget. The Chief of Staff of the Army has accepted a number of these recommendations publicly, including his intentions to use the Guard and the Reserve more frequently for overseas deployments, particularly the combat units and aviation units. The Secretary of the Army is to discuss ARI by the end of March. One of the recommendations was that the Guard retain 4 Apache battalions.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #20 will take place Wed., April 13th. Proceeds from the Smoky Mountain Air Show will benefit Honor Air. The veterans and guardians have been notified regarding the flight. Their orientation meeting is in 2 weeks. Everyone is invited to the Welcome Home Ceremony at the McGhee Tyson Airport on Wed., April 13th around 8 p.m. On this flight they'll have 2 WWII veterans that are both 100 years old. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** On March 30th at 2:30 p.m., their office will be holding a veterans benefits class at the Karns Senior Center. It'll be mainly geared toward benefits assistance for veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Anyone is welcomed to attend. Contact Tom at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645 for more information.
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** Their dining-in event is Saturday, March 12th at Rothchild's. The next safety break is the weekend of March 25-27th, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Rest Area right before the I-81/I-40 split. The MCL's upcoming Pistol match is Sat., April 9th. MCL will be a sponsor at the Air Show and assisting at one of the concession stands. They'll also be going to Parris Island, SC in April; the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The Mud Run is Sept. 17th. They're looking for teams, sponsors and volunteers. Last year more than 1,800 persons participated. Their MCL monthly meeting is at the end of March. Eddie also said they're happy to have Larry Winters as the new commanding officer for the Young Marines program. For more information, visit the MCL Knoxville website at mclknox.org
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** 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. They're currently looking for new members - commissioned and warrant officers are welcomed. Their next meeting is

March 9th. Will be introducing their new Commander on Apr. 7th. Owen Haddock said Chaplain Chris Stanfield, LCDR, with NOSC, will be their next guest speaker.

- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** Commented that it was wonderful ETMAC is supporting the Smoky Mountain Air Show as a sponsor and was proud to be a part of the organization. Steve says Healing Waters runs a program for a non-profit, not a charity. River Sports Outfitters will be letting them host another Pint Night on Tues., April 5th from 6-9 p.m. at their location to raise money for the Healing Waters' Knoxville program. Have 3 different rod-building classes with 17 veterans participating. The program is currently working with Blount Co. veterans' service officer Nathan Weinbaum in expanding their program to Blount Co. due to growing interest there. A group of young fly fishers called "Vols on the Fly" held an event recently to help tie for their veterans. The veteran participants have planned to host other veterans again at Rabbit Run Retreat in Norris, TN, where they invite other veterans from the TN Valley Region and the veterans are river helpers and guides to the visiting veterans. Brady Fernandes, a 17 year old high school student, started a project to raise money for disabled veterans where he created "Patriot Threads" shirts where 10% of his net profit is donated to Project Healing Waters. For more information on the Project Healing Waters program, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** Sat., March 26th is the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event at World's Fair Park at 1 p.m. They will have a wreath presentation. All service organizations are invited to present a wreath or to participate. 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/Veteran Stand Down (Clyde Vincent):** VOA's homeless veterans program is reapplying for their grant and are needing support letters from any veteran organizations. Owen Ragland said ETMAC has supported VOA with a letter of support for the grant. Contact VOA if any veteran needs to find work, assistance in finding a better job, working part-time, or need help with their utilities. Sept. 24th will be this year's Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down event. They're in the planning stages. Further details coming soon. Also, Supportive Services for Veteran Families help house homeless veterans and lately they have been looking for landlords who want to participate in housing veterans and homeless veterans.
- **Women Marines Association - Rocky Top Chapter (Jessica King):** Last weekend they celebrated 73 years of women officially being part of the U.S. Marine Corps. The WMA have visited several different counties Monroe, Morgan, and Sevier for their meetings and picked up 13 new members.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Jessica King):** Are behind on the park clearing and underbrush clearing on the ridge due to so many rained out Saturday work days. Their next work day is Sat., March 26th at 9:30 a.m. at Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park. Bring any yard tools you may have. They meet at the overlook at the top. They also need help cleaning up the second picnic area at the bottom of the ridge and are hoping to get it done in 1 day. They will not be scheduling cleanup days in April to mid-May to prevent disturbing the bird migrations. Officers are meeting to finalize the bylaws on the Veterans Heritage Site Foundation Tuesday night. You can visit Chapter 44's site at <http://wvachapter44.org/> for more details.
- **Military Women Across the Nation (Laura Comas):** In the past 5 years, the VA sponsored the Women's Veteran Summit in TN, but this year they are not. The women veteran service organizations will be sponsoring this year's. April 29th-30th is the 5th Annual Women Veteran Summit, which will be held in Chattanooga at the Hampton Inn.

Special room rates are blocked at \$119 per night until Apr. 8th. 150 is the seating limitation for the Summit. Registration is \$60/person. For registration, vendor application, and more information, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CrDyNpLBpCguAXSKcRk8z_b5eXHkJ0Rd6tQonkhTzas/viewform?c=0&w=1. Next year, Women Veterans of America will be hosting the Women Veteran Summit in the Gatlinburg area.

- **Knox County Veterans Treatment Court (Howard Jenkins):** The VTC is growing and they need more mentors. The only mentor requirement is that you be a veteran and take a 1 day class. You attend court once per week and talk to your veteran several times a week.

- ❖ **President's Closing Statement (Owen Ragland):** Said to keep those who are serving, those who are deployed, and Capt. Ferguson's family and his daughter in your prayers.
- ❖ 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, April 7, 2016 at the Knoxville Red Cross Building – 8:30 a.m.