

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

MARCH 5, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY **(In lieu of meeting that was cancelled due to weather)**

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MARCH 26-29	Vietnam Veterans of America Region III Conference
MARCH 29	National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
MARCH 28	Maryville College's "Creating College Success for Veterans' Conference
APRIL 4	Operations Military Kids' Easter Egg Hunt
APRIL 10-11	8 th Annual Mountain Man Memorial March
APRIL 15	Honor Air Flight (Flight #18)
MAY 4	East TN Veterans Memorial Association 5th Annual Medal of Honor Evening
MAY 12-13	Project Healing Waters' Fly Fishing with Wounded Warrior Project

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #18, the next Honor Air flight will take place on April 15. Veterans and guardians who have been selected for the flight have been notified, and their orientation meeting will take place on Saturday, March 28th. To support Honor Air Knoxville or for more information in how to apply, please visit <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS REPORTED AT LAST MEETING:

- **Vietnam Veterans of America Region III Conference (Barry Rice):** March 26-29th at the Knoxville Hilton Hotel. Rooms blocked for the event have been sold out. More rooms are reserved at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park for the event. The TN State Council, who supports 21 VVA Chapters from within the state is hosting. The city of Knoxville expects 300 Vietnam veteran attendees from 7 different states. The meeting will cover issues ranging from Agent Orange training, associated diseases affecting veterans' children, and PTSD and the increasing veteran suicide rates. Advertisers, sponsorships, and donations are welcomed. Barry hopes to see in the future the National Convention to come to Knoxville, which could result in 12,000-15,000 Vietnam veterans visiting the city. For suggestions or questions, call TN State Council President Barry Rice at (615) 479-8619 or email at BarryRice.tsc@gmail.com Barry also thanked everyone for their support.
- **National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day** - Chapter 1078 will be celebrating "National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" March 29th at 1:30 at the East TN Veterans Memorial at World's Fair Park located behind the Knoxville Holiday Inn. We will honor Vietnam Veterans listed on the Memorial with a Welcome Home Wreath, have a speaker or two and join with one another on a day set aside to give us the Welcome Home so deserving of all Vietnam Veterans. This promises to be a short event since it is Palm Sunday.
- **"Creating College Success for Veterans" Conference with Maryville College (Darren Dunlap):** Hosting a conference on March 28th designed to help student veterans; invitations are extended to counselors, students, and anyone who works with veterans. Anyone that is interested and has experience

in training veterans and educating veterans and would like to attend are welcomed. Their mission is to find better ways to serve veterans.

- **Mountain Man Memorial March (Joleen Dewald):** April 10th & 11th in Gatlinburg, TN. Looking for participants, volunteers, and sponsors. 59 gold star families are already registered. For JROTC or Boy Scouts, they offer reduced rates for t-shirts and hotel reservations. Accommodations are at Greystone Lodge in Gatlinburg for a reduced rate of \$82/night. Currently they are seeking teams of 5 or individuals to do the 10Km, the 13.1 half marathon, or the full 26.2 mile marathon. There are two divisions: heavy and light. Light division is shorts and t-shirt attire. Heavy division carries a 40 lb. pack and wears military uniform and boots, etc. For more details or to register, visit <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** May 4th is ETVMA's Annual Medal of Honor evening event. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner and presentation starts at 6:30 p.m., at the Foundry Building at 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN. \$75 for individuals, and a table of 8 is \$500 for the April "Early Bird" special. Ticket prices will increase after April 1st. They will be honoring WWII Medal of Honor recipient T/Sgt. Charles H. Coolidge, one of the only seven MOH recipients still living who served during WWII. He is also from Chattanooga. For tickets, sponsorship, and more information, visit <http://etvma.org/moheve/>
 - **Memorial Day** is Monday, May 25th; ETVMA will start their 2015 "Reading of the Names" at sunrise that day. They currently need 85 volunteers. Call ETVMA at (865) 633-8337 if interested.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Joe Eddlemon):** 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. Knox Co. Chief Deputy Eddie Biggs was their last speaker. Retired Navy Captain Valentine will be guest speaker at the next meeting.
- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):**
[EVENTS]:
 - April 7th: River Sports Outfitters Pint Night (10% of proceeds go to Project Healing Waters)
 - May 12-13th: They will be hosting the Wounded Warrior Project along the Clinch RiverProject Healing Waters is an organization registered with the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**; 3 cents per dollar spent go to the local Knoxville Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. Log on to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> to participate. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is dedicated to the emotional and physical rehabilitation of wounded and disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing education and outings. For more information, visit: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>
- **Operations Military Kids (Angie Beaty):** Saturday, March 7th, is their healthy living event, an interactional and educational event for military children at the Air Base. April 4th is their Easter Egg hunt. April 11th is their free ticket event to the baseball game. For more information, visit <https://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/getInvolvedBy.aspx?state=Tennessee>

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2nd at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.