



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

March 7, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now thru Aug. 15, 2019: VTVT is accepting nominations for their Freddie J. Owens Memorial Honor. Please go to <http://womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org> for the nomination information. Deadline is August 15, 2019.

- MAR 5 Reboot Combat Recovery is a 12-week course held Tuesdays from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm. Dinner and child care are provided. Location is Farragut Church of Christ at 136 Smith Rd. Knoxville, TN
- MAR 15 Bassmaster Classic Championship Tournament “Support the Troops” Day. 3pm at Thompson Boling Arena. <https://www.visitknoxville.com/bassmaster/event-info/weigh-in/> for more information. Please RSVP to MSgt Brandon Carver, USAF, 332nd Recruiting Squadron at Richard.carver.2@us.af.mil or 865/684-9968.
- MAR 16 Loudon County Veteran Resources and Job Fair. 10am until 2pm. War Memorial Building 103 B St. Lenoir City, TN 37771 Many employers will be on site and there will also be medical screening, legal assistance and many other agencies on site to provide resources. 865-403-1606
- MAR 22-23 The Tennessee “Remembering Our Fallen” Memorial will be displayed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 356, at the “Ponies In The Smokies” event, March 22-23, 2019. The display will be located at the Sevierville Convention Center, 202 Gists Creek Road Sevierville, TN 37876. For info on this memorial - <https://www.patrioticproductions.org/state-memorials>
- MAR 23-24 Sons of the American Legion Post 2 Annual Turkey Shoot (they don’t shoot turkeys) 10am until 2pm. Knoxville Rugby Football Club’s Possum Park 9435 College St, Strawberry Plains TN \$5 a shot -Turkeys and Hams. For information contact Josh Plane 865/805-8781 or Dan Chipman 865/719-1207
- MAR 28 Epsilon Sigma Alpha is hosting a reception to honor Knox County Women Veterans for their service. The event will be held at Susannah’s House, 923 Dameron Ave from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm. RSVP to Jo Donahue at 919/740-9884 or jodonahue2015@gmail.com
- APR 6 Veterans Horticultural Therapy Workshop at Bee Ridges Farm, 816 Bull Run Rd. Clinton from 10:00 until 16:30 with a family dinner and bonfire to follow. For more information see [UT Gardens](#)
- APR 10 Honor Air Flight #28. April 10, 2019 <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- APR 13 Cleaning of headstones at the Knoxville National Cemetery. Follow this link for details: <https://volunteersignup.org/PKJM7>
- APR 19 UT Army ROTC Spring Annual Ball at the Marriott, 6-9pm. All are invited. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1876429125760250/>

- APR 26 & 27 Mountain Man Memorial March. <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> LIKE on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>
- MAY 6 ETVMA's annual Medal of Honor Evening – Registration is now open. First ten Vet organizations/military units to contact Joleen to purchase a table will get their table of ten for only \$500. joleen@thedewalds.org Sponsorship tables are \$1,000. www.etvma.org They are honoring a Marine this year, Medal of Honor recipient Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser
- 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
- OCT 19 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 annual Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>
- 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, March 7, 2019 at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **73** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
John Born with Assurance Center
Mike Johnson from the 134th ARW
Dan Bradley is the veteran's liaison with TVA Knoxville
Dean Borsos with Mountain Home Medical Center
Herb Kraehmer representing the 3 local Honor Guards
Jason Bradley
Bridget Miller
Jim Hackworth
Ron Naugle
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland** – Thank you for attending today.
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- **Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Derren Burrell** – Just under \$15,000.00 in operating account. 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.
- **Webmaster Report: Dent Young** – 200 website visits for the month.
- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins** – www.ETMAC.org Donations to help ETMAC pay for parking and donuts are welcome. Please pay your dues for 2019. You may pay through the website or send/bring a check.
- **Dean Borsos-** Special Update on Mountain Home VAMC. They have been working on increasing capacity and upgrading the care veterans receive and they have had continuous growth over the past two years. They have upgraded to 23000 sq. ft. in the mental health area. They also reopened the radiation department. They have hired two optometrists as well as an acupuncturist. They can allow veterans to do sleep studies at home. They have added a neurologist and have upgraded the ICU

department. Average wait time for a primary care appointment is 15 days for a new patient and only 2 for a returning patient. Wait time for other department appointments have come down as well.

- Shawn Boothe – Spaghetti dinner at Farragut High School on March 8th and pancake breakfast on the 9th for the Navy JROTC detachment from Farragut High School.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **Joseph Westfall** – no report
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Maj Willie Posey** – Cyber hits increase during tax season. The IRS never contacts you by email. Partnering locally to determine other threats. They are available to give presentations to other units and veteran organizations.
- 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion – **CPT Hulon Holmes** – unable to attend
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Lt Col Bart Wilder** – Last year they have been on 6 of the 7 continents. AMC will be conducting a routine inspection in April. New TAG in place.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **COL Brad Bowlin** - - We are preparing for an overseas troop rotation. Lots of folks in motion.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Lt Col Terrance Holmes** - Met their goals for February. This will be Lt Col Holmes last ETMAC meeting as he moves on to the Air War College. Gave praise to ETMAC for the support they have given. Lt Col Michael Kovalchek coming in to replace Lt Col Holmes, and the Change of Command is scheduled for 14 June. Brandon Carver promoted to MSgt. On 27 March is First Robotics. Title this year is Women in Stem and speaking opportunities are available. See information on Bassmaster Classic above and respond to MSgt Carver if you can participate.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – unable to attend
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MSG David Eddy** -nothing to report
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – unable to attend
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **1st Sgt Jason Brackley** - Medical advisors came in to help with their medical readiness. They respond anywhere in the world and are integrating with infantry units for training in April.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col John Capra**–. Col Kerry Lovely has another assignment and will be leaving the TEC. The Change of Command is May 31st. They graduated 43 airmen last week and have several classes currently. A 3-Star is coming next week for a visit. Lots of General officers have visited the TEC in the last month.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** –unable to attend
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **Capt Ethan Frazier** - nothing to report
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Drill weekend March 16th and 17th. Head of Navy recruiting coming for a visit and they will be hosting all recruiters from the area. They are also participating in hurricane preparedness.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** –nothing to report
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** –unable to attend
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** –AFROTC at UTK had 7 of 7 cadets selected in the 2019 Rated board. This included four pilot slot selects and one each for Combat System Operator, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot and Air Battle Manager. Additionally, we had one cadet selected to attend the International Women in Aviation conference in California; one selected to attend Free Fall

training at the USAF Academy, and one selected for a USAF Academy hosted Space Operations Orientation Course.

- **UT Army ROTC - LTC Justin Howe** – <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - 150 cadets in the program currently. Headed to Fort Knox for training after spring break. Spring Ball will be 12 April. 18 April will be Leadership Forum. They are participating in the Mountain Man March. On 11 May cadet commissioning will be at the Student Union for 21 cadets. MG John Evans will be the guest speaker. He is the Cadet Command CG for all 275 ROTC units across the country. Big training at Fort Knox this summer. Retired veterans from our community are invited to attend the ROTC's events. The cadets look forward to meeting you.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association – Col Paula Penson** – Special thanks to TEC and 119th for going through the Cyber Defense program that they will be offering to seniors in the community. Looking for talented audience members to participate for vetting purposes.
- **American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor – Bill Adams**- 3.7% national unemployment rate for veterans. 3 job fairs in March. The first one on March 12 from 9am to 1pm at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church on Kingston Pike; the second one is listed above in Lenoir City and the third is on the 20th at 2700 Middlebrook Pike Suite 100 from 10am until 12pm. This one is a multi-employer job fair.
- **American Legion – Larry Sharp** legionknox.com FB:<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - The American Legion Post Two celebrated 100 years with cake. Larry reported on the Mountain Man Memorial March coming up. There are several different lengths walks available and details can be found on their website. They are requesting financial help with the feeding of 1,300 marchers, Gold Star Families, and volunteers on the day of the march, April 27. If you would like to help, please contact Lee Dalton at adalton6@utk.edu or at 931/237-7482. Anyone that donates \$750 or more will be recognized with their name/organization/logo on the website, the lunch sponsor banner and maybe even the t-shirts. If anyone has a catering contact that might help with donations or discounts, please pass that information along to Patrice. Another avenue to donate is through the MMMM website at <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/12th-annual-mmmm>. - put note in payment screen that donation is for MMMM meal expense.
- **American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - They provide support to families when service members are deployed. Hero Care Network is there to help members of the military, veterans and their families identify and access both emergency and non-emergency Red Cross services from anywhere in the world. The Hero Care Communications number is 877/272-7337.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - One open bed currently. Rated as 5-Star facility. They have a need for staff nurses.
- **Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Gary Ellis** <http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> Meet 2nd Tuesday evening of each month. They have 300 members and are in the top 25 chapters in the country. Still looking for veterans that want to socialize. March 29th they will have their National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at 9:30 am at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. They are also manning one of the water point stations along the MMMM route. Gary encouraged other Veterans Groups to sign up and do the same. The chapter is also helping with the Ridge Run. They will be hosting their annual picnic for veterans on Oct 19 at Chilhowee Park as well.
- **Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - unable to attend

- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Herb Kraehmer - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - Herb will be reporting for the three Honor Guards in the area, Honor Guard of Pigeon Forge, Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard as well as the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard. Between the three groups, they performed 650 honor ceremonies last year and they have performed 85 so far this year. They are also available to speak to school groups or to perform at retirement ceremonies. Anytime you need a military presence, they would be happy to help. They also helped with the Unclaimed Remains Ceremony for 7 local veterans. Operation Honor Guard raised \$44,000 to help the local Honor Guards. Check out the link to see how it helps. [Operation Honor Guard](#)
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association Patrice Collins - <https://etvma.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>– Annual Medal of Honor Evening dinner coming up May 6, 2019. Go to website to register. This year they will be honoring Sgt. Elbert Kinser, USMC. The first 10 Veteran or Military units that sign up will be able to purchase their table for \$500. You will need to call Joleen to receive that discount. Her number is 571/332-3100 or by email at joleen@etvma.org.
- 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/> Jim commented that the average age of a honor guard member is 75 and each will perform upwards of 200 ceremonies each year. ESGR is hosting a Boss lift on March 27th at the 230th. ESGR reaches out to every unit each year to brief them on USERRA laws and inform them of the availability of an Ombudsman to help with any employer issue. Their briefings are short but provide much needed information to each member of your units. There are 15 Freedom Awards given each year and Tennessee has two semifinalists this year, HCA and Cracker Barrel.
- Honor Air –Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - Flight #28 will take place on April 10, 2019. Orientation will take place on March 23rd. ETMAC’s Economic Impact Report will be presented to the Leadership Knoxville class next week at the Air Base.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> . Sporting Clay fundraiser event coming up on March 8. See the event section for details.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Emily Hager- <http://tnvhc.org/> – Taking nominations for Freddie J Owens Memorial Honor. Two categories for nomination of women, one veteran/military woman and one civilian woman. Details are on website. Second annual summit will be October 3rd in Maryville at Rio Revolution Church www.womenvetssummit.tnvhc.org . Major focus is helping the community communicate with local VA. They meet the second Thursday each month. They invite people having issues with the Knoxville clinic to come to the meetings. There is a survey on the website that will allow you to pass your issues along if you cannot attend the meeting.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org or call 865-215-5645 nothing to report
- Knoxville Vet Center –Lyle Allen - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> -1645 Downtown West Blvd. Services free to service members. Many types of counseling available. Mobile Vet Center available.
- Marine Corps League – Eric Nash <http://www.mclknox.org/> 6 months until Mud Run on September 28. Meet the last Tuesday of the month at a new location - Lyons Club in Karns. Thank you to the Marine Reserve Center for their years of service. 104th birthday of the Naval Reserve last month. Coast Guard Reserve 77th Birthday in March.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – Bill Potter - www.moaa.org Continuing to meet jointly with MOWW. Spring means awards time for JROTC and ROTC units.

- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** - <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – Meet the second Wednesday of each month. Jimmy Matlock will be the speaker this month. Lunch begins at 11:00 am and meeting begins at 12:00 noon at Rothchild's Banquet and Catering. Leadership meeting in Washington coming up. They also provide awards to JROTC and ROTC.
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Patrice Collins** –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> Like us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/> - **The events begin on Friday, April 26. The March is on Sat., April 27 with race start at 9:00 am.** Registration is now open. A 10K race is also an option. Always looking for volunteers. Looking for volunteers to man water points and help with meal service.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Dan Moneymaker** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> -Meet the first Tuesday of each month at the American Red Cross. 9 events scheduled for this summer. They could use support to provide lunch at the events.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –**Michael Simpson** – <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. Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Farragut Church of Christ, 136 Smith Road, Farragut, TN. Dinner and childcare are provided. Contact Stacy Nichols at snich@tds.net or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at mike@visionaryhorizons.com. New class started this month.
- Rolling Thunder – *unable to attend* - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.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. Open house on April 13 to bring their purpose to the public eye. They aren't just a motorcycle club, they are a veteran support organization. Last Rolling Thunder national event this Memorial Day. 900,000 people attended last year.
- STAR – Horses & Heros Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - 15 participants currently. Will be holding classes Tuesday and Thursday at South Knoxville location and Thursday and Friday at Lenoir City. They are having good success with the program.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - Nothing to report.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** – unable to attend. https://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955
- Veterans Appreciation Program- **Larry Sharp**- link between military/veterans and businesses that offer discounts to our veterans and military. Visit www.veteransappreciationprogram.com for details.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - March 30 is site-cleanup day beginning at 10am. April 6 is 3rd Annual Veterans Heritage Ridge Run (5k) at Sharps Ridge. To sign up, follow this link. [Ridge Run](#) . Looking for volunteers to help. Sponsorships are also available and will be used to allow JROTC members to run.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Luke Davy** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> – Work with homeless veterans to get them reintegrated. They assist with gas cards, resume help, clothing and other services to help the veteran find work. They cover 8 rural counties in our area.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - They serve 120 families. 10 attended the TVBA dinner, thank you to Eric for the donation; 2 going to Boulder Crest which is an inpatient PTSD facility in Colorado. 3 attended a caregiver retreat in Vale. 4 families attended Travis Mill Foundation in Maine. 8

caregivers attended a spa day. A nurse from Walter Reed who is working on her PhD is coming to East Tennessee to interview 20 caregivers for her dissertation on the stress of caregiving. 12 caregivers and families attended an outing in Pigeon Forge. 47 people going to Gatlinburg this weekend. 16 families attending a water lantern festival next month. Stephanie is meeting with Todd White to plan a fundraiser with local breweries. They donated 7 weekend stays at their Bed and Breakfast for veteran families in January and February.

- Military Order of the Purple Heart - **Charlie Cardwell** - <https://moph356.org/> - Chapter Meets on third Tuesday at 6 pm at Shoney's on Emory Rd.
- Derren Burrell welcomed back Maj Stephanie Senogles from the 134th on her return after a year away.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2018
@ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am

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

ETMAC Board of Directors:

Owen Ragland, President 865-556-6338 email: oragland@kmfpc.com

Jess Hernandez, Vice President 865-567-6134 email: Jess.Hernandez@redcross.org

Derren Burrell, Treasurer 865-771-4243 email: derren@tagresources.com

Kim Spencer, Secretary 865-661-9856 email: kim@nallssherbakoff.com

Patrice Collins, Chamber Rep 865-806-4487 email: pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com

Joleen Dewald, At Large Director, 571-332-3100 email: joleen@thedewalds.org

Capt Willie Posey, At Large Director, 865-274-9901 email: willie.s.posey.mil@mail.mil

Gina Massey, At Large Director, 865-363-2994 email: gmassey@etmafcu.net

Tom Humphries, At Large Dir 865-215-5645 Thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org

Don Smith, At Large Director 931-335-0477 email: donandmarysmith@aol.com

Rick Garner, At Large Director 865-740-2970 email: rgarner@khfh.com

Dent Young, Webmaster