

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

May 7, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- MAY 15th Homeless Veterans Stand Down (National Guard Armory). Call Robert Hubbard at 524-6253 for more details.
- MAY 15th-17th The H.L. Hunley Mobile Submarine Exhibit will be in Spring City, TN. Call Lee Booker at 423-452-0926 for more details.
- MAY 15th/16th 2009 Air Force Association State Convention at the Airport Hilton. Featuring guest speaker Major General Irving Halter. For more details contact Jim Mungenast at 386-5859.
- MAY 20th 4:30 pm Carry the Flame/Rolling Thunder to honor Gold Star Mothers at Knoxville Harley Davidson (Lovell Rd). Includes a KC-135 flyover.
- MAY 25th **Memorial Day Events**
10 a.m. Doughboy Monument at Historic Knoxville High School
11 a.m. Knoxville National Cemetery at 939 Tyson St
11 a.m. Marine Corps League and the young Marines at Virtue Cemetery
2 p.m. East TN Veterans Cemetery at 5901 Lyons View Pike
Smokies Baseball "Salute to Heroes Night"
Cost: Veterans- free, Non-Veterans- \$7
Gates open at 6 pm
Memorial Day Program at 6:30
Birmingham Barons vs. Tennessee Smokies at 7:15 pm
- MAY 26th Knoxville MEPS will dedicate the Ceremony Room at 2 p.m. in honor of Sgt Michael H. Ferschke Jr., USMC (Please call 531-8221 if you would like to attend)
- June 14th "Proud to be an American" Festival, 2 pm Blount County

STAY CURRENT: WWW.ETMAC.ORG

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, May 7th at the Knoxville Chamber, Joseph Mazzola presiding. A total of 47 members and guests were present. The summary of the March meeting was approved. The treasurer's report shows an end of the month balance as of April 30th of \$7,977.29.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (John Romeiser): Dr. Romeiser reported that the City of Knoxville will build a park as scheduled near the Veterans Memorial. ETVMA has updated its webpage www.etvma.org ETVMA has hired a UT senior to work this summer to research the 6200 names on the memorial. The educational committee is developing curriculum materials for schools who visit the memorial.

Honor Air (Sam Hardman) Mr. Hardman reported the next Honor Air flight will be on Oct 17, 2009.

Ben Atchley State Veterans Home (Ed Harries): Mr. Harries reports that they are currently at 140 residents and full capacity. The waiting list remains at over 400. They continue to be involved in the community and welcome all opportunities and to be included in future activities.

Web Site (Laimon Godel): Mr. Godel summarized the web site activity as having 1,890 visitors with an average of 63 visitors a day. The local resources page was the most frequently hit. The Russian Federation and China combined for 11% of the total visits.

East Tennessee Public Television (James Dee): Mr. Dee reported on Thursday May 14 on WBIR evening news, "Service and Sacrifice" will feature a Navy WWII Veteran. There will be an event named the Civil War Living History Program for Scouts which will be held on May 8th, at Hardin Valley Elementary in the morning and then at Ben Atchley State Veterans Home in the afternoon.

UT Aerospace MBA Program Presentation (Andrew White): Mr. White spoke about the University of Tennessee College of Business Administration, National Defense Business Institute, Aerospace and Defense MBA, Non-Degree courses, and Research and Consulting.

Veteran Stand Down (Joe Mazzola): Mr. Mazzola covered this year's stand down which will be on May 15th at the National Guard Armory at Sutherland Ave. Call Robert Hubbard at 524-6253 for more details.

Blount County Veterans Celebration (Joe Mazzola): The "Proud to Be an American Festival" will be held on June 14 (Flag Day). A parade will start at 2 pm in downtown Maryville and travel to the amphitheater behind the Blount County Courthouse where a ceremony will take place. Contact Bethany Brown at 556-9280 for details.

American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez): Mr. Hernandez spoke about upcoming classes at the American Red Cross which includes a free CPR Class, NAT (Nursing Assistant Training), and a first aid class. On May 19, at 2:30 p.m. the American Red Cross will be at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home to honor the Veterans who reside there. For more information call the American Red Cross at 584-2999.

SENIOR ROTC UNITS

UT Air Force (Captain Carborne): Captain Carborne gave a recap of his cadet's semester which included a flight on a KC-135. There was an introduction of cadet graduates.

UT Army/Mountain Man March: (Tom DeHoog): Mr. DeHoog spoke about the success of the Mountain Man March which included over 250 participants and a ceremony for Gold Star Mothers.

MILITARY UNIT ACTIVITY

US Army Recruiting Company: It was reported that Captain Blake will have his Change of Command on May 22 at Neyland Stadium. His next assignment will be at Fort Carson.

Military Entrance Processing Station (Lt Commander Neely): Commander Neely reported that his unit is shipping out over 100 recruits every week. The "TestingTeam" has completed its ASVAB goal 6 straight years and only 2 MEPS out of 65 have been able to do this.

134th Air Refueling (Colonel Dearing): Colonel Dearing reported that the \$3.5 million front gate is now complete. Another \$8 million will be used to build a new squad operations building which will be breaking ground on the project this fall. Colonel Dearing will be heading to Washington D.C. on May 19th to work on getting \$30 million to build a new conference center and dormitory. Troops whom had been serving in Iraq just returned 2 weekends ago. The 134th also just received its 11th "Outstanding Unit Award".

I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Howard): Colonel Howard reported that on June 26 his unit will be having a "Transfer Ceremony" which will include all 9 commanders invited back for the ceremony. Future classes will take place at Maxwell AFB. Starting this fall, they will be having more Air Force NCO students.

844th Engineering Battalion (Tom DeHoog): Mr. DeHoog reported that VFW Post 1733 adopted the 844th Engineering Battalion. On April 18th the 844th had a "Change of Patch" ceremony and becomes the 412th Engineering Command.

Navy/Marines Reserve Center (Commander Pontier): Commander Pontier informed ETMAC that the Family Preparedness Day was very informative and really enjoyable. There will be a Navy week in September that will be in conjunction with Boomsday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Weinbaum, Secretary
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council

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