



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

November 1, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Until
DEC 20 Toys for Tots Campaign. NEED Donations - Volunteers, Organizations and businesses to host a TOY Drop-Off-Box. Contact Sgt. Metts @ KnoxvilleT4T@usmc.mil or phone# -865-522-2414 ext. 113. Website: <https://knoxville-tn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/knoxtoys4tots/>
- NOV 14 Veterans Legal Advice Clinic, 12 noon – 2p, Knox County Public Defender’s community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville, TN 37919. For info call 865-522-6522
- NOV 14 Knoxville Career Center Job Fair. For info, contact David Webb at 865-403-1606.
- NOV 16 Knoxville Vet Center Open House, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28, Drop in anytime between 10a – 2p.
- NOV 20 Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home Annual Memorial Service @ 2pm for all the residence that have passed over the last year.
- DEC 12 Veterans Legal Advice Clinic, 12 noon – 2p, Knox County Public Defender’s community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville, TN 37919. For info call 865-522-6522
- DEC 12 Knoxville Career Center Job Fair. For info, contact David Webb at 865-403-1606.
- DEC 15 Wreaths Across America at Knoxville National Cemeteries. 12pm.
<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/17151/Overview/?relatedId=150000>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNationalCemeteryWreathsAcrossAmerica/>
- JAN 28 2019 TVBA Dinner with speaker Lt Col Oliver North and Lee Greenwood to sing National Anthem. For info contact **Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000 –<https://gotvba.com/>
- JAN 29 2019 TVBA Job fair at Knoxville Convention Center. <https://gotvba.com/>
- By 30 JUN 19 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
- MAR 2019 3rd week – Loudon County Veteran Resources Job Fair. For info, contact David Webb, 865-403-1606
- APR 26 & 27 Mountain Man Memorial March. <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>
LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

- APR 2019 Honor Air Flight #28. Date to be determined. <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- OCT 19, 2019 SAVE the DATE - Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>
- MAY 6, 2019 Annual Medal of Honor meeting and tables will open up beginning of the year. Honoring a Marine this year, Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser
- 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

AuntBERTHA.com is a FREE website for all your Social Service needs. Please share!!
<https://www.auntbertha.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/auntbertha/>

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, **November 1, 2018**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **67** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - Franklin Petty, PBA
 - Mike Graham, 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron
 - Leslie Purser, MG (Ret), ESGR/ USAR Ambassador
 - Sarah McIntosh Oldaker, TSgt IG Brown Training Education Center
 - Brett Turner, Col (Ret)
 - Gregory Herbst, M.Sgt. 134th ARW
 - Crystal Crump, M.Sgt. 134th ARW
 - Chaplain Wakefield, Maj, TN ANG
 - Col Chris Smith, Commander 119th Cyber Operations Squadron
- **Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell** – Current Balance = \$23,590.18
 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.
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland**
 - Speaker for luncheon on Thursday, November 8. Maj Gen Stephen A Clark, UT Air Force ROTC graduate with special ops background. <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/108737/major-general-stephen-a-clark/>
- **Veterans Day Parade November 9 – Marty Everett** - 93rd Veteran's Day Parade Gay Street, Friday, November 9th at 10:40am. Reviewing Officer is Maj Gen Stephen Clark and Bill Robinson will be Grand Marshall. 9 Bands, over 100 units. Televised on WBIR and WATE. Will stream live at WBIR.com. Ranked 10th in Nation. Sign up at http://legionknox.com/?page_id=128
- **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon - Patrice Collins** – Thank you to TEC who will provide Air Force 2-star flag. Please pay for tables as soon as possible. All tables and tickets must be prepaid.

“Remembering our Fallen” national memorial opening ceremony with Gold Star Families at UT campus on November 8 at 7:30pm. See info at <https://www.patrioticproductions.org/rememberingourfallen>
 YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpoMFcl4hJM>
 Will close at 4pm on Veteran's Day, Sunday, Nov. 11.

Salute to Service for UT on Sunday, Nov 11 at 2pm the UT Lady Vols basketball would like to honor our military and we need family from each branch. We still need Marine, Navy and Coast Guard. Please come up with a family and let Patrice know.

UT football tickets for the UT vs. KY game available. Contact Patrice for info.

- Other ETMAC announcements –
 - ETMAC election of Officers will come up in December meeting. We have a nominating committee if you are interested in one of these positions.
 - Knoxville Veteran Center is having Open House at 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28 from 10a – 2p.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** – On mission today thru Sunday supporting RAM in charge of crowd management and communications. A great service for people who truly need Dental services.
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Col Chris Smith, Commander** – First time here and we are here to support ETMAC.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Maj Derick Wakefield** – 134th has received 14th Air Force outstanding unit award. Air mobility command is on base for inspection. Successful ESGR flight in October. Will be a part of flyover for the UT football game and Lt. Dotson will be singing National Anthem on UT Basketball game Nov 11. Canned food drive in December along with a Toy drive for the Toys for Tots.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **LTC Brad Bowlin** – Troops deployed and troops at home supporting them. Looking forward to luncheon and parade. Honored to transport Gold star mothers. Still hiring.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Mr. Michael Graham, Flight Administrator** - Lt Col Holmes in Nashville leaving and will have new commander. Doing well in Knoxville area. Exceeded October goal – 142%. Got a new recruiter in. We are looking forward to luncheon and parade. If you need any help or assistance don't hesitate to reach out to us.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *nothing to report*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **GySgt John Kepper** – Past weekend was first drill for the FY and conducted the Birthday ball at Knoxville Convention Center. Nov 9 will support the Veterans Day Parade with a rifle team. If you have an event that you would like to host a Toys for Tots, please go on the website and put in a request or reach out to us.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col John Capras** – We won the Organizational Excellence award. We picked up an additional NCO academy – 160 tech sergeants. New Commandant coming in end of Dec or January, Chief Durants from Washington State.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – *unable to attend*
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – Thanks to everyone who supported the Navy Ball, was a great success. Drill this weekend, Nov 3 & 4. Toys for Tots is a great event that we supported last year and will support again this year.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – *nothing to report*
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div CDR Ron Boneau** – we participated with Vietnam Vet chapter picnic at Chilhowee Park. Set up a booth to participate with attendants, recruiting and discussed safe boating. Flotillas will be participating in parade and with county celebrations. Season coming to an end but still have some boating classes for the public in Tellico. January will participate in fishing show and March with the boating show.
- UT Air Force ROTC – *unable to attend*
- UT Army ROTC - **LTC Justin Howe** – FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/> - Last weekend were at Ft. Loudon for field training exercise, cold and wet. UT Army ROTC alumni to do color guard on the field for homecoming. Participating in Hall of Fame dinner on Nov 9 and in the

Vol walk for the Kentucky game on Saturday. Will contract 20 cadets in ceremony at UT Lady Vols game on November 11th. 14 December will hold Fall commissioning ceremony at Neyland Stadium, Maj Gen Jeff Holmes will oversee the ceremony.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – *unable to attend*
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** - legionknox.com FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - Veterans Day Parade is on November 9th. Online registration is open at http://legionknox.com/?page_id=128. Sunday, 18th of November will be hosting a flag retirement at 2pm. Presently have about 400 flags to retire.
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - Has been a terrible 3 months across our nation for disasters with hurricanes, floods and fires. Being able to get volunteers trained and mobilized has been a real challenge. We are covering North Florida and providing case work, emergency communication messages and access to financial assistance. 90% of cases are financial assistance. Yesterday had 25 cases and in one night jumped to 425. Completed about 300 cases in the last week. Lots of financial need and damage in NC with Florence. We received a \$400 grant that went to Ben Atchley Veteran's home for 150 Dry erase wipe boards with markers.
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - Nov 20 at 2pm, will hold an annual memorial service for members that have passed over the past year. Have open positions for nursing assistance, dietary workers and environmental specialists.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis** <http://www.vva1078.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> - We have around 300 members in 5th year. Will be at parade, luncheon and will be at the towers. Meet 2nd Tuesday of each month at Redemption Church.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – **Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association **Joleen Dewald** - <https://etvma.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> – “Sounds of Remembrance” will be at the memorial 11am on Veteran's Day. Monday, May 6th will hold our Annual Medal of Honor dinner and tables will open up beginning of the year. Honoring a Marine this year, Sgt Elbert Kinser from Greenville, TN. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_L._Kinser
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – **Reid Gerhardt** - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - participated in operation honor guard last Oct 4. Big success, raised over \$40k to continue to provide honors for fallen vets.
- Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - We have an existing home that was built and rehabbed to a new home and is available for occupation and looking for a veteran. Will get into the home in about 90 days and is an interest-free, 30 year mortgage and under \$500/mo. Criteria must earn at least \$20k but not more than \$50k.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Ed Junod** - <http://tnvhc.org/> – *unable to attend*
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jack D'Araujo** <https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> - 38K guard and reserve on active duty. Thanks to the 134th Air Refueling Wing, on Oct 17th we had the opportunity to take 34 employers and civic leaders on orientation flight. On November 21, will present Seven Seals award to the 1st of the 230th aviation for their work in providing orientation flights and demonstrations over the past years.

- Honor Air – **Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honorair/> - This Saturday will be reunion breakfast for the most recent flight and will receive a video. Flight 28 is on books for April of next year. Short presentation by Helen Ross McNabb center on Veteran's housing just held there Ribbon cutting on their facility called Middlebrook Gardens. The gardens and walking trails were made possible by donations from Honor Air. https://www.vipknoxville.com/printer_friendly?news=true&newsitem=middlebrook-gardens
- Knoxville Career Center – **David Webb** - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – email: david.m.webb@tn.gov or call 865-403-1606 - Unemployment rate low at 3.4 for vets and 3.6 for civilians. Nov 14 and Dec 12 will hold Job fairs. Recently contacted by Loudon county veteran service offices will hold a stand down for veterans in 3rd week of March of 2019. Will be called the Loudon County Veteran Resource Job Fair.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - email: thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org or call 865-215-5645 - Saturday 8am flag placement will take place at East TN Veteran's cemetery John Sevier and Lyon's view. Started an outreach program where we go to the County Senior Centers once a month to enroll the senior veterans in benefit programs that they won't drive downtown to enroll. VA benefit rules changed on 18 October. This is a need based program and increased paperwork and we take all the paperwork needed to the Senior Centers. Bells of Peace App is available for download and at 1100 your phone will automatically sound the bells.
- Knoxville Vet Center - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> – *unable to attend*
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> - We will participate in parade and host Vietnam veterans on our float. Listed as #1 unit in nation for league of our size. We are presently supporting Leagues that were hit by the hurricane.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - www.moaa.org – *unable to attend.*
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Joleen Dewald** – <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/> - 2019 date is Friday – Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2019. Registration is now open.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve**- <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Rothchild's catering on Kingston Pike, 11am. This month meeting is on November. Busy month supporting masking of the colors and thank all that helped with this event, especially 134th. Next Wed at Monthly meeting will have guest speaker and all are welcome. ROA just got back last weekend from Lima, Peru participating in a Pan-American union of the armed forces reserve officers.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Cindy Lemarr** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> Like us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> - Monthly meeting at American Red Cross first Tuesday of every month at 6pm. – *unable to attend*
- REBOOT Combat Recovery – **Michael Simpson** – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> half way through 12 week course. Rick Garner led an inspiring class. Now have a waiting list of 4 to start first quarter of next year. Not looking to heal but to start a conversation which hopefully will lead to healing. 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

- **Rolling Thunder – Carlos Hollifield** - <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. Educate about POA and MIA mission. Elderly neighbor of member is 78 yrs. old and can't cut his wood anymore to heat house so we sent a \$500 check to his utility company. 4 members in Alexandria, VA to participate in annual leadership conference. Will participate in the parade, riders and walkers to distribute information to the crowd about what we do. Food drive in Nov and Dec meetings for donation to the food pantries and will participate in the Wreaths across America at the cemeteries. When the fallen national memorial is here we will be providing support with setting up and security.
- **STAR – Horses & Hero's Program – Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - We will have a float in the parade with participants and families and will go out to lunch after. Veterans working on South Knox want to go through the winter so will hold two classes beginning of January. Will need assistance in grant writing for VA adaptive service grant. Thanks to all for support of our program.
- **Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – Steve Stilts** (865) 414-2000 – <https://gotvba.com/> - Main goal to help veterans with employment. Campaign kickoff for Job fair on January 29, 2019 at Knoxville Convention Center. Keynote dinner on Mon., Jan. 28 - Speaker is Lt. Col Oliver North. Lee Greenwood will sing the National Anthem. Looking for sponsors and ideas to grow the event. We have posters and handouts to distribute and will be on Live at Five at four to talk about this event.
- **UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – Geoff Freeman** - http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 – A lot of events going on over the next week. Alumni color guard will be at the football game. Nov 9 at 6pm will hold the 2nd annual UT Army Alumni Hall of fame induction to recognize outstanding contributions of the UT Army ROTC alumni's military and civilian. This year honoring 10 new inductees for a total of 20. Flyer on back table and will send over to Patrice for distribution.
- **Veteran Appreciation Program- Larry Sharp** – <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - *unable to attend*
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew** – <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - will be participating in the parade and working on getting plans for Sharp's Ridge veteran's memorial park. The rest of land around ridge has been donated so working on a larger scale. We are working with legacy parks and other groups to make sure that everyone is getting their needs met.
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – Clyde Vincent / Ivette Torres** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - *unable to attend*
- **Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - *unable to attend*
- **Gary Ellis** – Wreaths across America at 3 veteran cemeteries. You can go to VBA1078 or Wreaths across America and donate for this cause, need 16,000 wreaths at \$15 each.
- **Janet Storm-Barnes, Humana** – Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony on Nov. 6, from 1 – 2:30pm for Veteran's who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed forces between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975 regardless of location, are eligible to receive recognition. Join us

prior and after the ceremony for a Veteran's Health and Services Fair from 11a – 3p at 4438 Western Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37921.

**Next meeting: Thursday, December 6, 2018
@ Knoxville Chamber of Commerce**

For input or corrections, contact:



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