



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

November 5, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

NOV 5-6	VVA's Fundraising for Gold Star Families Monument at Turkey Ck Walmart
NOV 7	Family Deployment Preparation Book Fair at Barnes & Noble
NOV 7	Marine Corps' Birthday Ball in Pigeon Forge
NOV 7	VVA Chapter Assisting in Flag Placements at the State Veterans Cemeteries
NOV 10	240th Marine Corps' Birthday Luncheon at Rothschild, Bonnyman Detachment
NOV 11	ETMAC's Annual Veterans Day Luncheon
NOV 11	Knoxville's 90th Veteran's Day Parade
NOV 12	VVA Chapter Assisting in Flag Pickup at the State Veterans Cemeteries
NOV 14	MOWW's Massing of the Colors Ceremony at NOSC
NOV 17	Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home Annual Veterans Memorial Service
NOV 21	Marine Corps' Birthday Ball at the Knoxville Hilton, D Company 4th CEB
DEC 5	WVA's "Spirit of '45" Performance at Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home
DEC 9	MOWW's Next Monthly Meeting

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, November 5, 2015, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 69 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Joe Holloway, 278th ACR officer (ret.) and City of Knoxville employee
 - MAJ Allen Bray, Public Affairs Officer for the 3rd Regiment of the TN State Guard
 - YN1 Noah Jaques, New staff member with NOSC
 - 1Lt Roman, Intelligence officer with the 119th

- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The October 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written. Owen reported that 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 \$11,594. ETMAC wrote checks for \$219 and made deposits of \$3,358, which went toward the Veteran's Day luncheon. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$14,733. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be paid to any ETMAC officer or on the ETMAC website.
- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** 732 visits to the website last month. Third highest users were from Brazil, followed by Russia, China, and Great Britain. 523 of those users visited the site less than 10 seconds. 58 of users stayed on the site from 181 to 600 seconds. 61% of visitors were between ages 18-34. 28% were ages 35-54. 5.5% were ages 65+. Please send anything to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Guest Reports:**
 - **Habitat for Heroes Program Update (Sara Miller):** Received community-based grant fund that enables them to complete more homes for veterans. These are existing Habitat for Humanity homes which are being rehabilitated and updated in order to make them available again. Applicants must have the ability to pay a 20-30 yr. mortgage, attend a weekly budget class, and help, as a community, other Habitat for Humanity partners. If you know of anyone interested or in need of a home, please encourage them to apply. You can contact Sara, Pauline, or Anna, the family services coordinator. Call the Habitat for Humanity office for more information at (865) 523-3539.
 - **Veterans Day Parade (Marty Everett):** Parade begins at 10:40 a.m. on Wed., Nov. 11th. 95 groups participating so far and 9 high school bands. Colonel Jessica Meyeraan will be the reviewing official for this year's parade. Captain Stephanie McKeen will be singing the National Anthem. WIVK's radio personality Gunner Ousley will be the MC. WBIR reporter John Becker will be on hand to report the play by play as the parade will be streamed live on <http://www.wbir.com/> at 11 a.m. that morning. Participants should be at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum no later than 9:45 a.m. for parade lineup. No fee to attend or participate. Parade registration is online at <http://legionknox.com/>
 - **ETMAC's Veteran's Day Luncheon (Patrice Collins):** The annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon is Wed., Nov. 11th at 12:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Marriott downtown. Today is the last day to reserve your spot for the luncheon. Contact Patrice for reservations; you can also reserve online at <https://www.etmac.org/purchase/veterans-day-luncheon-registration/>. 436 have reserved so far. That's 100 less than last year. Spots are still available. There will be a 10-15 person table available in case of overflow or last minute walk-ins. Patrice also thanked all the unit commanders for sending in each of their honoree's information. If you come to the ballroom early, ETMAC will be streaming the Veteran's Day Parade live. This year marks the 33rd year ETMAC has held the luncheon. This is the year of the Army, and Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster will be guest speaker. Gen. McMaster is Director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, and Deputy Commanding General at the Futures Center of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. He is also the author of *Dereliction of Duty*, a book based on how and why the U.S. became involved in the Vietnam War.
 - **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** You can visit the ETMAC website to review past Veteran's Day luncheon speakers, which contain several high profile three-star and four-star general officers and military leaders. Also, ETMAC annual elections will be held in December. The elected positions are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and the Board members. ETMAC has 6 Board members across 3 year terms, and 2 Board members will be elected at the next December meeting. President, VP, and Treasurer will also be elected. The President appoints the Secretary and the Historian. Owen has appointed a nomination committee of Jim Mungenast, Joe Sutter, and Barry Allen. At the December elections, the committee will come forward and propose a slate of officers. If you are an ETMAC paying member and interested in being on the Board or in an officer position, see Jim, Joe, or Barry. The nomination committee

will bring forward recommendations, but the floor is open to all those interested. New officers begin their roles in the January 2016 meeting.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Allen Bray):** First time in attendance. Was welcomed by ETMAC. Nothing to report at this time.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Captain Chris Morin):** Gained ground on getting members into schools, but still struggle as they transition into a cyber mission setting as those schools are very full right now. They have been able to place some members into those open slots. Thanked MEPS for allowing them to use their station's testing for some of their members that have to be cross trained; and because of this, it has helped qualify some of their members to get into those schools.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** Announced it was his last meeting and will officially be handing off command of the battalion on Dec. 5th to LTC Pat Wade, at a Change of Command ceremony in Nashville. The squadron is in the final preparations of taking the OH-58D helicopters to Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ. Scout team is completing the inventories this week. First flight will leave next Monday, Nov. 9th. They will take 9 aircraft over several weeks and by Dec. 4th, all their aircraft will be at Davis-Monthan AFB. They have also begun taking delivery of their UH-60 Black Hawks in Knoxville. 3 arrived on the ramp permanently yesterday in exchange for some they have been utilizing for training. Over the course of time, they hope to have 10-15 aircraft stationed there. They completed a ceremonial final flight of 14 OH-58Ds for the 278th change of command since they began with the 278th and would thus end with them. LTC Clawson expressed his thanks for everyone's support of the organization and said he hoped to come back for a visit and he will maintain a residence in the area.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Captain Stephanie McKeen):** IG team is at their base. This is also drill weekend. They're also helping to plan a huge statewide exercise called "Tennessee Maneuvers" in June 2016. Also, the April 16-17, 2016 Air Show is still taking volunteers. You can sign up at <http://smokymountainairshow.com/> and choose which area you wish to volunteer. On Friday, Nov. 27th, the airport authority will have premium parking tickets on sale for close parking. Free parking will be available but further away. There is no admission charge to attend the Air Show.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (LTC John Bowlin):** Had their regimental change of command on Oct. 18th. Lt. Col. Warner Holt became new commander. While Captain McKeen was singing the end of the National Anthem, LTC Clawson and 14 of his crew came over with OH-58 Deltas. The 278th has an infantry company returning from Germany. They will also be supporting multiple Veterans' Day events next week in 43 Tennessee counties. LTC Bowlin said he's looking forward to the upcoming Veteran's Day luncheon and has heard Gen. McMaster speak several times and is looking forward to it.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (CPT Robert Henning):** Leaders are currently at Fort Pickett, VA and working on pipeline simulation.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** The recruiting command encompasses areas from Nashville to Johnson City to North Carolina, half of Indiana, and part of Kentucky. The recruiting squadron will complete the 2015 year at 123%. Thanked ETMAC and the support of the East TN region which he said is very patriotic. This is a testimony to the members who are hard workers, but also to organizations like ETMAC who support the community and leaders who build civilian counterparts. It's been a great year. Fiscal year 2016 has now begun. Are currently recruiting any branch of the service that served in a MOS on their skills' list and is eligible to apply and come directly on active duty.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Their upcoming Marine Corps Ball is Sat., Nov. 21st. at the Knoxville Hilton downtown. Tickets still available. Also are starting their Toys for Tots collection event. Last day for applications for local family toy request is Nov. 20th. Will be distributing the toys in December.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Jessica Meyeraan):** Have 250 students on campus. 179 NCOs and academy attendees, and 90 airmen. Had a great meeting last week with counterparts from the Army National Guard's Professional Education Center and spoke on collaboration opportunities. The Combined Federal Campaign is in mid-season, ending Dec. 15th. Col. Meyeraan has

information on the military organizations in this area. If you need the materials, please contact her. If interested, a CFC rep. can also come out to talk to your organization about it.

- **Military Entrance Processing Station (1SG Yveline Symmonette):** Participated in the Oct. 7th Honor Air Flight. 13 of their personnel supported with the Honor Guard. Was a great turnout. MEPS are continuing to process personnel every day into the services. Have a great staff.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (YN1 Noah Jaques):** YN1 Jacques was transferred to Knoxville from Tucson, AZ. Last weekend they participated in a clay shooting competition in Maryville with the Marines and the Army. They came in 3rd place. They also did a WWII reenactment over the weekend and look forward to doing it again next year. Had their Navy Ball recently at the Knoxville Marriott downtown. Drill is next weekend.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CDR Dave Roberts):** Have had several Vol Navy and rowing events. He warned water is much colder now, and cautioned that the water temperature is much colder than the air temperature. November and April he reports are the 2 most dangerous months. This year they had the safest recreational boating year since they've been keeping statistics. They also gave a water safety presentation this month at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Commander Roberts said they can give a water safety presentation to any unit or those who are interested.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** Was grateful to be selected as the Air Force ROTC of the year for the Southeast Region. Last week they had former Tennessee Volunteers Coach Phillip Fulmer speak on leadership. Also, they recently took 30 cadets to Wright-Patterson AFB over the students' Fall Break and they visited the museum and the AF research labs. Next week Maj. Gen. Stephen Clark, Director of Strategic Analysis for USSOCOM and a former UT grad, will be visiting them. Lt. Col. Lancaster was also able to extend his tour for 1 more year.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** Had an outstanding turnout at the 8th Annual Brig. Gen. Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament. Had 72 golfers. Thanked all who participated and attended. There are 24 teams from East TN this year representing us in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. They're hoping this year to have one of the teams go to the national level; last year, the Farragut team almost did. Currently, they're also taking Teacher of the Year nominations. The teachers also have a chance to compete on the national level. Please contact Steve to refer any teacher nominations. Last year's Teacher of the Year honoree was Dr. Jamie Nelson, who teaches at L&N Stem Academy. For more information on the CyberPatriot competition, visit <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Legion (Marty Everett):** Are planning future events to put together UT-away game tailgate parties for fellowship. Nov. 21st would be their first opportunity. More details to come. For more information on the Knoxville American Legion, go to <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez/Stephanie Senogles):** The Family Deployment Preparation event is Saturday, Nov. 7th, from 5-9 p.m. at Barnes & Noble on Kingston Pike. They will be providing a book fair to all former, current, and future service members and their families in order to raise funds and awareness for deploying service members and to provide connections with fellow service families to maintain relationships. There will be family activities, crafts, story time, special guests, and discussions, all regarding deployment experiences. Upon check out, mention the Red Cross, your service, or provide the book fair voucher to a cashier, and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to the Red Cross to assist military families in future deployments. For those who cannot attend the book fair, it will also be available online from Nov. 7th to Nov. 12th at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>
- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Thanked Home Depot for assisting with their building project on their outdoor improvements. The veteran's home also picked up a new sponsor, the Veterans Appreciation program, headed by veteran Larry Sharp. On Tuesday, Nov. 17th, at 2 p.m., the veteran's home will be holding their annual memorial service for the veterans who passed this year.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Should have the Lt. Sandy Bonnyman commemorative coins available on Veteran's Day at the luncheon or at ETMAC's December meeting to those interested in purchasing them. Also, ETVMA offers the memorial site for events such as a change of command, retirement ceremony, etc. Contact Joleen beforehand to reserve. ETVMA held

their 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shootout last week and raised close to \$15,000. There were 124 shooters. The Marine Corps won the competition.

- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Received several calls involving veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and 3 married couples in counseling right now regarding domestic violence issues. Thanked Honor Air for all they did for their recent flight. Had 3 individuals from their support group who were a part of the flight. Their mental health council also just opened 2 new chapters in West TN. The council serves about 13 counties in and around Knoxville. Freddie also credited Don Smith for helping their group get established before he retired, and for Tom Humphries helping as well. Freddie will soon be in D.C. for the veterans' reunion of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam battle of Ia Drang Valley. For more information on the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit <http://tnvhc.org/> to learn more or to contact them for assistance.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** As of last month, there are more than 19,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. There are 6,000 in border security, counterdrug, or state emergency missions. ESGR is hosting 25 employers for the Veteran's Day luncheon. Also wanted to remind unit representatives that ESGR can support your family days or unit recognition days. Contact ESGR if interested. Jack told a story about Gen. H.R. McMaster, as a young captain in Desert Storm, when he commanded a cavalry troop and showed a great deal of heroism against the armored division of the Iraqi Republican Guard in what became known as the "The Battle of 73 Easting."
- **Honor Air (Owen Ragland):** Flight #20 will take place on Wed., April 13, 2016. You can visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** Present, nothing to report at this time.
- **Marine Corps League:** Tues., Nov. 10th, is the 240th Marine Corps' Birthday Luncheon at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, Bonnyman Det., from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Further details for the event and to reserve online can be found on the MCL website at mclknox.org
- **MOAA (James Fetterman):** Visit the MOAA website at <http://www1.moaa.org/publications/> to read more on their recently posted Survivor's guide. It details things the survivor of the veteran needs to do following the day of the veteran's death. If you're a MOAA member, they can mail you a hard copy of the guide.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** They moved up November's meeting earlier as to not interfere with Veteran's Day. Their guest speaker was WWII veteran Leo Holloway. Their next meeting on December 9th will be their Christmas program. Former ETMAC president Jack Davis' wife is program chair for the event. In February, their next speaker will be Gerry Eddlemon's wife Mikki, who will speak on the firebombing in Germany during WWII when she was trapped as a child with her parents. Owen Haddock reported that Joe Eddlemon is back home now and doing well. Nolan reports that Laimon Godel is still weak and has another 1-2 months of cancer treatments. His wife is taking excellent care of him, and he's doing as well as can be expected. 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 Service, and the National Meteorological departments such as the National Weather Service.

[EVENTS]:

- **Nov. 14th:** Massing of the colors ceremony at NOSC. Owen says MOWW is going to do more military outreach and they will be at NOSC to recognize and honor the sailors killed in the Chattanooga incident.
- **Dec. 9th:** Next monthly meeting. This will be their Christmas program.
- **Project Healing Waters (Dan Moneymaker):** Just had their big tournament and raised more than \$60,000 for the national PHW organization. PHW is an organization registered with the Kroger Community Rewards Program, where 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. For more information on Project Healings Waters, visit: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

- **Tennessee Veterans Business Association (Jonathan Williams):** Will be holding their next annual expo event on Jan.26, 2016 at the Holiday Inn at World's Fair Park. This is TVBA's 6th year for the Veteran Owned Business and Education Fair Expo, which is a trade show for veteran-owned companies and other entities in the area that want to support the veterans. Colleges are present. There are entrepreneurship opportunities available as well as companies that are hiring. Last year, more than 2,000 people attended. The night before, Jan. 25th, is the TVBA dinner, and guest speaker this next year will be Noah Galloway, an Iraqi War veteran and double amputee who was on the show "Dancing With the Stars." For more information, visit <http://www.jointvba.org/>
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** On Nov. 5th-6th, the VVA chapter will be at the Turkey Creek Walmart collecting funds to support the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument that will be placed at the East TN Veterans Cemetery on E. Gov. John Sevier Hwy. This Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 8:30 a.m., flags will be placed on each of the East TN State Veterans cemeteries at the Lyons View Pike and E. Gov. John Sevier Hwy. locations. All are welcome to participate. On Thurs., Nov. 12th, at 10:30 a.m., the flags will be picked up and volunteers are also welcomed to help.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl Rich):** They're almost complete with Phase I on the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park project. Hoping to be done with that phase by month's end. Have received some of their architectural drawings. They're also going to start working on funding and preparing their budget, and then restart on the project again in the spring. Please bring your own tools and come join and support them. Also, Pearl said they can provide a presentation and slideshow on the project for interested parties. On Sat., Dec. 5th they'll be at Ben Atchley State Veteran's home, where they will be doing a "Spirit of '45" program for the residents. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information on the Sharp's Ridge project and WVA Chapter 44, visit their website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>
- **Air Force Sergeants Association (Mike Gates):** In September, they held their 2nd Annual POW/MIA Run/Walk Day. Raised \$4,000 and presented a check to the Smokey Mt. Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Will do the event again next year possibly in April or May.
 - **President's Statement:** Wanted everyone to remember a number of prayer requests, such as for Joe Eddlemon, Laimon Godel, and a number of families and members who are deployed and those returning. Coming home can be difficult, and there are resources in the community that can help. That's part of the purpose of this organization is to build that synergy and support amongst those groups.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/> or see any ETMAC officer after the meeting. 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 Parking Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice to get your parking validated.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3rd at the Red Cross Building at 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville – 8:30 a.m.