

## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### November 3, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- NOV 7-8      Humana's Virtual Reality Tour of the WWII Memorial in D.C. (Western Ave.)
- NOV 10      24th Annual "Night of the Patriots" Tribute Program (Jefferson Co. High School)
- NOV 10      241st Marine Corps Birthday Lunch (Rothchild Catering)
- NOV 11      Knoxville Veterans Day Parade organized by American Legion Post 2
- NOV 11      ETMAC's Annual Veterans Day Luncheon (Holiday Inn World's Fair Park)
- NOV 11      Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Pinning Ceremony (Humana Guidance Ctr.)
- NOV 17      Helen Ross McNabb's Grand Opening for their Military Services (Middlebrook)
- NOV 18      Knoxville Christian School's Patriotism Celebration
- NOV 22      Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication (Cemetery, John Sevier)
- NOV 22      Ben Atchley State Veterans Home's Annual Veterans Memorial Service
- NOV 22      MCL's Annual Lt. Bonnyman Memorial Ceremony (Highland View Cemetery)
- NOV 30      Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans (Knox Co. Public Defender's Office)

**STAY CURRENT:**      [WWW.ETMAC.ORG](http://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 3, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 56 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
  - Stanley Taylor, Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless
  - Dennis Lovin, Tusculum College
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The October 2016 meeting minutes have been approved as written. 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 \$10,828. ETMAC wrote checks for \$434. Made deposits of \$2,580 (primarily for Veterans Day Luncheon payments). ETMAC's ending month balance is \$12,974. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Steve or Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.
- **Webmaster's Report (Barry Allen):** 598 visitors to the site last month. 84% of users were new. Spam bots also visited. 82% of visitors were from the U.S. Other visitors originated from China, the Netherlands, Austria, United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. Please send any info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at [barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com](mailto:barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com).
- **Veterans Day Parade (Marty Everett):** 90 units and 8 bands have signed up to participate in the parade, which will start at 10:40 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11th, in downtown Knoxville. The event will be streamed live at 11 a.m. online at WBIR's website: <http://www.wbir.com/>. This year they will be celebrating the Marines, and former Marine Joe Eddlemon will be the grand marshal. WBIR-TV reporter John Becker will be the commentator for the parade. John can give brief shout-outs to veterans on air, such as those that are deployed or in nursing homes; etc. Give Marty the information and he will make sure John at WBIR receives it. For more information on the Veterans Day Parade, visit <http://legionknox.com/>.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):** The *Knoxville Ice Bears* are currently accepting "Veteran of the Game" nomination forms. During the 10:00 minute media timeout of the first period, they will be presenting a nominated veteran with a gift and making a public announcement to honor the veteran's service. Anyone can nominate any veteran. The veteran also will receive 2 free passes to the game in which he/she will be honored. For application forms or for more information, contact Kyle Hammer at (865) 525-7825 or by email at [kyle@knoxvilleicebears.com](mailto:kyle@knoxvilleicebears.com).

**[EVENTS]:**

- Nov. 7-8th: Humana is offering a free *360 degree virtual reality tour of the WWII Memorial* in Washington, D.C., from 12 noon to 4 p.m., at their Humana Guidance Center in Knoxville at 4438 Western Avenue. They're also encouraging everyone to bring gently used clothing items to be donated to local homeless veterans.
- Nov. 10th: The *24th Annual "Night of the Patriots"* at Jefferson County High School will start at 7 p.m. It's a school-wide celebration to honor veterans and their families with a performance of patriotic music, to include a musical tribute to each branch of the military, as well as dance, drama, and special effects. A complimentary chili supper will be served from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., sponsored by local businesses.
- Nov. 11th: The *Annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon* is Fri., Nov. 11th at 12:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. All 400 available seats are sold out. Patrice said she needs the payments from anyone with pre-reserved tables and seats, and also will need the names of each person sitting at the table for check-in purposes. Also, she asks that unit honorees arrive by 11:30 a.m. when Captain Stephanie McKeen will meet with the honorees to go over the award presentation prior to the event. This

year's luncheon will feature a guest speaker from the U.S. Marine Corps: Colonel David Coggins, the commanding officer of Navy ROTC at Virginia Military Institute. He is also a Knoxville native.

- Nov. 17th: ***Helen Ross McNabb's Grand Opening for their Military Services*** section and their new building is Thursday, Nov. 17th, at 1 p.m. Location: Helen Ross McNabb Center, 3712 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville. Contact Rebecca McKnight at (865) 329-9176 or by email at [rebecca.mcknight@mcnabb.org](mailto:rebecca.mcknight@mcnabb.org) for more information.
- Nov. 18th: ***Knoxville Christian School's "Patriotism" Celebration*** program will honor all those who have served our country. Breakfast is at 8 a.m. followed by the celebration from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Their guest speaker is CAPT Dennis L. Worley, USN (Ret.). Location: Knoxville Christian School, 11594 Snyder Road, Knoxville. RSVP by emailing [lsweeney@knoxvillechristianschool.org](mailto:lsweeney@knoxvillechristianschool.org) or by calling (865) 966-7060 no later than Nov. 11th. They ask that all veterans RSVP by informing them of your branch of service, so that they may recognize the veterans at the celebration.
- Nov. 30th: A ***Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans*** will be available from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Knox Co. Public Defender's Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville. Attorneys will be available to provide assistance on issues such as veteran's benefits, consumer protection, contract disputes, estate planning, child support, personal injury, criminal defense, bankruptcy, landlord/tenant issues, and general legal issues. Call the Knoxville Bar Association's Office at (865) 522-6522 for more info
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland)**: ETMAC is now accepting membership dues for 2017. At the next meeting in December, ETMAC officers will be elected. A nominating committee (Jim Mungenast, Jack D'Araujo, and Joe Sutter) was appointed to select nominees for next year's elected positions. Also, the floor will be open during the December meeting for anyone to present a candidate. Nominees must be an ETMAC member. Positions that will be elected are as follows: President, VP, Treasurer (which all serve for 1 year), and 2 Board members (which serve for 3 years). The President appoints the Secretary and the Historian. Please let Owen or the Board members know of your interest in a position.

### **MILITARY UNITS UPDATES**

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland)**: Had drill last month which involved an 8 mile hike. They're having a big communications push for the TNSG and are gaining new members in the East Tennessee area. They are looking for new members. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Willie Posey)**: Preparing for their drill weekend. Have an upcoming project where they will take their joint support package to test its capability. Will be participating in an upcoming cyber exercise.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Col Lee Hartley, Jr.)**: Col Hartley recently attended the Airlift/Tanker Association's annual meeting, where they received the Major General Stanley F. Newman Award for the air national guard unit for outstanding wing/group contributing to the overall success of the Mobility Air Force Mission. They were finalists

for the USSTRATCOM's Omaha Trophy and were held as the #1 National Guard unit by Task Force 294. They have a 170,000 hours mishap-free flying record. Most of their members are from East Tennessee. Col Hartley said our community is doing great things and it's being recognized here and around the world. He said the East Tennessee community gives great support.

- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (CW3 Kelly Copland):** Recently supported the Boy Scouts in Blaine, TN, in an event where they helped set up tents and equipment. They also supported Honor Air Flight #22. They have some members overseas supporting some active duty units. They will participate in the Veterans Day Luncheon and the Veterans Day Parade. On Nov. 5th, they'll be supporting MTSU's "Salute to Veterans and Armed Services" program. Some of their members will also be supporting an event at the East Knox Elementary School in Mascot, TN. Next summer, they'll be in Ft. Hood, TX taking part in an eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) mission, which will include guardsmen from other states. A total of 5,000 soldiers and 1,700 vehicles will be involved.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (SGM Josh Richardson):** SGM Richardson will be meeting soon with 15 of their soldiers returning from Kuwait. In December they'll be sending a crew to Washington, D.C. to receive the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. Their support company, who provides maintenance support to all 6 units across East Tennessee, was selected as the top maintenance provider across the entire U.S. Army Reserve for their company level.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robson):** Attended their annual recruiting awards banquet in Chattanooga, along with members from all 7 states within their squadron. In FY017, the AF goal is to increase their numbers to 321,000. Chris said Congress may increase their numbers to 324,000. If Congress grants the increase, they'll be ramping up recruiting across the U.S. They're looking for those interested in all career fields, but specifically those in the mechanical area which is their largest need. Their secondary focus is special operators. This is the first time ever the Air Force active duty program will be considering every Air Force Specialty Code coming off active duty who applies.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Gabe Burns):** Finished drill weekend and attended the Marine Corps Ball. Thirty of their members will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade. They're also actively seeking a warehouse to use for their Toys for Tots program. If you would like to volunteer for the program, visit <http://knoxville-tn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx> for more information. They picked up 5 additional counties to include Knox Co. they will be covering for the program. Dec. 12th-16th are the distribution days for the toys.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Lt Col David Meece):** NCO classes are underway. Graduation is Nov. 15th and 16th. They will soon have the keys to their new building. Col Meece praised the 134th ARW for their infrastructures at McGhee Tyson ANGB. The idea for I.G. Brown to host an ETMAC meeting at their new building has been proposed.
- **Army Knoxville Recruiting Company (SSG Ryan Larkin):** Have been busy proctoring the ASVABs at local high schools. On average, there have been 150 students per high school testing. In Nashville's Army Recruiting battalion, 30 NCOs were selected for promotion to sergeant first class, and 13 of them were Knoxville natives. The

battalion covers Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. They recently participated in the "Bacon, Beds, and Brew" Race, hosted by Special Spaces Charity, and went head to head beating the Marines.

- **Navy Operational Support Center (PO1 Noah Jaques):** Drill weekend is coming up. They will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade and the Veterans Day Luncheon. They also are looking for volunteer opportunities in the community. If any groups have needs, please contact them.
- **Tennessee Wing Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** They deployed 18 members to North Carolina at the request of FEMA to aid in Hurricane Matthew relief efforts. They took more than 2,000 pictures by air of the flood and handed out disaster relief supplies on ground. They recently wrapped up their assistance with TBI and the DEA, and look forward to helping them again next year.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CDR Dave Roberts):** Reported this has been a bad season for East Tennessee boating accidents. A big caution is to watch out for paddle boarders and jets skis on the water; multiple collisions have happened. Commander Roberts and his group can talk to groups about boating safety. Contact him if interested.

### **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **Air Force Association (Paula Penson):** They had a very successful Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament last month and will now determine where they will spend the funds from the fundraiser in order to support the objectives of the Air Force and veteran opportunities. Paula reported that Tennessee Volunteers Basketball is offering free admission to military and veterans (with military ID/discharge paper) and their children on the day the Vols play the Chattanooga Mocs on Nov. 11th at 7 p.m. On Nov. 15th, the Vols play Appalachian State, and they will hold an enlistment ceremony on the floor. To learn more about the AFA, visit their website at <http://www.afa.org/home>.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** The Red Cross is installing free smoke alarms to inner cities and communities, and at-risk families. They're looking for volunteers who may be interested in helping to install. They have a list of scheduled dates you can view. They will have a canteen provided at the Veterans Day Parade. They'll also have a canteen at the 2 p.m. event at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View. The Red Cross Office Building in Ft. Campbell, KY is moving and will have an official building dedication on Nov. 9th in downtown Ft. Campbell, right across from the Garrison Command Group.
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home (Doug Ottinger):** Their annual veterans' memorial service is Nov. 22nd at 2 p.m. The ceremony honors their veterans who have passed away in the last year. Their state veterans' home in Clarksville is officially now VA-certified. There are now 4 Tennessee State Veterans Homes in Tennessee.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Joleen thanked everyone who supported ETVMA's Sporting Clays Shootout Competition last month. They raised more than \$12,000. The Marines won the shooting competition. Joleen also thanked the staff at I.G. Brown, who had brought in 40 international students to see the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. The dedication for the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is scheduled for Tues., Nov. 22nd, at 10 a.m., at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on E. Governor John Sevier Hwy. WWII MOH recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams will be attending. Guest speakers will include Knox County Mayor

Tim Burchett and Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder. ETMAC has sponsored the post ceremony reception with food and drink. Also, Joleen noted that WWII Army MOH recipient Desmond Doss, whose life is depicted in the recent movie *Hacksaw Ridge*, was a member of the American Legion Post in Chattanooga. For more information on ETVMA, visit <https://etvma.org/>.

- **Mountain Man Memorial March (Joleen Dewald):** April 21-22, 2017 is the 10th Anniversary of the Mountain Man Memorial March, which will be held in Gatlinburg. Registration opened Nov. 1st. You can register here for the event: <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>. They'll also be looking for volunteers to help with their water stations. They are expecting 125 Gold Star Families.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** Thanked everyone who participated in last month's Vietnam Veterans Commemorative lapel pinning event at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial, to include Joleen, Mayor Burchett's Office, and the Red Cross. He also thanked both WBIR and WVLT for their spot announcements, and for their radio interview with Haller Hill. They will continue with more Vietnam veteran pinning events. They will also be assisting Korean War veterans on obtaining their Korean Ambassador for Peace Medals. Also, they have partnered with Covenant Health in supporting hospice care services for veterans. The Military Chaplain Association is part of the Veteran Friendly Congregations program now, and they're looking for a regional chaplain. To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit their website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D' Araujo):** There are currently 27,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. ESGR will also be hosting 27 employers at ETMAC's Veterans Day Luncheon.
- **Honor Air:** Flight #23 will be April 5, 2017. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office:** For veterans' services and benefits assistance, contact Tom Humphries at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Knoxville Vet Center (Emily Feedback):** The Vet Center offers counseling to veterans and their family members, and can help those in need find related veteran resources. The Vet Center is available to be at any of the related military/veteran events if you need. The Vet Center is located at 2817 E. Magnolia Ave., Knoxville and can be reached at (865) 633-0000 for more information. They are also a commemorative partner of the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary program and are working with Humana to pin and recognize eligible Vietnam veterans. They will be pinning Vietnam veterans on Fri., Nov. 11th at 9 a.m. at the Humana Guidance Center, 4438 Western Avenue, Knoxville. The event will be followed by a small reception.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** Thanked Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, for helping to put on a wonderful Marine Corps Ball. The MCL is having their Annual Lt. Bonnyman Memorial Ceremony on Nov. 22nd at Highland View Cemetery, Knoxville. Their Annual Toys for Tots breakfast is Dec. 10th at 8:30 a.m. at Rothchild Catering. \$15/person. The 241st Marine Corps Birthday lunch is Nov. 10th at 12 noon at Rothchild Catering on Kingston Pike. Tickets are \$10/person. Call the coordinator to RSVP at (865) 919-2820. To learn more about MCL and for event information, visit <http://mclknox.org/>.
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Owen Haddock):** 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 and Human Services, and the National Meteorological departments. Their next speaker will be Colonel Paula Penson, USAF, Retired, who also recently joined MOWW as a member. Owen said widows of officers and their children are eligible to join as heritage members.

- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (Steve Thompson):** 7 of their participants registered for the national rod-building contest which is next spring. They'll start fly tying classes later this month, and start fishing next week. Their Maryville program has a new leader. They are planning another program in Sevierville. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.
- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** A resource program for individuals and businesses who are committed to providing discounts, products, or services to veterans and military members. Go to <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> to post your business or to learn which businesses are offering discounts to veterans and military members. The program also provides participating businesses with a decal to post on their door/window to identify the business as a member of the Veterans Appreciation Program. The program will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade. Larry recently travelled to Chattanooga and gained more participants. Contact Larry for any questions about the program at (865) 603-1974 or by email at [VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com).
- **Veterans Heritage Site Foundation (Pearl Rich):** Nov. 5th is their first Veterans Heritage Ridge Run, a 5K Trail Run on Sharp's Ridge Trails, starting at 9 a.m. Also, this will be their first year to participate in the Veterans Day Parade. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more about the Veteran Heritage Site Foundation, or to join or donate.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America:** VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. For more information on the Capt. Bill Robinson VVA Chapter 1078, visit [www.vva1078.org](http://www.vva1078.org).
- **Women Marines Association (Pearl Rich):** Last month they had a WMA outing where they took a train ride to Etowah, TN. If any group or school would like WMA to speak at your event, please let them know. Their membership is growing. They have a new chapter that started up in Charlotte, NC, and they have 6 other chapters.
- **Rolling Thunder TN Chapter 3 (Linda Owens):** Last month, they raised the POW/MIA flags on UT-Knoxville's campus in front of Hoskins Library, as well as in front of the East Tennessee Historical Society in downtown Knoxville. They also will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade, and they're supporting the "Wreaths Across America" initiative with fundraisers. They'll also be holding a canned food drive.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. 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 Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice for a parking validation.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.**