

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

October 1, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- OCT 1 "Paychecks for Patriots" Hiring Event at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
- OCT 2 UT Army ROTC Alumni Council Golf Tournament
- OCT 3 "Wheelers for the Wounded" Off-Roading Event at Windrock Park
- OCT 3 Women Veterans of America's Next Cleanup Day on Sharp's Ridge Project
- OCT 5 American Legion's Monthly Meeting
- OCT 7 Honor Air Flight #19
- OCT 7 Chamber's "Hiring Our Heroes" Employment Fair at the Knox Convention Ctr.
- OCT 10 Marine Corps League's Jim Putman Memorial Rifle Match
- OCT 10-11 American's Legion's Turkey Shoot
- OCT 12 Air Force Association's 8th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- OCT 14 MOWW's Monthly Meeting
- OCT 16-17 Project Healing Waters' 2nd Annual Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge
- OCT 17 Navy Operational Support Center's Navy Ball
- OCT 17 Marines Corps League Bonnyman Detachment's 20th Anniversary Dinner
- OCT 17 Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter Party
- OCT 18 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Change of Command Ceremony
- OCT 30 McGhee Tyson ANG Base Family Program Halloween Party
- OCT 30 ETVMA's 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shootout at Chilhowee Sportman's Club
- NOV 7 Family Deployment Preparation Book Fair at Barnes & Noble
- NOV 7 Marine Corps' Birthday Ball in Pigeon Forge

NOV 11 ETMAC's Annual Veterans Day Luncheon

NOV 11 Knoxville's 90th Veteran's Day Parade

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, October 1, 2015, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 61 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Dan Moneymaker, Project Healing Waters
 - MAJ (ret) Brad Redman, 1-100th Engineer Battalion
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Pearl Rich of Women Veterans of America Chapter 44 was incorrectly named Pearl King. The Combined Federal Campaign deadline ends December 15th instead of September 15th. Minutes have been corrected. Owen reported ETMAC has begun posting its monthly meeting minutes to the website at <http://etmac.org/>
- **Treasurer's Report (Owen Ragland):** Last month's ending balance was \$13,435. ETMAC wrote checks for \$2,927 and made deposits of \$1,053. Owen reported a deposit of \$2,500 was made to the Knoxville Chamber for their annual support. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$11,561. 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):** Please send anything to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com
- **Guest Reports:**
 - **Family Deployment Preparation Event - 134th ARW (Stephanie Senogles):** Saturday, Nov. 7th, from 5-9 p.m., in a joint venture, Barnes & Noble 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. 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/>
 - **ETMAC Veterans Day Luncheon (Patrice Collins):** The annual ETMAC Veterans Day Luncheon is Wed., Nov. 11th at 12:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Marriott downtown. Patrice thanked the units for sending in their honoree's

information, only still missing a few. This is the year of the Army, and Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster will be guest speaker. Patrice thanked Jack D'Araujo for his assistance in acquiring this year's 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. Contact Patrice for further information and table reservations.

- **Veterans Day Parade (Bill Frazier):** Parade planning is underway. Spoke with the City of Knoxville and all permits have been confirmed. Parade registration is online at <http://legionknox.com/> Last year over 100 units participated. Colonel Jessica Meyeraan will be the reviewing official for this year's parade.
- **Paychecks for Patriots Hiring Event (Patrice Collins):** Thurs., Oct. 1st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., TN Department of Labor's Workforce & Development is holding a hiring event for veterans and their families at Wallace Baptist Church on Merchant Drive. Paychecks for Patriots will be held in 9 locations across Tennessee representing more than 200 employers looking to hire military-grade, full-time employees. You can register online and view the full list of participating employees here at <http://tn.gov/workforce/article/tn-paychecks-for-patriots>
- **Wheelers for the Wounded Off-Roading Event (Patrice Collins):** Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 10 a.m. the Knox Off-road Club will be hosting a free off-roading event at Windrock Park in Oliver Springs, TN for veterans and active duty military. There will also be carnival games and prizes, live music, guided trail rides, contests, food vendors, a raffle, and fun for the kids including a bounce house. This charity event will benefit the Smoky Mountain Service Dogs whose mission is to enhance the physical and psychological quality of life for veterans with disabilities by providing custom trained mobility assistance service dogs.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Board meeting will occur after today's ETMAC meeting. By ETMAC bylaws, the organization has their annual elections in December. The elected positions are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and the Board members. ETMAC has 6 Board members on 3 years terms. 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. Owen said it will be an open election and floor nominees are welcomed. If interested in being on the Board or in an officer position, see Jim, Joe, or Barry. New officers begin their role in the January 2016 meeting.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **1-100th Engineer Battalion (MAJ ret Brad Redmond):** Assisted 2 family members, and helped one of their service members with an internship with a federal law enforcement agency.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (CMSgt Randy Browning):** Still awaiting their unit manning document; hoping it will flow in the next 60 days. Still sending members to Texas for training. Have been taking more of the lead and active duty counterparts following. Thanked the support of Capt. Tasha Posey and MSgt. Benita Connaster who were both present.

- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** Oct. 15th they will receive their new document and effective Nov. 1st will officially be an assault helicopter battalion, no longer an air cavalry squadron. Official ceremony of the changeover will be Dec. 5th. after LTC Clawson's Change of Command ceremony in Nashville. MAJ Pat Wade will be promoted and taking command of the 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion that day. They also have upcoming budget meetings. Currently have 2 Black Hawk helicopters on the ramp, and hoping they will multiple very rapidly.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Captain Stephanie McKeen):** Holding a tailgate party this weekend for service members, and getting ready for drill weekend.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ John Bowlin):** Preparing for a regimental change of command which will take place Sun., Oct. 18th at 1 p.m. on West High School's football field. Lt. Col. Warner Holt will be new commander. They will be holding a farewell ceremony for COL Darrell Darnbush Saturday night, Oct. 17th. MAJ Bowlin heard the Chief of Staff of the Army at the National Guard Association conference in Nashville a few weeks ago, and said the chief was very committed to the total force and understands the benefit of preserving the component.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MSG Josh Richardson):** Unit Status Report time. Busy generating the unit report.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Colonel Jessica Meyeraan):** Just graduated 240 students. On Oct. 8th they'll be honoring former commandant CMSgt (ret.) George Vizthum by naming a dormitory, Building 406, after him in a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. in Wilson Hall. Oct. 13th they'll be welcoming new NCOs and on Oct. 19th a new group of airmen. The next class (260 total) will graduate Nov. 19th and 20th. Their new building construction project is 50% complete. Today is the first day they've been running lodging operations on campus. Previously, they partnered with the 134th ARW and the State to run their lodging operations on base. The Air National Guard's Readiness program is assisting in the lodging payments; therefore, TEC is not passing on any costs to their students on campus. As military members to McGhee Tyson ARNG base, they can stay in lodging free of charge.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** Still processing applicants each day. Will be participating in the next Honor Air Flight on Oct. 7th.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (LCDR Jeremy Farmer):** Introduced their newest member, PS2 Jeremy Russell. NOSC has been busy on the security side, and as of Wednesday have become one of the first NOSC in the U.S. to become armed, and have an armed watchstander. Oct. 17th is their Navy Ball at the Knoxville Marriott downtown. The Ball is open to the public. For registration information or for ticket prices, visit <http://ezregister.com/events/15006/>. They are currently looking for a guest speaker if you know of anyone interested.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** They're now assigned to 1st Air Force, and no longer report to Air, Education, and Training Command. Wing Commander Col. Arlinda Bailey's husband has been placed in hospice care with a form of aggressive, inoperable terminal brain cancer. Col. Young asks everyone to keep the Baileys in your prayers. The state funding has been cut in half and CAP is now scrambling for fundraising and funds for operational needs. Col. Young says to let them know of any funding referrals.

- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CDR Dave Roberts):** September has been very busy. Had the last Boomsday. No incidents to report. Had their operation readiness inspection 2 weeks ago and successfully passed. Commander Roberts attended a district training conference in Pittsburgh. He also gave thanks to Colonel Meyeraan and her staff for a video they produced on sight. Commander Roberts was able to brief the Coast Guard chief of staff and auxiliary director about their training conference which will be held at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center on April 7, 2016. He said the partnership between the two has gathered much attention from Washington due to the symbiotic relationship.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** Heading to Wright-Patterson AFB over the students' Fall Break. Are also starting initial discussions with Maryville College about a Cross-town ROTC relationship.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Jim Mungenast):**
[EVENTS]:
 - October 9th: Registration deadline for teams to participate in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Had 1700 teams last year participate - 20 of those were Knoxville teams. Top 40 teams then go to Washington, D.C. to compete. Nationally, they have expanded the competition beyond high school to middle school and now to elementary school programs. If anyone is associated with school or teacher involvement, you are encouraged to mention the Cyber Patriot competition, or have a teacher contact the AFA at <http://www.afa.org/home> to participate. They were able to provide free registration for the upcoming competition to school ROTC and Civil Air Patrol teams.
 - October 12th: The Air Force Association will be holding their 8th Annual Brig. Gen. Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament at the Royal Oaks golf course in Maryville. It is a major fundraiser for the AFA. \$65 per player. The funds go toward their local schools for teacher recognition and grants, and assisting schools with receiving STEM equipment their budgets wouldn't otherwise provide. Proceeds will benefit AFA's education programs and selected veteran support programs. Registration and Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start at 12:30 p.m. They have invited recruiters from Knoxville and Chattanooga as well as members of NOSC and the Marine Corps to join them. 20 have registered so far.
- **American Legion (Rod Meyers):** Gave thanks to Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross for permitting AL to hold their meetings at the Red Cross facility.
[EVENTS]:
 - Oct. 5th: American Legion's next monthly meeting at the Red Cross Bldg., 6921 Middlebrook Pike. Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 10th-11th: Turkey Shoot from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the rugby field near Carter School.

AL is also still working on their building search as they look for a new permanent home. They're hoping by the end of November to have a decision on further plans. Visit the American Legion at <http://legionknox.com/> for more information.

- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Now have new option to submit a Red Cross emergency message online at <http://www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/emergency-communication-services>. Can send by your smart phone, tablet, or computer, and can be accessed all over the world. Can also still send emergency messages by calling the Red Cross center at 877-272-7337. Let Jess know of any deployments, as he has informational packets he can get to the families in times of emergency and other essential information.
- **Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home (Larry Crouch):** Their upcoming Fall Festival is this month. Ben Atchley currently has 3 open beds.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** ETVMA assisted in the weekend events of the services and burial for WWII MOH recipient Marine Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr. Joleen thanked the Marine Corps League and the Red Cross for all their support. ETVMA commissioned a special challenge coin and commemorative buttons for the event; some are still available for a minimum donation of \$20 or more. Lt. Bonnyman's picture is on the front, and the back of the coin is the Marines Corps' logo with the date of September 27, 2015. See Joleen for an order form. On Friday, Oct. 30th, ETVMA will be holding their 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shootout at the Chilhowee Sportsman's Club in Maryville, TN. Two flights: 9 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Lunch is provided. Winners will receive prizes. Can register as an individual for \$125 or as a team of 4 for \$500. Sponsorships also available. May 2, 2016 is the date set for ETVMA's Annual Medal of Honor Evening at The Foundry at World's Fair Park. They will be honoring Korean MOH recipient Ray Eugene Duke, who died as a POW and on Veterans Day.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Courts (Freddie Owens):** In November, they will be changing their organization's reporting name to "Vet to Vet Tennessee." The current October VFW magazine is the "50th Anniversary of the Vietnam battle of Ia Drang Valley." Vietnam veterans will be having their reunion in Washington, D.C. this month. Over the past month, the VTC Committee has trained 71 Monroe Co. road officers in their PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution Training (PAIR) program - 2 individuals from Birmingham, Ala. visited the program. The Committee will also be travelling to Birmingham and Tuskegee, Ala. to train officers next year. They are the only certified group in the State of TN to train road officers in this specialized type of training. Send any referrals to Freddie Owens - they also can conduct a private training session for any individual(s) or unit(s). Since this year, 1200 officers have been trained in the PAIR program. For more information, visit <http://tnvhc.org/> to learn more about the East TN Veterans Treatment Court and the Committee's PAIR program that is offered.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** At the end of September, still have 21,400 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. ESGR will be supporting the "Paychecks for Patriots" hiring event on Oct. 1st. Jack gave a special thanks to the 134th Air Refueling Wing. They had their orientation flight on Sept. 17th where 30 employers and HR managers were onboard, each of whom either previously or currently signed their support for Paychecks for Patriots. ESGR assisted a few NOSC sailors with resolution in their employer issues. Jack said if any unit or organization has an event, pre-deployment or post-deployment, contact ESGR who can help support those events.

- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #19 will take place on Wed., Oct. 7th. Orientation with all 134 veterans was last Saturday. Onboard this flight will be 23 WWII veterans, 57 Korean veterans, and 54 Vietnam veterans. Come out to the McGhee Tyson airport on Oct. 7th at 8 p.m. to welcome their return home. You can follow Honor Air on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/honorair> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** News Talk 98.7 WOKI is looking for veterans to feature on their Wednesday program called "Heroes Among Us." They produce 1.5 to 2 mins. segments that feature a veteran from the East TN area. They welcome any and all veterans who are interested in being featured in their program. If interested or for any referrals, please contact Eric Glasgow at (865) 450-4270 or at Eric.Glasgow@cumulus.com. Also, Tues., Oct. 27th, the Conner Road Bridge off Emory Road will be named after Corporal Lawrence Lett, USMC, who was killed in action in Korea and whose heroic actions that day earned him The Navy Cross. Corporal Lett attended Central High School. Oct. 27th will be the 63rd anniversary of his death. Further details on the bridge dedication will be sent out soon.
 - **President's Statement:** Owen said Tom sent him a link to Paper Safe, which is a document that allows you to go through and record all of your bank, insurance, funeral arrangements, and next-of-kin information, which is a great resource. Link here: <http://www.avva.org/documents/PaperSafe.pdf>
- **Marine Corps League (Eddie Knoebel):** Thanked Virgil Young for all he did for the Bonnyman events, as well as the Knoxville Police Department, Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, the Knox County Sheriff's office for all of their help with the Bonnyman remains' arrival at the TYS airport, the police escorts and officers throughout the weekend, the Red Cross, the Young Marines, and the Marine Band for a job well done. Eddie said the Bonnyman family greatly appreciated all Knoxville had done and were in awe by all the arrangements, the honors, the coins, the community's support, everything. You can view video footage from the Bonnyman ceremony at the MCL website: http://mclknnox.org/html/news_-_events.html Also, the Marine Mud Run in September had a great turnout with 1,566 participants.

[EVENTS]:

- **Oct. 10th:** Jim Putman Memorial Rifle Match, from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Volunteer Rifle & Pistol Club, 2327 Rifle Range Rd., Knoxville
- **Oct. 17th:** Marines Corps League, Bonnyman Det., 20th Anniversary Dinner, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center
- **Oct. 24th:** Jack McGiveny Pistol Match. 8 a.m. registration. 45 rounds (non-magnum ammo). Centerfire pistol with barrel not over 6".
- **Nov. 7th:** Marine Corps Birthday Ball with the Smoky Mtn. Detachment in Pigeon Forge, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Nov. 10th:** 240th Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon, at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, Bonnyman Det, family and friends, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 27th:** Marine Cops Birthday Ball at the Marriott with the Marine Reserve

Further details for these events can be found on the MCL website at mclknnox.org

- **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** 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.

- **Owen Haddock:** Reports that Navy Chaplain Chris Stanfield, LCDR, will not be at the next MOWW meeting as guest speaker, but will be at another meeting and is working with them on future events. LCDR Stanfield is the one that organized the Chattanooga memorials, he says. Owen was at ETSU this past weekend working with the cadets and their color guard, which is a national champion-winning color guard.
- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** PHW's video "Teach a Man to Fish" won audience favorite for Short Documentary, which was produced by University of Tennessee's Medal of Honor Project and shown at the Knoxville Film Festival last month. The film is a 12 min. documentary that follows 2 veterans who participated in the Smoky Mt. Grand Slam Challenge fly fishing tournament. You can view the video here: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/NewsMedia/Announcements/tabid/147/post/teach-a-man-to-fish-wins-audience-favorite-for-short-documentary/Default.aspx>
Also, PHW's "No Easy Day" IPA beer hit the market and is now selling at Kroger, Food City, and Casual Pint. \$2 of every case sold goes to PHW. In addition, PHW has been working with the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic, where PHW sets up a table every Wednesday to let veterans know about their organization. They have made 100 new connections and several veterans have shown interest in participating.

[EVENTS]:

- **Oct. 16th:** 2nd Annual Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge Banquet, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park, Knoxville. The event is a fundraising banquet for PHW which entails a buffet dinner, live and silent auctions, and special guests. If you know of someone who wants to donate silent auction items, contact Steve at (865) 773-3343 or at stevethefishingguy@gmail.com. For ticket or sponsorship information for the event, visit <http://www.smokymountain Slam.com/>.
- **Oct. 17th:** Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge Fishing Tournament on Clinch River, Miller's Island.

Project Healing Waters received \$100/mo. through the Kroger Rewards Program. 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/>

- **Women Marines Association – Rocky Top Chapter (Lindsay Long):** Their chapter assisted in the Bonnyman events. Oct. 18th is the Casting for Recovery's 6th Annual Turning Leaf Tour, which is a road cycling event, in which funds will assist in the educational and support retreat of 14 Tennessee women who have experienced breast cancer, specifically those from East TN. The event is at no cost to the participant. For more information, visit <http://www.turningleaftour.com/> The WMA also participated in the Knoxville Area Homeless Veterans Stand Down event last month and were able to help 6 women. Said if you know of any women veterans who need supportive services, please send their way.
- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44:** Continuing to work on their Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park project. Are in the logistical stages. Their second cleanup day is

Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 8:30 a.m. They'll be putting up the flag poles and handicap facilities. Anyone is welcome to participate. Please bring your own tools. Come join and support them. For more information on WVA Chapter 44, visit their website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>

- **Tami Maderscheid:** The Red, White, and Blue Run, a charity motorcycle ride will be held Sat., Oct. 3rd, which starts at the Smoky Mountain Harley Davidson in Maryville and will be a 95 mile ride through the Smoky Mountains. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Ride starts at 11 a.m. After the ride, participants can take part in raffles, a silent auction, and several vendors will be present. Proceeds help support homes for our troops. They're still looking for participants. They're also looking for a grand prize item to be donated. Contact them if a business or individual wishes to donate. You can view their Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1407652039557095/>
- ✓ **Reminder from Patrice:** Reminded everyone that when you email her flyers so she can mass send out for your event, please send her an email with all the information as one already ready to be sent out. Not everyone has Adobe Acrobat, so flyer attachments are not easily accessible to everyone as an email ready to go out would be.
- **President's Statement:** Owen thanked all the organizations who helped and participated in the Bonnyman events. A special thanks to Patrice and Joleen in their planning efforts. Owen said the kind of synergy of this organization is what it means to support the local community, and thanked everyone for their participation and in spreading the word.
- ❖ 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 Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice to have your parking validated.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 5th at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.