



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

OCTOBER 4, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 1 – Toys for Tots Campaign open. NEED Donations - Volunteers, Organizations and businesses
DEC 20 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>
LIKE on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/knoxtoys4tots/>
- OCT 13 Navy Ball, Hotel Knoxville (fka Marriott) 6p-midnight. <http://navyball2018.ezregister.com/>
- OCT 17 Career Fair at the Knoxville Career Center on Middlebrook Pike. Call 865-403-1606 for info or email: david.m.webb@tn.gov
- OCT 20 Marine Corps League Jim Peacock Memorial Pistol Shoot, Bonnyman Pistol Range “Seymour Airpark” at 9am. <https://www.mclknoxville.org/> Contact Jay Holmes (404) 414-4225 JayHolmes@gmail.com
- OCT 26 ETVMA Sporting Clay Shootout @ Chilhowee Sportsman’s Club, 3 flights 9a, 12p & 3p. Team & individual. Register online at <https://etvma.org/support/shootout/> Contact: Tim Eichorn (865) 218-8408 email: Eichhorn@rkcapital.com.
- OCT 27 Marine Corps Ball at Knoxville Convention Center, 5:00p – 11:45p. <https://ticketbud.com/events/ae9d447c-5144-11e8-90ce-6f8b05438e09>
- OCT 29 Dedication of the Helen Ross McNabb Center Veteran Housing, 3720 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921. Contact Jessica Hill (865) 599-5836 or email: Jessica.hill@mcnabb.org
- NOV 8 ETMAC Veteran’s Luncheon @ Hotel Knoxville (aka Marriott) 11:30 am – 1pm. Go to www.etmac.org to order tickets.
- NOV 9 93rd Veteran’s Day Parade on Gay Street, 10:40am. http://legionknox.com/?page_id=128
- NOV 9 2nd Annual Army ROTC Alumni Council Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner beginning at 6:00 pm at the Holiday Inn at World’s Fair Park.
- 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
- 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
- JAN 28 2019 TVBA Keynote Dinner with keynote speaker Lt Col Oliver North, and Lee Greenwood to sing National Anthem at Knoxville Convention Center 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

- JAN 29 2019 TVBA Veterans Job Fair & Business Expo - 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
- OCT 19, 2019 SAVE the DATE – 2019 VVA #1078 Veteran’s Picnic at Chilhowee Park.
- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>) for all Veterans, 7:30 am-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, **October 4, 2018**, 8:30 am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **42** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - MSgt Richard Carver, 332 RCS
 - John LeCroy, Captain USAR 412th TEC (theater Engineer Command)
 - MSgt Patrick Cone, 332 RCS
 - MSgt Lisa Happ, TEC
 - Jennifer Thomas, McGhee Tyson - TEC
 - Yvette Torres, Volunteers of America
 - Cindy Humphrey, 1SGT NGEEP
 - Maj Justin Wilson, 151st ARS, 134th ARW
 - Lt Col Benjamin Brooks, 134th ARW
- **Treasurer’s Report: Derren Burrell**
 - Start balance \$ 15,601.60
 - Deposits \$ 1,534.81
 - Expenses \$ 358.47
 - End balance \$ 16,777.94

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**
 - Email regarding 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 – Joleen Dewald** - 93rd Veteran’s Day Parade Gay Street, 10:40am. Sign up at http://legionknox.com/?page_id=128
- **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon - Patrice Collins** – Thank you to unit commanders for getting in the nominees for the honorees.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – MAJ Joseph Westfall** – One of our major efforts is emergency communications. This summer in Smyrna on a National Level we outperformed all other

branches of the service including the emergency stations and participants and since that's our specialty we are very proud of that.

- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Captain Willie Posey** – *unable to attend*
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **LTC Pat Wade** – *unable to attend*
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **LTC Ben Brooks** first time attending together with Major Justin Wilson and Col Lee Hartley, Wing Commander. We have a constant presence overseas with aircraft, air crew and maintenance personnel and have for several years and will be that way for the foreseeable future. On the aircraft maintenance side, we are doing a modification on our KC135s to install a new auto pilot. We are preparing for a chemical warfare style exercise and evaluation with air mobility command and are working on a partnership program with Bulgaria with medical and security forces.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Brian Culberson** – Still soldiers overseas and everything going well there. We had a team that participated in the 9/11 stairclimbing event and it was a huge success and very emotional to see the firefighters get in full gear and climb those steps. Will plan to get a bigger team and participate next year. Planning on participation in the Veterans Day Parade and luncheon.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **TSgt Brandon Carver** - New to the area, just relocated from Alaska. Recruiting area is Cookeville over to Sylvania, NC and down to Rome, GA. Have 7 recruiters so if you need anything at all within that area don't hesitate to reach out. For FY2018 Air Force Active Duty recruiting met 109% of all target areas to include prior service, line officers and any other programs including hard to fill, as a result the unit was awarded the Standard of Excellence. Want to be super active in community including participation in parades and events or anything that you all have that you would like us to participate in. We appreciate your support. This is my superintendent out of Nashville, SMSgt Cone.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *unable to attend*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt Cullen Tores** –Delta Company has the honor of being tasked with the dignified transfer of PFC William Cabins who has been MIA in Korea since 1943. He has just recently been identified and is coming back to Knoxville and we will pick him up at McGhee Tyson and provide plane side honors along with 20-30 of his family and will escort him to Virginia. We are excited to be a part of that. Sgt David Metts is directing the Toys for Tots campaign. Need monetary donations, toys, volunteers, locations to host drop-off-boxes. Contact KnoxvilleT4T@usmc.mil or call 865-522-2414 ext. 113.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col John Capras** – Last week we graduated 320 airmen through the professional military education programs. We have a 2.5 week break with some folks on leave and then we start up again with 220 coming in for professional training. We have an opportunity for some training that is open to anyone in the ETMAC community called Illuminate training. It is owned by the U.S. Navy and is an innovative thinking class. On October 10 will offer a “train the trainer class” and then on October 11 will be a trainee class. Class time is 8a – 4p. I will send an Evite out through Patrice.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CAPT Patrick Conner** (new commander) – *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **Capt Ethan Frazier** – *unable to attend*
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Kevin Settle** – LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNavyBall2018/> - Oct 13/14 is drill training weekend. The 243rd birthday of the Navy will be held on October 13 at the Hotel Knoxville (fka Marriott) 6 pm-midnight. This is open for everyone to attend. To buy tickets: <http://navyball2018.ezregister.com/> .
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – We have 24 people who just got back from the Carolinas helping in the Hurricane Florence disaster area working 16-hour days with shelter management, distributing supplies, and doing aerial imagery of the damage areas.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div CDR Ron Boneau** – *unable to attend*
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt Castillo** – *unable to attend*
- UT Army ROTC - LTC Justin Howe –Like us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/>
We have some events coming up. We will do the Color Guard at the Freddie Owens Women's Summit together with the Air Force ROTC and it will be all women detail in the spirit of the event. At the end of the month, the UT Army ROTC along with the Chattanooga cadets will be at Ft. Loudon doing our field training exercise with land navigation and squad tactical training so we can assess their

leadership skills. We will be out on Veterans day weekend participating in the parade and will have a cadet and alumni run on campus Friday, Nov 9. On Sun, Nov 11, we will do a contracting ceremony of 20 cadets at the half time of UT Women's basketball game and will have some military rappelling from the rafters. We are working with UT and hope to conduct the commissioning ceremony in fall on the field in Neyland Stadium and then hold the big commissioning in May.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Col Paula Penson** – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – The Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser is taking place this Monday, Oct 8th – Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament with about 60 players registered, so we will have some money to put back into the community after that.
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** - legionknox.com LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> - Veterans Day Parade is on November 9th. Online registration to participate in parade is open at http://legionknox.com/?page_id=128.
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/> - *unable to attend*
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TSVHS/> - *unable to attend*
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis** <http://www.vva1078.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/> - Thank you to all who supported the picnic with donations and information tables. The Luncheon was a huge success with around 550 attendees. We are moving next year's picnic date to a Saturday when UT doesn't have a home football game. Next year's date is set for October 19, 2019 at Chilhowee park. VVA Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Redemption Church corner of Pleasant Ridge and Western Avenue at 6pm.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – **Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/davchapter24/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association **Joleen Dewald** - <https://etvma.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> – The clay shoot will be held on Friday Oct. 26. We have teams from all services except Army so would like to talk to Army about a team. Still have space available for the afternoon flight if anyone would like to put together a team. Online registration <https://etvma.org/support/shootout/> -
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – **Jim Mungenast** - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - There is a nationwide nonprofit group called Operation Honor Guard that helps to support all of the volunteer honor guards around the country. There are four honor guards in our area that are participating to raise funds. These Honor Guards conduct about 500 military funerals a year. You can donate online at <http://www.operationhonorguard.us/>. These donations help them to get uniforms, transportation and to cover the expenses incurred by providing Veterans with military funerals.
- Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/> - *no report*
- 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> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/> - *no report*
- Honor Air – **Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/honoraire/> - Flight # 27 landed last night at 7:45 with 134 very happy and tired Veterans. The Reunion event will be in November. Flight 28 will be in April 2019. Helen Ross McNabb Center dedication of housing had to be shifted due to the visit of Vice President and is rescheduled for October 29 at 2:30.
- Knoxville Career Center – **David Webb** - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – Unemployment is still low – mid 3's. Average wage increase across the state of Tennessee was 5.8% for 2017. Our next Job Fair is Oct 17 from 10a – noon. Call 865-403-1606 for info or email: david.m.webb@tn.gov

- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - nothing to report.
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Owen Ragland for Emily Feedback** - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> – New address is 1645 Downtown West Blvd. #28. A Mindfulness Meditation group is planned to start soon at Knoxville Vet Center. Interested veterans can call the Center at 865-633-0000 and ask for Travis Jones for more info or to register. Combat Coffee Hour continues every Wednesday morning at 0730 at the Vet Center as well. Interested veterans are welcome to drop in and learn more about Vet Center and other services available to them.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> -. Marine Corps Ball will be held on Oct. 27th Knoxville Convention Center, 5-11:45p. Tickets online at <https://ticketbud.com/events/ae9d447c-5144-11e8-90ce-6f8b05438e09> – *unable to attend*
- 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) – **Owen Haddock**- <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Rothchild’s catering on Kingston Pike. This month meeting is on October 11. All are invited to attend. Massing of Colors will be held on 27 Oct at 2pm at the Shriner’s building. If any other units want to be involved in that, see Owen.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Cindy Lemarr** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> - We will be kicking off our annual fundraising Grand Slam at Jackson Terminal with a silent auction and will be followed by our fishing tournament and then a cookout in Norris. Everyone welcome. Monthly meeting at American Red Cross first Tuesday of every month at 6pm.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery – **Michael Simpson** – <https://rebootalliance.com/reboot> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/> We are in the middle of current 12-week class which started on Tuesday, Sept. 11th . Had a breakthrough with one of our Vets which is very impactful. Reboot is a Faith-Based Combat Trauma Recovery 12-week Program focusing on the Spiritual Aspects of Combat and is a course, not a support group, that provides practical help for service members and families dealing with the after effects of combat. Classes will be held Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 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/> - We are a Veteran support group with a goal of educating the public that we still have people unaccounted for from all wars and to ensure that our personnel serving today don’t get left on the battlefield and are accounted for. The Third Friday of September of every year is National POW/MIA recognition and we were fortunate to have a flag raising ceremony at the City County Building. Mayor Jacobs came down and was the guest speaker. First week in November we will participate in the National Leadership Conference where we come together and discuss constitutional issues. Be our guest at meetings on second Sunday of every month at 3:30pm held at the Powell Community Center, 11708 West Emory Road, Powell, TN 37849.
- STAR – Horses & Hero’s Program – **Lynn Petr, Executive Director** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - We are looking for volunteers to work with the Veterans in our program and want them to be Veterans. This is a once a week commitment. Class starting in two weeks. Still space for Veterans to join the class. New facility on Tipton Station Road is positioned well to collaborate with other veteran organizations with huge arena and land to host veteran related activities.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** – *unable to attend*. <https://gotvba.com/events/second-annual-tvba-golf-tournament/> - Job fair will be held 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.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** - http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 – Nov 9 at

6pm will hold the 2nd annual UT Army Alumni Hall of fame induction. 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/> LIKE us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/> - *unable to attend*
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – Ivette Torres** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - We are now located in Oak Ridge and Dan Helton is the new area leader and two career managers. We have new grants available to help veterans get back to work and new grants for housing for homeless vets. For more information, call Ivette at 347-893-6281 email: Ivette@voamid.org.
- **Women Marines Association – Lindsay Long** <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*
- **Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost** <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - We have grown our wounded vet program to 125 families and have helped many of them through crisis situations. We were able to get three veterans track chairs last month. We sent two Marines to Las Vegas and then to the Grand Canyon for an eight-day therapeutic rafting trip. We are sending one Marine family to NYC on an Honor our Heroes weekend. We took 100 military and families to a UT game in September for they Veteran Appreciation game. I took six caregivers to NC on a Christian Wives Retreat. I took 14 caregivers out to a retreat in Maryville. We have started a monthly Smoky Mountain Hiking group and a monthly Bible Study for wounded Veterans and their family members. Thanks to D Company Marines for helping to put up a green house.
- **Michael Jordan** – Just started working at the Blount Mansion and we have an immediate need for people to lead tours. If you know of anyone who is looking for something fun to do during the week, we would love to have people who have served our county to be part of our team.
- **Gregg Crawford** – I work with the **Tennessee Department of Veteran Services** and we just closed our 3rd annual student veteran week, and in Tennessee all our major universities and community colleges have a Veterans Resource Center. We just had a student Veteran Organizational Summit where we had 55 student Veteran leaders from different campuses come to Nashville to learn how to help their fellow student Veterans to develop professionally.
- **Janet Guess – Veteran Specialist for 8 funeral homes and 5 cemeteries.** We want to thank the Honor Guard with fundraising; we contribute each time we have military honors and our families contribute as well so that is a great cause to donate to. October 11, there is a PBS sponsored Veterans Dinner at the Bridgewater Event Center and there are lots of spaces available for Veterans or military personnel who want to attend. Wreaths across America is raising funds right now. There are 16,683 Veteran graves in the 3 cemeteries in East Tennessee and last year and years before not every grave was covered. We would like to ensure that every grave has a wreath and are asking for donations or any contacts that you may know to help make this happen. Each wreath cost \$15 and we are working closely with VBA on raising funds. <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/> Contact Janet Guess (865) 603-8250 or email: janet.guess@dignitymemorial.com
- **Charlie Cardwell** – Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #356. Welcome to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 356 website. We are a proud organization of Combat Wounded veterans serving the veterans in Knox County and surrounding areas. We also have Associate Members (blood-line relative of a Purple Heart recipient) and volunteers. Our chapter's goal is to help our fellow veterans in any way that we can. At this time, we do not receive funding from any outside organizations, so we must raise funds for our goals on our own. All the money received via donations goes back to our veterans. If you are a Purple Heart recipient or know of one in our area who would like to join our chapter, please contact Commander Charlie Cardwell at 865-310-7045 or email – cdcardwell49@gmail.com
- **Owen Ragland** – Annual elections are coming up for ETMAC board positions. A committee will be appointed to come up with nominations to present for consideration. If you have been a member of ETMAC for at least a year and have an interest in a board position, please let us know so that you may be considered for leadership in ETMAC.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 1, 2018
@ Knoxville Chamber, 17 Market Square, #201, Knoxville

For input or corrections, contact:



ETMAC Board of Directors:

Owen Ragland, President 865-556-6338 email: oragland@kmfpc.com

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