



## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

October 3, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/> ) for all Veterans, 7:30-8:30am at the Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28
- Every Second Saturday Breakfast for Buds from 8:30 until 10am. Mama Grits in Tellico Village. Contact Dennis Drake at [dennisdrake2012@outlook.com](mailto:dennisdrake2012@outlook.com) for more information.
- OCT 8 KnoxWorx Job Fair 9am until 1pm at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
- OCT 12-13 Sons of the American Legion Annual Turkey Shoot. Details here: [Turkey Shoot](#)
- OCT 19 Vietnam Veterans of America #1078 Veteran's Picnic at Chilhowee Park. <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/>
- OCT 19 2019 Navy Ball Celebrating 245 Years. Hilton Knoxville Airport 2001 Alcoa Hwy, Alcoa. Social Hour at 1800, Dinner at 1930. Tickets at <http://ezregister.com/events/27961> Formal attire.
- OCT 25 UT Knoxville Army ROTC Hall of Fame Induction Celebration Register here: [UTArmyROTC Hall of Fame](#)
- OCT 25 ETVMA Annual Sporting Clays Shootout at Chilhowee Sportsman's Club. Details at [www.etvma.org](http://www.etvma.org).
- NOV 3 War Dog Memorial March Details here: [War Dog March](#)
- NOV 8 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Appreciation and Awards Luncheon at 11:30am at Hotel Knoxville. <https://www.etmac.org> for tickets.
- NOV 11 Annual Veterans Day Parade sponsored by American Legion Post 2 and City of Knoxville. <http://legionknox.com/veterans-day-parade-lineup/veterans-day-parade/>

For a complete listing of events, visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

**We are changing the format of the monthly minutes. All organization contact information will be in a list at the end of the minutes. We hope you will find having the information in one place will be beneficial to you, and hope you find the minutes easier to read.**

### ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs

Council was held on Thursday, **October 4, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **74** were present.

**Introduction of new Attendees:**

- Lt Col Michael and Julie Kovalchek with the 332<sup>nd</sup>
- Teja Cain with Coreinsurance Advisors
- Capt Joseph Cunningham with AFIT/EWI
- Lt Col Jeremy Wimer with ORNL
- Col Jesse Hawe with Team RWB
- CPO Ivy Washington with NOSC

- **President's Report – Owen Ragland-** Please check your contact information within these minutes to ensure they are correct and let us know if they are not. The proposed Veterans Park on John Sevier has been announced by Legacy Parks. The Veteran Heritage Site will likely take this on since they are a good fit for a project like this one. People have expressed interest in having a monument there and someone even has a cannon to donate. We will keep ETMAC apprised as the project moves forward. The Veterans Luncheon will be held on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Knoxville. Our speaker will be General Jimmy Cole, former commander of the 278<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the Army this year. Elections for leadership of ETMAC will be upcoming in December. A nomination committee will be organized, but anyone is eligible to serve. If you have an interest, let us know.
- **Webmaster's Report - Col Dent Young-** Last month our website had 601 visitors with the majority coming from the US. A total of 945 pages were visited with the top picks being the Resource page and the Veteran Luncheon page.
- **Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell –**

Beginning Balance	\$18,340.94
Deposits	\$ 1,664.17
Expenses	\$1,140.51
Ending Balance	\$18,865.37
- Membership dues may be paid online  
<https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmacresources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.
- **Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins –**Thank you for all your honorees. Please make sure I have both pictures and profiles for your honorees this week.
- **Robert Collett** with Mountain Home VA Hospital gave an update. They are focusing on providing services in the community, so Vets don't have to travel so far to be treated.
- **Mark Farley** with ORNL talked about what's going on at the Lab. Cyber Force Competition coming. Over 100 college organizations participating, along with local cyber units. 251 jobs available currently. Hosting two Air Force Generals. Also reported on Det 800. There is a new Air Force Alumni group starting up.

**MILITARY UNIT UPDATES**

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – MAJ Joseph Westfall-** They will be providing security for the next RAM event in Gray. It will be at the end of the month.

- 119<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations Squadron –**Col Chris Smith** –completed annual field training in Savannah. There is a merger with the 24<sup>th</sup> Air Force and the 25<sup>th</sup> Air Force to form new 16<sup>th</sup> Air Force. That creates opportunities for us. Also working with the state of Tennessee to be ahead of cyber-attacks.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **CPT Philip Webster** – Fire season has begun, and hurricane season is winding down. Also working ROTC events with flyovers. Troops in motion.
- 134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing –**Col Lee Hartley** – Public affairs won photo of the month for the flyover last month. Groundbreaking for new hanger. Troops in motion.
- 241<sup>st</sup> Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga) **Lt Col Dave Moss** – teamed with 119<sup>th</sup> in Savannah. Troops in motion.
- 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Kelly Copeland**. Completed exercise with Tennessee government to determine how they would work together in a disaster. Supporting exercise in Fort Indian Town. Will be supporting ROTC operations as well as tents and water for the Boy Scouts. Troops in motion.
- 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Lt Col Michael Kovalckek** – most productive month of the year 130%. Top recruiter went over 200% of goal.
- 489<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion- **MAJ BW Osten** – Dorian was a nonevent.
- 844<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – Next training cycle. Team returning state side in time for Dining Out in December.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **ME1 Steven Brashear** – working on reestablishing in the area.
- Co D 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion – **GySgt John Kepper** - Toys for Tots major focus. Collection box will be at the Veteran Luncheon.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center **Lt Col John Capra** - Pause in training and staff taking a break. Developing programs to get to know staff better. 350 students will be arriving around the 20<sup>th</sup>. Upgrading facilities.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner** – Top recruiting company in the states. New fiscal year beginning.
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **CPT Taylr Hill** – Looking for officers to perform enlistment oaths. They have ceremonies all during the day, all during the week.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Scott Moss** – Navy Ball is coming up. Do about 300 Funeral Honors each year. Have a special one this week, a Pearl Harbor sailor. His remains were just returned to the family and the funeral will be in Corbin Ky.
- Navy Recruiting – Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center – **HM2 Josh Dixon**- unable to attend
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** –. Additional work in PR. Also ramping up nationwide training with WALDO camera.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** Long season with boating. Performed approximately 900 safety checks. Participated in Active Shooter Drill with local agencies.

- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** – unable to attend.
- UT Army ROTC – **LTC Justin Howe** – Need additional students for class of ‘22 and ‘23. Have scholarships available for those students. Taking 8 cadets to DC on 11-13 October to run the Army 10-mile race. 1 November joint run with both Air Force and Army alumni. 2 Nov Vol Walk 14-17 November field training for the fall semester. 6 December Retirement Ceremony for MSGT Jeff Valentine. Commissioning for winter will be 13 December at the Student Center on campus, 39 cadets. MAJ Trevor Joseph, a UT alumnus passed away.

## VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association -**Paula Penson** – Annual Golf Tournament on Columbus Day at Egwani Farm. Was delighted to enlist a student. One of her students was impacted by the apartment fire in Knoxville. She will be reaching out to see what he needs.
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – **David Webb**-Successful job and resource fair, thanks to the 278<sup>th</sup> for hosting. Unemployment rate ticking up just a bit. The US is at 4%, TN at 3.5%, Knox Co at 3.8%, Blount Co at 4%, Loudon at 4.3%, Anderson at 4.6% and Sevier at the lowest at 2.5% Job Fair by KnoxWorx Community will be on Tuesday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Springs Presbyterian from 9am until 1pm. There will be over 50 employers and 500 open jobs available.
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** – 12-13 October Turkey Shoot. Parade on Monday November 11. Sign up online.
- American Red Cross – **Jess Hernandez** – Help for families of deployed. Have some money for family days. Helping with families involved in apartment fire.
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** –6 empty beds. Fall Festival will be 18 October.
- Bunker Labs- **Derren Burrell** – unable to attend.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 –**Ron Kirby** Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening. Veterans Picnic will be on Oct 19 at Chilhowee Park. Hoping to have 800 attendees this year. Open to all veterans and guests. Fried chicken and hotdogs will be served. Feel free to bring a side dish to share.
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 -**Garrett Hanas** unable to attend.
- East Tennessee Veteran’s Honor Guard- **Jim Mungenast**- Have done 400 funerals this year. Always looking for additional people to help with this service. Fund raiser was held to help defray costs associated with this and it raised \$64k
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association- **Joleen Dewald** –Clay shoot coming up. Details in event section. Medal of Honor dinner coming up on 4 May.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jim Mungenast** – Attended SHERM conference and met with a lot of human resource professionals and were able to educate them on USERRA law. ESGR also provides briefings to all area units.
- Honor Air - **Joe Sutter** – unable to attend – Flight successful despite hot weather. 15 April is next flight and is a women veterans only flight.

- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** - unable to attend.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Emily Hager** –unable to attend
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** – nothing to report.
- Knoxville Vet Center –**Lyle Allen** – unable to attend
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** - Mud Run is complete! 1200 runners participated. Bill Roberts passed away. A link to his obituary is here [Roberts obit](#)
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** – Meet with MOWW each month.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** – Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at Rothchild's from 11-1. ROA has been changed from Reserve Officer Association to Reserve Organization of America to encourage all ranks and branches to join the organization.
- Mountain Man Memorial March - **Joleen Dewald** – Date set for 25 April. Registration open.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing –**Steve Thompson** – unable to attend.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery – **Darrell Williams**– unable to attend
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** – Helping to raise money for Wreaths Across America. National Conference early November. Planning to transition from a national ride to the wall program to regional ride programs.
- STAR – Horses & Heroes Program – **Cathy Dolson** –Adding additional programing for evenings and weekends.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless- **Brandon Harris-** unable to attend
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** – visit website for details on their program.
- United Veterans Council – **Janet Guess** –unable to attend.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** –25 Oct Hall of Fame Induction. There will be 8 in this class and will be held at the Foundry.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** – Will be working on new park. See details on War Dog March in event section above. Need Volunteers.
- VVA Chapter 1073 & VFW Post 3380 (Morristown). **Whit Whitman** - They cover 7 counties and provide flags in all classrooms for the 88 schools in their counties.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down –**Ivette Torres** – unable to attend.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** –unable to attend

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2019 @ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am**

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer  
865/691-0898 or [kim@nallssherbakoff.com](mailto:kim@nallssherbakoff.com)**

**ETMAC Board of Directors:**

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**Jess Hernandez, Vice President 865-567-6134 email: [Jess.Hernandez@redcross.org](mailto:Jess.Hernandez@redcross.org)**

**Derren Burrell, Treasurer 865-771-4243 email: [derren@tagresources.com](mailto:derren@tagresources.com)**

**Kim Spencer, Secretary 865-661-9856 email: [kim@nallssherbakoff.com](mailto:kim@nallssherbakoff.com)**

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**Joleen Dewald, At Large Director, 571-332-3100 email: [joleen@thedewalds.org](mailto:joleen@thedewalds.org)**

**Capt Willie Posey, At Large Director, 865-274-9901 email: [willie.s.posey.mil@mail.mil](mailto:willie.s.posey.mil@mail.mil)**

**Gina Massey, At Large Director, 865-363-2994 email: [gmassey@etmafcu.net](mailto:gmassey@etmafcu.net)**

**Tom Humphries, At Large Dir 865-215-5645 [Thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org](mailto:Thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org)**

**Don Smith, At Large Director 931-335-0477 email: [donandmarvsmith@aol.com](mailto:donandmarvsmith@aol.com)**

**Rick Garner, At Large Director 865-740-2970 email: [rgarner@khfh.com](mailto:rgarner@khfh.com)**

**Robert Brown, ETMAC Calendar 865-458-0759 email: [rl\\_brown@hotmail.com](mailto:rl_brown@hotmail.com)**

**Dent Young, Webmaster [387543@tncap.us](mailto:387543@tncap.us)**

## Unit and Veteran Organization Contact Information

ETMAC

[www.ETMAC.org](http://www.ETMAC.org)

American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor

<http://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/Veteran/veteran.aspx>

American Legion

[legionknox.com](http://legionknox.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/> -

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/>

Ben Atchley

<http://www.tsvh.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TNStateVetreans/>

Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078

<http://www.vva1078.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/>

Disabled Veterans Chapter 24

<https://www.dav.org>

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association

<https://etvma.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/> -

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/>

Honor Air

<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/honorair/>

Knoxville Habitat for Heroes

<https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/>

Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council

<http://tnvhc.org/>

Knox County Veteran Services Office

<https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/>

[thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org](mailto:thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org)

Knoxville Vet Center

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Marine Corps League

<http://www.mclknox.org/>

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

[www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

[www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org)

Mountain Man Memorial March

<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

<http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/>

REBOOT Combat Recovery

<https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>

<https://www.facebook.com/rebootrecovery/>

Rolling Thunder

<http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>

STAR – Horses and Heroes Program

<http://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html>

Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless

<https://tvchomeless.org/>

UT Army ROTC Alumni Council

[http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior\\_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955](http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955)

<https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/>

Veteran Heritage Site Foundation

<http://veteransheritagesite.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation/>

Volunteers of America Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down

<https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn>

Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group

<http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/>