



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 28 GORUCK Heavy Challenge, Knoxville - Friday Sept. 28 @ 6pm. Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2wbivFU>
- SEP 29 GORUCK Tough Challenge, Knoxville – Saturday Sept. 29 @ 9pm. Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2vLsPVs>
- SEP 30 GORUCK Light Challenge, Knoxville – Sunday, Sept. 30 @ 2pm. Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2vYMu8A>
- OCT 3 Honor Air Flight #27. See details at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>
- OCT 4 Inaugural Freddie J. Owens Women Veterans Summit at Redemption Church International, 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road. 8:30a – 4:30p. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freddie-j-owens-women-veterans-summit-2018-tickets-47137454395>
- OCT 5 Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Fundraiser for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing National
- OCT 13 Navy Ball, more info to come.
- OCT 20 Marine Corps League Jim Peacock Memorial Pistol Shoot, Bonnyman Pistol Range “Seymour Airpark” at 9am. <https://www.mclknnoxville.org/> Contact Jay Holmes 404-414-4225 JayHolmes@gmail.com
- OCT 26 ETVMA Sporting Clays Shootout @ Chilhowee Sportsman’s Club, 3flights 9a, 12p & 3p. Team & individual. Register online at www.etvma.org Contact: Tim Eichorn (865) 218-8408 email: Eichhorn@rkcapi.com.
- OCT 28 Marine Corps Ball at Knoxville Convention Center, Open to public. More info to come.
- NOV 8 Veteran’s Luncheon @ Downtown Hotel (previously Marriott) www.etmac.org to order your tickets.
- By JUN 30 Shop with Impact. Help to drive Veteran homelessness to ZERO. **\$25 donation** with **100%** of proceeds go to identify where veterans are on streets in 12 county region. <https://tvchomeless.org/our-shop/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TVCHomeless/> Instagram: @TVCHomeless

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, September 6, 2018, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of 82 were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - Chief Ryan Finch, U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting in Atlanta GA
 - Peter Schlosky, Coast Guard Auxiliary
 - MAJ Justin Belford, 844th Engineer Battalion
 - Sheila McGinty, Family Intern @ Humana Homecare Hospice
 - Mark Cuffaro, Operation Transition Assistance Corp <http://optacorp.com/>
 - Houston Smelcer, Helen Ross McNabb Center
 - Leanne Human Hilliard, Helen Ross McNabb Center
 - CPT John LeCroy, Army Reserve 412 Engineer Command
 - Elizabeth Schop, Mountain Home VA and Knoxville VA Clinic
 - Robert Collett - Veteran Experience Officer |James H. Quillen VA Medical Center
 - Sgt David Metts - Delta Co Marines
 - LTC Justin Howe, UT Army ROTC
 - Maj John Barrett, 134th Air Refueling Wing
- **Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell –**
 - Started month with \$ \$16,017.86
 - Deposits \$ 90.38
 - Expenses \$ 506.64
 - Monthly ending balance - \$ 15,601.60

November is our Veteran luncheon so a big expense month. If you haven't yet, please pay your membership dues online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.
- Helen Ross McNabb Veteran Services – **Houston Smelcer & Leann Human Hilliard -** <https://www.mcnabbcenter.org/service/military-services> - The Helen Ross McNabb Center's military services are free and confidential and available to anyone who has served in the military and/or his or her family members without a fee. Members of all branches of service, regardless of discharge status and length of service are eligible. The specialized individual and family therapy is for individuals facing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety, co-occurring disorders, thoughts of suicide and other invisible wounds incurred from service. The therapy is provided by clinical therapists with prior service and are trained in military culture. Our hope is to serve those who courageously served our country and their loved ones by giving access to the resources and support they need to continue healthy and purposeful living.
Other available resources:
 - **Homeless Outreach**
 - **Supportive Housing**
 - **Supported Employment Services**
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland –**
 - Expression of gratitude to Helen Ross McNabb for their commitment to help Veterans regardless of conditions of service.
 - 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/>
- **ETMAC Announcements: Patrice Collins**
 - REMINDER – Next meeting is **Thursday, October 4th**. Will be a short, abbreviated meeting to allow those to attend the Women's Veteran's Summit following the meeting.

- Units are requested to submit their enlisted honoree for the Veterans luncheon and if you purchase a table, just pay for 8 because two of the guests are complimentary, the honoree and their guest.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** – *no report*
- 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 – **Maj John Barrett** – Col Hartley is the new Wing Commander and Col Underwood is the new Vice Wing Commander. Deployments and inspections are a constant.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Brian Culberson** – Have some training in Ft. Hood, TX and will move on after that. Company in deep with heavy overseas training. Looking forward to Veterans Day luncheon. 9/11 stair run coming up and we have a team to participate in that.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Lt Col Terrance Holmes** - Support Flight Commander Capt Ray and First Sgt also in attendance. We exceeded goal by 17%, so has been the highest producing month since taking command. Successful event at Bristol Motor Speedway with a mobile hanger made up of two semi-trucks to allow a virtual experience of Air Force life such as fixing a hydraulic leak, changing a C-130 tire or taxing a plane down a runway.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – Two big things going on - a number of soldiers will be going out to support an operation towards the end of this calendar year. Mr. Dennis McVey, who is our unit's Family Readiness Coordinator, will coordinate support for families while those soldiers are gone. December will hold family days where we bring in our soldiers and families and introduce them to the resources available to them in the community, so will be reaching out in hopes that our veteran/military community will come together to assist with the support of family members while soldiers are gone.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – Our area of responsibility includes most all of Tennessee. Thanks to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, completely made up of volunteers, for helping to recruit for the Coast Guard and being instrumental with visiting schools, distributing literature, and taking every opportunity to assist with getting the word out. There are only eight recruiters for the entire state of Georgia, half of Alabama and half of Tennessee. Presented a Meritorious Award to the Coast Guard Auxiliary for all their help and support in recruiting efforts.
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt Cullen Tores** – We are in planning for the Marine Corps Ball coming up and leading into the holidays we are preparing for our annual Toys for Tots campaign. Looking for volunteers. Unit has been advised from higher up that only one person will be detailed with this project. Sgt David Metts will be leading this campaign. We need as much monetary donation as possible and as many volunteers as possible to give these kids a good Christmas.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Lt Col John Capras** – 275 students on board right now. Blended class of 60 airman coming up in 10 days. Largest conference we have hosted to date was last month. Housing is available which is increasing the conference business.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick J. Connor** – We are rolling into the new fiscal year. We are looking to get into local high schools from Pigeon Forge out to Cookeville.
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Emily Wilson** – Been busy with summer surge and sending new enlistees off to their services. Need assistance to convert part of MEPS into USO. If you know of anyone from USO please advise. We always welcome guest officers to come and administer oath for family members or friends of new recruits.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **LCDR Kevin Settle** – Drill weekend, Sept 15-16 to pin 3 new Petty Officers. 243rd birthday of the Navy will be held on October 13 from 6 pm-midnight at the Hotel Knoxville - formerly the Marriott. Will hold a car wash at the Middlebook Pike Advance Autoparts to raise funds for Navy Ball on Friday, Sept 21 from 3-8. Info will be sent out
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – no report
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div CDR Ron Boneau** – Appreciation to coast guard recruiters out of Atlanta for the meritorious recognition. Just finished with the Asian festival where focus was recruiting and safe boating. Weather in October will change and will take us off water but will continue with safe boating and safe vessel training. Will be preparing for next year with change of

command in early January and preparing for fishing show and boating show. Have available a boat ride for Veterans this Saturday, Wind River Tellico lake. Please wear life jackets - save lives.

- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo – summer ROTC field training was held at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. 3 cadets selected for leadership during that event. 2 picked up for language and culture immersion. 10 cadets to various bases for exposure to Air Force. We have 64 new cadets.
- UT Army ROTC - LTC Justin Howe –35 cadets to advanced camp. 36 seniors selecting branches. Largest freshman class in history with 52 cadets. Goal is to gain 1% of freshman class each year. 140 total cadets enrolled. 89 on scholarship. Growth last 5 years has been 160%. Goal is 200+ cadets in school year 2021. Chattanooga program is also growing. They have 75 cadets and their goal is to grow that program to 100+ cadets by 2021. Will have our color guard at the UT football games and will participate in the Veterans Day parade. Like us on Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/>. Working with Coach Warlick with Lady Vols basketball to instill discipline.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – Col Paula Penson – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – 1st time a TN teacher made it to #3 in the nation. Annual Fundraiser is on Oct 8th – Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament – looking for golfers and community sponsors. Recruiters free at Egwani Farms.
- American Legion – Joleen Dewald - legionknox.com - We are in fundraising mode. On Sept. 11th, at the Texas Roadhouse located near East Town Mall. Restaurant will donate 10% of all revenue from meals to American Legion. Sept 29th we are having a yard sale at 5700 Old Rutledge Pike. Veterans Day Parade is on 9 November. Online registration is open.
- American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> -
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – Doug Ottinger – <http://www.tsvh.org/> - Available beds open if you know of any Veterans or spouses.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Gary Ellis <http://www.vva1078.org/> - Reminder that meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Redemption Church. Holding a fundraiser at Walmart on Chapman Hwy on Friday and Saturday 9-4. 3rd annual veterans picnic coming up at Chilhowee park 11am – 2pm on September 22. Vietnam Veterans are anyone in was in service from 1964-75. Hope that Veteran organizations will set up a table to recruit younger veterans and get them involved in organizations. Donations accepted – paper plates, table cloths. Etc. Thanks to TN State Guard for monetary donation. Also, you can bring a covered dish.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> - Looking for donations of power wheelchairs. DAV featured in Movie – God Bless the Broken Road <https://www.facebook.com/gbbmovie/> shows what it is like for Veterans returning from combat zones and their surviving spouses. Motorcycle Club will have a poker run called Christmas Express to raise money for those deployed. Will get a flyer out with the details. Sign up at DAV.org to be volunteer.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - Joleen Dewald – The clay shoot will be held on Friday Oct 26. Space available for the noon and 3pm flights. Looking for military teams to participate.
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Reid Gerhardt - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - *unable to attend*
- Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> - We have one 4 bedroom home available if you know of a veteran or military member who needs a home. First year is rent to own with 100% of rent going to purchase. 30-year interest free mortgage. We work with the AmeriCorps program and we have two openings if you know of someone who would like to commit to one year for this program.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Cindy Winterberger <http://tnvhc.org/> – Passing around fliers for Women Veteran Summit. Open to all. Katerpillar Kamp for kids who have experienced loss will be held Sept 15-16 at Wesley Woods with 85 participants. <https://www.facebook.com/katerpillarkids/>

- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jack D’Araujo** <https://www.esgr.mil/> - 38k guard and reserve on federal active duty. 17 Oct we have an orientation flight with 134th. Last week, Secretary of Defense announced that border security extended for at least another year.
- Honor Air –**Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - Flight 27 will leave out on Wed, Oct 3. All invited to welcome home ceremony at McGhee Tyson on Wednesday, Oct 3rd.
- Knoxville Career Center – **David Webb** - <https://www.tn.gov/workforce> – 4.2% unemployment nationwide. 3.5% in TN and 3.6% in Knox County. Many calls every day for those looking to hire veterans. Career fair will be held on Sept 19 from 10-noon and Oct. 17, 10a-noon. VFW 5154 is holding patriots pin middle school essay contest with cash award. Voice of democracy is the high school program. Go to <https://www.vfw.org/> for more info.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - *unable to attend*
- Knoxville Vet Center –**Patrice Collins for Emily Feedback** – Have relocated to new office at 1645 Downtown West Blvd. Will schedule open house soon and will let you all know. The Knoxville Vet Center would like to invite fellow veterans for an hour of comradery during Combat Coffee Hour. (Coffee provided by Black Rifle Coffee Company) Opportunity to learn about Vet Center programs, eligibility, and other VA programs and benefits. Combat Coffee hour is held every Wednesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 am at the Knoxville Vet Center. No appointments necessary. Knoxville Vet Center: 1645 Downtown West Blvd, # 28, Knoxville, TN 37919
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> - Mud Run www.knoxmud.org on September 15. New course. October 2nd is a Bridge Dedication for Lt. Charles Pilkington who graduated from Bearden High School and was killed in Vietnam. Ceremony is 2:00-2:45 P.M. at Concord Park on Northshore Drive at the Concord Marina parking lot. Marine Corps Ball will be held on Oct. 28th.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** - www.moaa.org – *unable to attend*
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Joleen Dewald** –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> - Next year MMMM date is Friday – Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2019. Registration for teams is open on October 1st.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – next meeting 2nd Wed. of every month at Rothchild’s catering on Kingston Pike. Capt Jodi Morgan, USN will speak on her career in the Navy and Girl Scouts. Reserve Officer Association is going to national convention on 27 - 30 Sept in Nebraska.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Cindy Lemarr** - <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - Just finished up with 15 Wounded Warriors in Norris. On Oct 5 we will hold our annual fundraising Grand Slam at Jackson Terminal with a silent auction. Looking for donations of auction items. Monthly meeting at American Red Cross first Tuesday of every month.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery –**Rick Garner**– Next class starting on Tuesday, Sept. 11th for 12 weeks. Reboot is a Faith-Based Combat Trauma Recovery 12-week Program focuses 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
- Tennessee Coalition of Veteran Homeless – Hosting a Rods in the City Car show on Sept. 22 at Powell Church Emory Road.
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - National HQ has now placed a permanent POW/MIA chair in the rotunda at the American Capital. MIA/POW Flag raising on Sept. 21 at 10am at city/county building. Supporting the veteran picnic and welcome home ceremony at Chilhowee Park. Looking for members for anyone willing to support and serve veterans.
- STAR – Horses & Hero’s Program – **Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html> - Fall session with 11 veterans participating. 4 more interested. 2 veteran participants have become volunteers, one is going through certification. Thanks to Helen Ross McNabb and Veteran Administration for support and VA for their referrals.
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** - <https://gotvba.com/events/second-annual-tvba-golf-tournament/> - Working on job fair that will be

held on January 29, 2019 at Knoxville Convention Center. Keynote dinner on Mon., Jan. 28 - Speaker will be Lt. Col Oliver North. Lee Greenwood will sing the National Anthem. Looking for sponsors and would like to grow event if you have any ideas.

- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** - http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955 – *no report*
- Veteran Appreciation Program- **Larry Sharp** –<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - *unable to attend*
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> - Hosting a 9/11 day of service this Saturday at 8:30 at Sharps Ridge Veteran Memorial Park Overlook and looking for volunteers to stay for cleanup of the park.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Clyde Vincent** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - Just 2 things – Reminder that we have new grants to help veterans get back to work and grants for housing. For more information, call Clyde's Cell 865- 607-6231.
- 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/> - *unable to attend*
- **Janet Stormbarnes** from Humana – Coffee at the Empty Cup across from Holiday Inn at Cedar Bluff. Last Thursday of every month from 8 -9am. Sept. 27th from 9-9am.
- **Shaun Booth** - Manager at Home Depot – Looking for help with Celebration of Service on Sept 11 – If you know of any veteran who needs help with a service project, you can contact your local Home Depot. VP of booster club for NJROTC at Farragut H.S. and looking for support of these programs https://www.snap-raise.com/fundraisers/farragut-njrotc-2018?share_type=facebook_share or direct your points from your local grocery card to benefit the NJROTC. Also pancake breakfast and spaghetti dinners to support the local NJROTC programs.

**Next meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2018
@ Knoxville Chamber of Commerce**

For input or corrections, contact:



ETMAC Board of Directors:

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