

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

September 3, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SEPT 8	Vietnam Veterans of America's Monthly Meeting
SEPT 9	MOWW's Monthly Meeting
SEPT 10	Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff Event at TVA Buildings
SEPT 12	Women Veterans of America's Next Cleanup Day on Sharp's Ridge Project
SEPT 14	American Legion's Monthly Meeting
SEPT 18	MOAA's Inter-Service Rivalry Miniature Putt-Putt Golf Competition
SEPT 19-20	Annual Pull for Our Veterans Skeet/Trap Shoot Wounded Warriors Fundraiser
SEPT 20	VVA's MIA/POW Ceremony at East TN State Veterans Cemetery
SEPT 25-27	WWII MOH recipient Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr. Burial and Services
SEPT 26	Marine Mud Run
SEPT 26	Homeless Veterans Stand Down Event at Knoxville National Guard Armory
OCT 2	UT Army ROTC Alumni Council Golf Tournament
OCT 7	Honor Air Flight #19
OCT 12	Air Force Association Annual Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser
OCT 16-17	Project Healing Waters' 2nd Annual Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge
OCT 17	Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter Party
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, September 3, 2015, at the Knoxville Chamber. Vice President Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total of 79 members and guests were present.

- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Captain Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
 - Shawn Boothe, Home Depot
 - Lawrence Crouch, Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home
 - Gregg Crawford, President of UT student group Vol Fighters and Marine veteran
 - Kim Henry, Director of Mane Support
 - Bill Gresham, Retired Air Force JAG officer and local attorney
 - Matt Smith, UT veterans' pre-college program and Marine veteran
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The August 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- **Treasurer's Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$13,462. ETMAC wrote checks for \$182 and made deposits of \$155. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$13,435. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual 2015 dues can be paid to any ETMAC officer or on the ETMAC website.
 - Steve also gave special recognition to Jim Mungenast who represented ETMAC at the servicemen's funeral services in Chattanooga.
- **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:**
 - **Lt Bonnyman Memorial Services Update (Virgil Young):** WWII MOH Marine recipient Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr. will be laid to rest after 71 years after being found on the island of Tarawa. The family will bury him at the Knoxville family plot at Highland Memorial Cemetery.
 - Fri., Sept. 25th: The casket will arrive at McGhee Tyson Airport. The procession will then be led by the Knoxville Police Department down Alcoa Highway, onto Kingston Pike, and then left to Highland Memorial Funeral Home. The procession is open to patriot riders and participants who may line the road.
 - Sat., Sept. 26th: There will be a lying in honor at 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the East TN Veterans Memorial at the World's Fair Park, in which a short ceremony will take place and is open to the community to pay their respects. Lt Bonnyman's grandson, Clay Bonnyman Evans, who was part of the group that found his grandfather's remains, will be guest speaker. ETVMA created a unique challenge coin to commemorate the event. Coins will be for purchase. Donations are also welcomed.
 - Sun., Sept. 27th: Burial is at 12 noon followed by a short service open to the public at Highland Memorial Cemetery which entails the Marine Band, their marching platoon, and a flyover. Marine Corps League is assisting in organizing the shuttles to and from the services due to limited parking at the cemetery. Afterwards there will be an invitation-only reception at the Highland Funeral Home that afternoon.
 - *The following above information will also be published in the local newspapers.
 - **Owen Haddock:** At MOWW's August regional convention, Owen spoke with Master Gunnery Sergeant John Ubaldi, USMC, who wrote the book *The New Business Brigade: Veterans' Dynamic Impact on U.S. Business*, which explores the topic of veterans' employment. MGySgt Ubaldi discusses the term Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) instead of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He suggests that PTSD conveys to employers a candidate is "broken." Owen also reported he attended the funeral of the servicemen in Chattanooga and also met with the Gold Star mothers and their families.
 - **Mane Support (Michael Trost):** Army Master Sgt. Trost explained he had several surgeons, doctors, and nurses that assisted him while undergoing treatment at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he recovered from in-service injuries and later was helped by Mane Support, Inc. Kim Henry with Mane Support explained that their program is a grief counseling program that works with adults, children, and families alike that have experienced a death or trauma. Mane Support has expanded their services to military and is also focusing on

TBI and mental health trauma. For more information on Mane Support visit

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

- **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. Every year ETMAC honors an honoree from each unit in the area. Unit commanders should have received a letter requesting a bio on their nominee. Patrice told commanders that they do NOT need to provide a paragraph on why their honoree was chosen. They are to just fill out the first seven BIO questions - unit, rank, duties, etc. and to include a photo of the nominee. Patrice needs these by Oct. 1st. This is the year of the Army, and Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster will be guest speaker. He is Director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, and Deputy Commanding General at the Futures Center of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.
- **Vol Fighters (Gregg Crawford):** Gregg is the president of UT student group Vol Fighters. He reports that with 600 veterans on UT campus, the group was founded to replicate the idea of service and comradery on campus. In an effort to commemorate 9/11, the group is assisting in a service project assisting in the cleanup of Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. They are in current need of additional tools such as hedge clippers, shovels, and tarps. On Sept. 21-22nd, the group will be holding a Post Traumatic growth seminar on campus in order to bring awareness to students on what it's like for a veteran to transition into college. They will also have Smoky Mt. Service Dogs come for a presentation. Regal Cinemas also agreed to show the movie *Max* for free to all veterans and students. For UT football games, the group was also able to develop a group where all veterans can sit together.

MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt. Chris Morin):** Still in conversion, getting everyone through school and cyber training. The schools are overwhelmed. Slots are opening up and they're placing their members in those for training. Are also sending them down to their mission partner in San Antonio for training with them. Gave thanks to MEPS as they're using their station's testing site for some of their members that have to be cross trained. Looking at a name change for their unit to change to Cyber Operations Squadron. Not official yet.
- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** Oct. 1st they will no longer be an air cavalry squadron; they will be an assault battalion. Their aircraft are scheduled to leave starting Nov. 1st and they'll have Black Hawk helicopters to fly. Are waiting arrival of the first Black Hawk now. One is in Nashville going through maintenance. They also have a few members in Nashville this weekend getting approved for their instructor pilot maintenance tests in order to bring the aircraft back. There will be a change of command between now and December. MAJ Pat Wade will be promoted to LTC battalion commander of the 1-230.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Captain Stephanie McKeen):** They're still doing more with less. Refuelers are busy. Sixteen airmen returned home yesterday. The upcoming Smoky Mountain Air Show is April 16-18, 2016. They also received their approval for Open House. Planning is underway for the Air Show. Will need lots of volunteers if interested.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ Steve Turner):** Regiment is under a senior leadership shuffle. Several staff moves will occur between now and Jan. 2016. Will lose their regimental commander. The change of command ceremony 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. Another brigade warfighter exercise will take place in Feb. 2016. In the coming days, The TN Army Air National Guard will be hosting the National Guard Association of the United States National Convention at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville.
- **844th Engineering Battalion (MAJ Andrew Wyman):** End of school year for them. Are completing much of their budgetary closeouts. Their last company just finished up their annual training last week in Ft. McCoy, WI. All annual trainings are now complete. Will be deploying soldiers to Europe next year.

- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Captain Kevin Druffel-Rodriguez):** Conducting annual training in Camp Shelby, MS where they are redoing a WWII rifle range. Next week they will be going to Ft. Knox, KY for demo training and rocket shooting. Also planning the Bonnyman ceremony.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Lt Col David Meece):** Looking in the Spring for a big shift in how they do education. Currently are closing out the end of the year and have 181 NCO students and 67 airman leadership school students who just started this week and will finish the end of September. The Combined Federal Campaign kicked off September 1st. Col. Meyeraan is the co-chair for the Smoky Mt. region. On Sept. 10th is the CFC kickoff event at 10 a.m. at the TVA buildings. Of the 22,000 charitable organizations involved with the CFC, 243 are local to this area. Last year they raised more than \$600,000 locally. The CFC ends September 15th.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (PS2 AR Felix Garcia):** His skipper is on TDY in Jacksonville, FL, and PS2 Garcia will be standing in at the meetings.
- **UT Air Force ROTC (Lt Col Jack Lancaster):** They're back in school this year. All 14 members who were in field training completed successfully. Have 60 new freshmen. They partnered with the University of TN to create a living, learning community for the first time for their freshman cadets, which provides dormitories where they can live amongst other cadets.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** AFA has 2 deadlines coming up.
[EVENTS]:
 - October 9th: Deadline for teams to register to participate in the CyberPatriot competition. Nationally, they have expanded the competition beyond high school to middle school and some elementary programs. If anyone is associated with school or teacher involvement, you are encouraged to mention the Patriot competition, or have a teacher contact the AFA at <http://www.afa.org/home> to participate.
 - October 12th: The Air Force Association will be holding their annual Brig. Gen. Bud Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament, which is a major fundraiser for the AFA. The funds go toward their local schools for teacher recognition and grants. You can register as late as 11:30 a.m. the morning of the competition.
- **American Legion (Mike Testerman):** Still working on some building obstacles as they look for a new permanent home. In 2019, the American Legion will be celebrating its 100th Birthday. They're working on several things to celebrate this. Are also currently planning the Veteran's Day Parade in November. On Aug. 15th they held their Charles "Ken" Gray Memorial Ride named "Ride the Rhino to the Island." The event was a fundraiser for the American Legion, which entailed a 138 mile ride from Tennessee Smokies Stadium to The Island in Pigeon Forge. 108 motorcyclists and 20 vehicles participated. American Legion also holds flag retirement ceremonies if you know of an old U.S. flag that needs to be properly retired. They will be holding another flag retirement ceremony in the future. For anyone who needs a new American flag, you can order through the American Legion Flag & Emblem store at <http://emblem.legion.org/>. Click on American Legion Post 2 and a portion of the proceeds from the flag order will be given to their post.
[EVENTS]:
 - Sept. 14th: Next monthly meeting at Red Cross Bldg., 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN. Thanked Jess Hernandez with the Red Cross for permitting American Legion to use their facilities for their monthly meetings.
 - Nov. 11th: Knoxville's Annual Veterans Day Parade. Parade begins at 10:40 a.m. Visit <http://legionknox.com/> for more information.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Let Jess know of any upcoming Family Days to be held as those are Yellow Ribbon and the Red Cross can assist in supporting those. They also support in pre-deployment and post-deployment programs/events. Sept. 15th is the deadline to apply for Nurse Assistant Training Program Scholarships. Applicants can be active duty, military, guard/reserve, veteran, and their immediate family members are also eligible. For more information on the program,

visit <http://www.redcross.org/tn/knoxville/local-programs/nursing-and-health-education> See Jess or Jackie for an application packet or contact the Red Cross office at (865) 584-2999.

- **Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home (Larry Crouch):** Their upcoming Fall Festival is in October. Ben Atchley is in need of nurses and CNAs.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** Thanked everyone for attending their Spirit of '45 WWII Nationwide Commemoration event. Also thanked the Red Cross for their support. ETVMA will be participating in the events for the Lt. Bonnyman return. Will need volunteers. 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. April 22-23, 2016 is the Mountain Man Memorial March. Thanked everyone who participated in helping to raise funds for the Woody Williams project, where a Gold Star Families Monument would be placed in all 50 states. A memorial honoring Gold Star families in Knoxville placed at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Hwy. could soon become a reality. Joleen said they hope to have a dedication of the Monument in early Spring 2016. To support the project with the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation or to donate, visit <http://hwwmohfoundation.org/> In October, ETVMA will be holding their 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shoot at the Chilhowee Sportsman's Club in Maryville, TN. Full day event. Winners will receive prizes. Can register as an individual or as a team of 4.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Courts (Freddie Owens):** Currently have 13 veterans in their new orientation class at the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic which lasts about 16 weeks. Have 2 veterans in the Veterans Treatment Court system which will be graduating in the next 3 weeks. Knox Co. VSO Tom Humphries has assisted in getting veterans the VA benefits they need to assist, and Freddie said this has been a great asset. You can refer any individuals to <http://tnvhc.org/> for more information on contacting the KRVMHC or learning about the Veterans Treatment Court.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** Have 22,200 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty. ESGR experienced a slight increase in requests for assistance regarding employment conflicts. ESGR will be supporting the Navy Reserve's Family Day on Sept. 19 at the NOSC. Sept. 17th will be ESGR's next orientation flight where 30 employers and civic leaders will be onboard the 134th Air Refueling Wing flight.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #19 will take place on Wed., Oct. 7th. All veterans and guardians who have been selected for the flight have been notified. Are in the process of matching up the veterans with their guardians. Their orientation meeting is the end of September. Expect to take 20-25 WWII veterans. There will be 130-135 veterans total onboard; the remainder will be split between Korean and Vietnam veterans. Come out to the McGhee Tyson airport on Oct. 7th at 8 p.m. to welcome their return home. A reunion breakfast is held a month after the flight in which the Honor Air veterans and their families are invited.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** VA added 22 ships to the Agent Orange Registry list for presumptive exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans. For a complete list of the ships listed, visit the VA website at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp> For questions or assistance on veteran benefits, contact Tom Humphries at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Jim Williams):** Next Safety break is this weekend, from 4-7 p.m., which will be set up at the rest area off the I-40 and I-81 split. They set up coffee and lemonade for travelers. For more information on the Knoxville Marine Corps League, visit <http://mclknox.org/> MCL also reports that Laimon Godel is undergoing chemo treatments right now but staying strong. Also recognized Col. Joe Eddlemon for recently celebrating his 90th birthday.

[EVENTS]:

- **Sept. 26th:** Marine Mud Run. Registration is open. For more information, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>

- Sept. 25-27th: WWII MOH Marine recipient Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr. will be laid to rest. Marine Corps League is assisting in the events and in organizing the shuttles to the Highland Memorial Cemetery due to limited parking.
- Oct.: Rifle Pistol Match. Looking for participants. Marines Corps League 20th anniversary is also in October.
- **Military Officers Association of America (James Fetterman)**: On Sept. 18th, MOAA will be having an inter-service rivalry competition at a game of miniature golf at the Putt-Putt golf course in Farragut. Older players will be given up to 1 yard of "forgiveness" string to help cheat the ball into the hole. Every time they use the string, they must cut the length off. Cost is \$25 per 3 rounds of 18 holes which includes a BBQ sandwich and soft drink. Contact James at (865) 437-3999 if you're interested in participating.
- **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. The next guest speaker is from the League of Women Voters. 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.
- **Project Healing Waters (Robert Bogus III)**: Thanks to everyone who assisted in PHW's fundraiser event Band Saw 2015 in connection with Saw Works Brewing Co. No Easy Day IPA has hit the market. September is Suicide Prevention Month. PHW is currently working with the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic, where PHW sets up a table every Wednesday to let veterans know of their organization. Their first day they made 42 connections and several veterans showed interest in participating.

[EVENTS]:

- Sept. 18th: PHW's video "Teach a Man to Fish" will be screening at the Regal Cinema downtown as part of the Knoxville Film Festival during the 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. block. Tickets can be purchased at the Knoxville Film Fest's website <http://www.knoxvillefilmfestival.com/>
- Oct. 16-17th: PHW's 2nd Annual Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge. Currently looking for sponsors for their participating veterans.

Project Healing Waters is an organization registered with the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**; 3 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/>

- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Phil Claxton)**: Have their directors' meeting at Ben Atchley State Veterans' Home every month. Expressed appreciation to the veterans' home for permitting them to use their facilities, and thanked Jess Hernandez from the Red Cross for allowing them to use the RC bldg. for their members' meetings. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. VVA is postponing their Welcome Home Gulf War veterans' event until Spring 2016 after they secure an event site. Will be holding a VVA Chapter party at one of their member's houses, Ron Kirby's, on Oct. 17th. They also recently created a 4-5 member committee that will assist veterans who need financial assistance. If you know of a veteran in need contact any VVA Chapter member and they'll get them in touch with their board committee. Sept. 18th is MOW/MIA Day and VVA will be holding a ceremony on Sept. 20th at 2 p.m. at East TN State Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View Pike. Other veteran and military organizations are welcome to join the ceremony.
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veteran Families (Clyde Vincent)**: Knoxville Area Homeless Veterans Stand Down event is Sept. 26th, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Knoxville National Guard Armory. Are looking for more volunteers and any veterans' organizations that may be interested in participating. The Stand Down event brings homeless veterans together who are provided access to community resources needed to begin addressing their problems and rebuilding their lives. For more information on the event, visit <http://www.kavsd.org/> or call Clyde at (865) 607-6231 if your organization is interested in participating. Also, Volunteers of America's new address is 511 N. Broadway in the Volunteer Ministry Center Bldg. in Knoxville.

- **Women Veterans of America - Chapter 44 (Pearl King):** Continuing to work on their Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park project. Procured a landscaping service which is assisting now. On Sept. 11th, the UT student group Vol Fighters will be helping with the clearing. Sept. 12th starting at 9 a.m. is the next cleanup day at Sharp's Ridge and anyone is welcome to participate. Please bring your own tools. Next project meeting is Sept. 23rd at the Red Cross Bldg., 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville. Come join and support them. For more information on WVA Chapter 44, visit their website at <http://wvachapter44.org/>
 - **Col. David Evans (Ret.):** Coach Tony Ierulli with Carson-Newman College and Col. Evans helped set up the annual golf tournament which supports the Wounded Warrior Project. This year they raised \$7400 at the Green Meadow Country Club in Alcoa, TN. Vanquish Worldwide matched what they raised. Thanks to Eric Barton of Vanquish Worldwide, and thanks for s ETMAC's support.
 - **Joe Eddlemon:** Told a brief story about his experience as an 18-year-old Marine at sea in 1944.
- ❖ 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, October 1st at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.