

## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### September 1, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCT 1	Next Cleanup Day for the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project
OCT 5	Honor Air Flight #22
OCT 10	Women Marines Association's Fundraising Yard Sale (Knoxville)
OCT 11	AFA's Annual Brig. Gen. Walter J. "Bud" Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament
OCT 28	ETVMA's Sporting Clays Shootout (Chilhowee Sportsman's Club)
NOV 2	Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans (Knox Co. Public Defender's Office)
NOV 5	5K Veterans Heritage Annual Ridge Run at Sharp's Ridge
NOV 11	Annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon (Holiday Inn World's Fair Park)

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#### ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, September 1, 2016, at the Knoxville Chamber. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 62 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
  - CW2 Brian Culberson, 278<sup>th</sup> ACR
  - Lt Col Ron Selvidge, 134th ARW
  - Brenda Owensby, Rolling Thunder TN Chapter 3
  - Steve Lamar, Project Healing Waters' volunteer
  - HM1 Sabrina Wilson, NOSC
  - Susan Schmidt, USMC, Retired
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** One change made in August 2016 meeting minutes: In the Announcements, the Nov. 11th annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon was listed to take place on a Wednesday. The Nov. 11th Luncheon will take place on a Friday. Minutes have been corrected. ETMAC monthly meeting minutes and flyers for upcoming events are posted to the website at <http://etmac.org/>.

- **Treasurer’s Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Last month's ending balance was \$12,416. ETMAC wrote checks for \$2,709. Made deposits of \$2,625. ETMAC's ending month balance is \$12,332. Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Annual dues can be given to Steve or Patrice at the monthly meetings, or can be paid online at the ETMAC website for a \$2 convenience fee.
- **Webmaster’s Report (Barry Allen):** Please send any info to be added to the ETMAC calendar to webmaster Barry Allen at [barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com](mailto:barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com).
- **Patriot Threads (Craig Fernandes):** Craig’s son Brady Fernandes started the idea of Patriot Threads, LLC, at age 17 when he was inspired to raise funds to support military and veteran charities. He designs and sells merchandise such as hats, shirts up to 3XL, pens, cups, etc. with the Patriot Threads logo, and donates 25% of his proceeds towards veteran charities. Craig said he can speak at any organization’s event if interested. For more information go to <http://www.patriotthreads.org/>.
- **Rolling Thunder TN Chapter 3 (Brenda Owensby):** Chapter 3 meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month except in May, when they ride to D.C. to pay tribute and participate in a veterans’ patriotic flag raising event. They will be participating in this month’s Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down. Also, they will be attending the Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> POW/MIA flag-raising event on UT campus in front of Hoskins Library. Retired Capt. Bill Robinson, USAF, will also be participating at the event. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- **Update on Joleen DeWald (Patrice Collins):** Joleen’s health is not doing well. She has heart damage. Prayers and thoughts are needed.
- **Announcements (Patrice Collins):**
  - [EVENTS]:
    - Sept. 7th & Nov. 2nd: A *Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans* will be available from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Knox Co. Public Defender's Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty Street, Knoxville. Attorneys will be available to provide assistance on issues such as veteran’s benefits, consumer protection, contract disputes, estate planning, child support, personal injury, criminal defense, bankruptcy, landlord/tenant issues, and general legal issues. Call the Knoxville Bar Association's Office at (865) 522-6522 for more info.
    - Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>: The *Tennessee Valley Fair’s Hometown Heroes Day* is from 1-4 p.m. Discounted tickets for military and veterans are available. Those interested can also set up a table starting at 12:30 p.m. for informational purposes. At 5:30 p.m. that day is their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Hometown Heroes Relay Race, where heroes from the military, police and fire departments, EMT teams, and teachers will compete. Contact Scott at (865) 215-1483 or by email at [scotts@tnvalleyfair.org](mailto:scotts@tnvalleyfair.org) for more information.
    - The *Knoxville Ice Bears* are honoring a “*Veteran of the Game*” at each of their home games this season. The veteran will be presented a gift and a public announcement during the 10 min. media timeout of the first period. They are currently accepting nominations if you know someone who has served or is currently servicing. Send Kyle Hammer your nominee’s picture and bio at [Kyle@KnoxvilleIceBears.com](mailto:Kyle@KnoxvilleIceBears.com). For more information, call (865) 525-7825.

- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>: *ETVMA Sporting Clays Shootout* at the Chilhowee Sportsman's Club in Maryville, TN. Three flights: 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. \$125 for individuals, or \$500 for a team of 4. Sponsorships also available. For more information, contact Tim Eichhorn at (865) 218-8408 or by email at [teichhorn@rkcapital.com](mailto:teichhorn@rkcapital.com)
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: The *Annual ETMAC Veteran's Day Luncheon* is Fri., Nov. 11th at the Knoxville Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. Seats are limited to 400 and will sell quickly, so get your tickets early. This year's luncheon will feature a guest speaker from the Marine Corps. The luncheon will stream live on the ETMAC website. Patrice is getting the final count from the units, so reply soon. They will be recognizing honorees from each military unit. Contact Patrice for any questions.
- **President's Statement (Owen Ragland)**: Owen thanked Jess Hernandez and the Red Cross for hosting the ETMAC meeting, and reminded everyone that the Red Cross can come to your events, help write grants, assist in pre-deployment days, and even in speaking engagements. Also, Jess said their facility can host veteran events and organizations' meetings. Owen said that a religious conference called "Hear the Watchman," which takes place Sept. 30th through Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Knoxville Marriott Hotel, is looking for an Honor Guard at their event. Owen can provide further contact information.

### MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard (MAJ Karen Oland)**: Their change of command ceremony occurred last month. Brigadier General Kenneth Takasaki retired. Colonel Craig Johnson, Ret., who last served as the commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, is the new commander. They also have drill this month. For more information on the TNSG, visit <http://www.jointnsg.org/>.
- **119th Command and Control Squadron (Capt Willie Posey)**: Are wrapping up their fiscal year. Cyber threats are increasing in frequency. Unit is working with TBI. Can have speakers at your meetings to discuss emergent threats and awareness.
- **1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion (LTC Pat Wade)**: Sent 7 helicopters to Jacksonville, FL to assist with storm rescue efforts. They worked with Red Cross to deliver bottled water. The battalion also worked with ESGR and took 20-25 employers on a helicopter flight demonstration in August to show them what they do. WBIR filmed a story on it: <http://www.wbir.com/news/local/boss-lift-shows-civilian-employers-a-day-in-the-life-of-their-national-guard-employees/306295681>.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing (Lt Col Ron Selvidge)**: Have more than 400 deployed around the world. Flew more than 5,000 flying hours. They assisted with Habitat for Humanity in Guam. Col. Thomas Cauthen, Commander of the 134<sup>th</sup> ARW, is working to build the air park. Next year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Air Guard. The Orange Hangar is smokey gray now. The Major Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award will be given to the 134<sup>th</sup> ARW. The award recognizes outstanding junior officers and senior NCOs.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (CPT R.C. Sangil)**: The unit will be training next year in Ft. Hood, TX for a large training event, the eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC). This month, the National Guard Association of the United States will meet in Baltimore for their national convention.

- **844th Engineering Battalion (SGM Josh Richardson):** This month they'll be going to Ft. Pickett and taking part in overseas construction projects. They also received the highest readiness rating for their division of the engineering command on the East coast.
- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robinson):** Reported that the Smoky Mountain Air Show was great for their branch of service. 520 people showed interest in the Air Force at the event. On Oct. 6th through the 8th they'll have their motion simulator demonstration at a few local schools. It's an 11 minute ride that takes you on an Air Force mission. Their prior service goal was met for 2016. The Air Force's Annual Recruiting Banquet will be in Chattanooga and will have 65 different recruiters, as well as headquarters personnel in attendance.
- **Co D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (1stSgt Gabriel Burns):** Thanked the Red Cross for helping with their Family Day last month and the Mud Run. Oct. 29th is the Marine's Ball. Call (865) 522-2414 for ticket information.
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Chaplain Lt Col David Meece):** Lt Col Meece and his wife welcomed their new baby last month. The NCO Academy and Airman Leadership School students are on campus. September 2nd was their senior NCO induction ceremony. Sept. 18th is the Air Force and Air National Guard's Birthday. They welcomed 41 students from 6 different nations while hosting INLEAD. They also hope to get the keys to their new building this month.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Brandi McGehee):** Some recruiting services have made goal. They have also seen an increase in recruits. MEPS has been supporting DOD services and will start processing Coast Guard applicants as well.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (YN1 Noah Jaques):** Oct. 1st is the Navy Ball at the Crowne Plaza. You can go online and buy tickets, or buy tickets from Noah. Drill weekend is Sept .17-18th at 10 a.m. They also will be participating in the Marine Mud Run.
- **US Army Knoxville Recruiting Command (SSG Ryan Larkin):** They delivered donations to UT campus for the Louisiana flood victims. They also helped with the Marine Mud Run event.

### **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **Air Force Association (Steve Dillenburg):** October 5th is the last registration date for the Cyber Patriot competition. Participants can register from high schools, middle schools, elementary school, or even groups such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Cyber Patriot, which is the AF Association's competition for cyber security, is coming up in its 9th year. To learn more about AFA or the CyberPatriot competition, visit the AFA website at <http://www.afa.org/home>. The AFA's Annual Brig. Gen. Walter J. "Bud" Bacon Memorial Golf Tournament is on Columbus Day, Oct. 11th. Last year they invited area recruiters to the tournament and will be inviting recruiters again this year.
- **American Legion (Marty Everett):** Veterans' Day Parade is Nov. 11th. Last year they had 100 groups and 9 bands participate. WBIR streamed live on their website the parade last year. This year's parade will have a Marine Corps' focus. You can visit the Knoxville American Legion's website at: <http://legionknox.com/> for more information.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** Thanked Jackie Bridgeman and Virginia for setting up today's meeting at the Red Cross and for the food preparations. The Red Cross can support Family Days, Yellow Ribbon events, Post-Deployment and Pre-Deployment

events, and other programs. The Red Cross also provides 24/7 communication and can brief Louisiana flood victims and California wildfire victims. The ISO is deploying in 2-3 weeks to assist the flood victims in Louisiana. Red Cross pays for the volunteers' travel expenses. Jess also thanked MEPS for their support, and the Red Cross supports MEPS in providing Red Cross briefings for new recruits and their families.

- **Ben Atchley State Veteran's Home (Doug Ottinger):** Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> is their Fall Festival from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will also be food, games, and children activities. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> is their annual memorial service for veterans who passed away this year.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council (Freddie Owens):** The Council was recently on the radio with the American Heroes Network. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Man Run event to raise Prostate Cancer Awareness had 1,100 participants. The Council recently spoke to a Maryville Church as part of their veteran friendly congregation efforts. They also will be meeting with Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville. Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> is the Vietnam War Commemoration event at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in World's Fair Park. More details coming soon. On Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, they'll be having their first Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pinning event at the Tellico Biker Rally 2016 in Tellico Plains, TN from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Freddie also introduced Nancy, a trauma therapist, who joined in one of their groups. To learn more about the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, visit their website at <http://tnvhc.org/>.
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Jack D'Araujo):** Thanked Sgt. Burns. Had a recent orientation flight for employers and said it was one of their best events. Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> is their next orientation flight. They have 30 employers scheduled. ESGR will be supporting 3 tables at the Veterans' Day Luncheon. There are currently 20,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized on federal active duty.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #22 is planned for October 5, 2016, and will have WWII, Korea and Vietnam War veterans on flight. One of the veterans who will be on the flight is 99 years old. The Welcome Home event will be at the McGhee Tyson Airport at 8 p.m. when they return. Honor Air has 3 flights planned for 2017. Visit Honor Air's website at <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> for more information.
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Buzz Buswell):** Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett is partnering with Vet 2 Vet. For veterans' services and benefits assistance, contact Tom Humphries at the Knox County Veterans Service Office at (865) 215-5645.
- **Marine Corps League (Eric Nash):** Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> is the Putman Memorial Rifle Match at the Volunteer Rifle Club at the TWRA Range on Rifle Range Road, from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 35 rounds. \$20 per pistol shoot. To learn more about the MCL and for more event information, visit <http://mclknox.org/>. Owen Haddock recently wrote an **article in *Mountain Escapes Magazine*** featuring the Marine Corps League. Featured articles can be found on pages 5 and 29-30 here: <https://issuu.com/mountainescapemagazine/docs/mountainescapemagazine-august2016-issuu>
- **Military Order of the World Wars (Owen Haddock):** 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 and Human Services, and the National Meteorological departments. Their next meeting is Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and will feature guest speaker Capt. Andrew Beal, local recruiting officer.
- **Project Healing Waters (Cindy Manz):** The Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge



Fundraising Banquet at The Foundry is Sept. 2nd, from 6-9 p.m. Capt. Stephanie McKeen will be singing the National Anthem. The PHW meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at the Red Cross Building on Middlebrook Pike. September 2-3rd is their tournament at Miller's Island. For more information on Project Healing Waters, visit <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>.

- **Veterans Appreciation Program (Larry Sharp):** A resource program for individuals and businesses who are committed to providing discounts, products, or services to veterans and military members. Go to <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> to post your business or to learn which businesses are offering discounts to veterans and military members. The program also provides participating businesses with a decal to post on their door/window to identify the business as a member of the Veterans Appreciation Program. This month they will be presenting a check to the Bradley Co. Veterans Service office to help assist veterans. Contact Larry for any questions about the program at (865) 603-1974 or by email at [VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransAppreciationProgram@gmail.com).
- **Veterans Heritage Site Foundation (Patty McGrew)** Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> is the next Cleanup Day for the Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park Project. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> is their 5K Veterans Heritage Annual Ridge Run. Registration is open. \$25 per individual. You can sign up the day of for \$35. Go to <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> to learn more about the Veteran Heritage Site Foundation, or to join or donate.
- **Veterans Stand Down (Clyde Vincent):** Clyde thanked the 278<sup>th</sup> ACR for use of their facility for their Stand Down event on Sept. 24th. There will be 2 pickup points for veterans. Also, West High School has available parking. The Red Cross is collecting backpacks for veterans at the event if you have any to donate. They're also accepting donations of adult clothing and monetary donations. Also, Clyde said you can refer any veterans to them for housing or employment assistance. Contact Clyde on his cell at (865) 607-6231 for any questions.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Don Smith):** The 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Commemorative pins are given to Vietnam veterans to thank them for their active service during the Vietnam War. VVA will be setting up their next pinning event for Sept. 23-24th at the Walmart in Turkey Creek. Please bring a copy of your DD214 or equivalent with you. Eligibility Criteria: For veterans who served on active duty from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 30, 1975. Veterans do not have had to serve in Vietnam to be eligible. If you have an organization that has members eligible, contact Don to make arrangements for a pinning ceremony. For more information, visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

**[EVENTS]:**

- Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>: Annual MOW/MIA Ceremony from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at the East TN State Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View. Gen. Jack D'Araujo will be keynote speaker.
- Sept. 23-24th: VVA Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Pinning at Walmart in Turkey Creek

VVA monthly meetings are held at the Red Cross Office Bldg. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Visit VVA's website for more information:

<http://s-kwolcott.wixsite.com/vva1078>.

- **Women Veterans of America (Patty McGrew)** The Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> yard sale was changed to

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be having a yard sale for fundraising efforts. It will take place at Pearl's house at 4216 Roaming Road, Knoxville. They are still accepting any donations. WVA will pick up the items from you. Call Jessica at (865) 765-4494.

- ❖ To become an ETMAC member, go to <https://www.etmac.org/>. Annual membership dues can be paid online or at the monthly meetings. 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 for a parking validation.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2016 at the Knoxville Chamber – 8:30 a.m.**