



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

September 7, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- OCT 4 Honor Air flight #25 returns home at 8:15, welcome celebration
- OCT 4-8 “The Wall That Heals” open 24 hours a day @ Lynnhurst Funeral Home
- OCT 6 TN AgrAbility Project for Veteran’s interested in farming call 865-972-7201
- OCT 6 Healing Waters Banquet, The Foundry, 6-9:30pm, call 866-251-7252 ext. 128
- OCT 7 Healing Waters Tournament, Miller’s Island – Clinch River, 866-251-7252 ext 128
- OCT 7 Smoky Mtn Service Dogs “More Wags for Warriors” kickoff @6p, 865-660-9389
- OCT 9 Air Force Association Gen Bud Bacon Golf Tournament
- OCT 20 Annual fall festival at Ben Atchley Veterans Home
- OCT 21 Navy Ball at Downtown Knoxville Marriott
- OCT 27 ETVMA Clay Shootout @ Chilhowie Sportsman Club, Maryville. 865-218-8408
- OCT 28 Veteran Heritage Site Foundation Annual Sharp’s Ridge Trail Run
- NOV 9 Veteran’s Appreciation Luncheon @ 11:30am, Downtown Marriott
- NOV 10 Veteran’s Day Parade, Gay Street Downtown Knoxville, 11am
- NOV 11 Rocky Top Crafter’s Honoring Vets @ Main Street Baptist Church, Rocky Top, TN
- NOV 13 DAV Veteran’s Appreciation Dinner at Golden Corral
- NOV 17 UT Military Veteran Alumni Reunion Weekend

For a complete listing please 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 7, 2017 at 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of 73 were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by MAJ Stephanie McKeen

- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - Dave Swanson, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 24
 - Lauren Chesney, King University
 - Chief Wink Hinkly, Paul Lankford PV Center, McGhee Tyson
 - Bill Grieve, Lt Col Retired, MOWW
 - Lt Col Bradley Green, Training Education Center, McGhee Tyson
- **Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell** \$16k beginning balance, ended around 15.2 after couple of events. Would like to start our 4th quarter drive for membership.
- **Webmaster's Report** – *unable to attend*
- **Behavioral Health Integration Program (BHIP) Breifing – Christie Cook** – Knoxville VA mental health program is strating neew program – BHIP, Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary program which is similar to PAC model of care where we have a group of interdiscipliarny providers working together on a team to provide care to the Veteran. Providers will hold treatment team meetings with patients as they come in.
- **ETMAC announcement, Patrice Collins - Veterans Appreciation Luncheon – Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:30 – 1pm at the Downtown Knoxville Marriott**– The website is active for registration or form available in back that you can mail in with a check. Now called ETMAC veteran appreciation luncheon and is on Thursday, Nov 9, not Veteran's day. Commanders nominate honoree and send with picture. Luncheon price is \$30 per person, table \$300. <https://www.etmac.org/2017-veterans-luncheon/>
- **Veterans Day Parade – Friday, Nov. 10, 11am on Gay Street in downtown Knoxville – Larry Sharp - go to legionknox.com**
- **President's Report – Major Stephanie McKeen** Still working on Veteran day speaker. Kendall Carr will help to find a speaker and will speak if one can't be found.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – Major Joseph Westfall** – Official change of uniform started 1 Sept. Some of our units were activated with Katrina. Prepared for call to activation if needed for Harvey and Irma.
- **1-100th Engineer Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **119th Cyber Operations Squadron – Maj Chris Morin on** behalf of Col Franklin. Preparing for Hurricane Irma activation. Order to pack communication equipment and to ready personnel for deployment if needed, checking satellite links and ensuring readiness.
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **134th Air Refueling Wing – Col Lee Hartley** First, Air Force wide, we have a substantial deployment in Guam. Just had a swapout in Middleast and have had an ongoing presence there about 9 years. State wide we have Hurricane Irma watch. Locally, we are celebrating 60 years of when ANG took keys from the active duty of McGhee Tyson in October.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – SGM Bobby Lee** prep for rotation to national training center (NTC) in May. Will make a recon trip in preparation and then come back and continue gunnery prep. After NTC some soldiers will deploy to Eastern Europe. Will be some of first tankers to roll back into that area as part of the initiative to make 30k look like 300k. We have not received official alert for hurricane will be ready as needed to support for hurricane Irma if called.
- **332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – MSgt Chris Robson** – Annual meeting next month will host recruiters from 8 states for meeting in Galinburg. Have attained the highest active duty goal for 2017 in 10 years. 31,000 seats filled for Basic Training for the Air Force. Fiscal year 2018 anticipating 29,500 for active duty enlisted goal. Prior service program is huge part of that. Will send out an email via Patrice with details of the program. Contact MSgt Robson for more info: ofc: 865-584-8225 cell: 865-684-9968 email: Christopher.Robson.1@us.af.mil
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion** – *unable to attend*
- **844th Engineering Battalion – MAJ Andrew Wyman** – *unable to attend*
- **Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – AET1 Christopher Rapp** Coast guard is hiring, over 2000 deployed. On standby for Irma. Jobs available are same as Air Force mentioned. Joint operation with coast guard auxiliary at the Asian Festival resulted in some enlistments, so if looking for non-traditional places to recruit, may consider these festivals. .
- **Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt Cullen Tores** – *unable to attend*
- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Kerry Lovely** – New Commander of I.G. Brown TEC and still have staff turnover happening – a new commandant and new chaplain just joined team.

Ops still busy with new building. Last year had about 4000 residents and are at 6000 right now. Initial planning underway for our 50th anniversary next year will be mid July.

- **Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army)** - *unable to attend*
- **Military Entrance Processing Station – 1SG Yveline Symonette** – *nothing to report*
- **Navy Operational Support Center – LCDR Kevin Settle, CO NOSC** – Thanks to all who donated for food drive. Received over 313 lbs food. Next drill September 16 & 17. Navy Ball will be held on October 21. All invited.
- **MC3 Bryan Tomforde** – Thanks to ETMAC for generous donation. Navy Ball on Oct 21. Still in need of funds for the Knoxville Navy Ball which is Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 at the Knoxville Marriott. If you are able to sponsor or support a young sailor who might not otherwise be able to attend, there is a link for that. Mayor Burchette will attend. Cash donations and door prizes are appreciated. Email sent out by Patrice with details. Navy will be 242 years old and would love for all to join us to celebrate. Call for info (865) 773-2449, Knoxville Navy league is our charity and is all tax deductible. Knoxville Ball and Knoxville Navy Ball 2017 facebook pages.
- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Lt Col Dent Young** On stand by to support Irma. Ensuring all equipment and aircraft are ready to go - 12 crews, 9 airplanes and 23 ground folds and vans waiting for the word on where to go.
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – CDR Tom Murphy** We are a volunteer organization and have not had any deployments from East TN. We are collecting the names of individuals who have volunteered to deploy. Anticipate that there might be a need and opportunity for future rotation. As volunteers we participate in the incident command post staffing, basically taking registrations from vicims, ops assure, damage assessment, pollution, ops afloat, patrol safety zones and food service specialists. We have people involved in providing those services and our aux build people and tradesmen will be involved in restoration and other things. We anticipate that there will be a demand and we will be ready to serve.
- **UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** - New UT AFROTC Commander. Thanks to all for the warm welcome he and his family has received. Largest freshman class in 7 years is 113 strong. Very enthusiastic. Volunteered at safety city and other events around town wanting to give back and jump right in to help where they can. Has first Physical Fitness assessment this morning and some will need to work on that but it was a good base line on what they can do at this point. On 18 November, will be supporting the UT veteran reunion weekend all weekend. We will send out info through Patrice.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- **Air Force Association – Paula Penson** Annual golf tournament is on Oct 9 at Iguana golf course. Offer for 12 recruiters to participate free.
- **American Legion – Larry Sharp** – Post 2 wants to emphasize that the Veterans Day parade we have hosted since 1921 is on Friday, Nov 10 at 11:30. Go to www.legionknox.com to register.
- **American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog** – Dealing with fires out west and hurricanes to the south. In need of volunteers to do a 2 day bootcamp for shelter management. We need to have these volunteers ready to manage shelters with mass vacuations so we can have places for these people to go. Scheduled to have the Sound of alarm program at end of the month but it has been put on hold until further notice.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – Doug Ottinger** We have 4 empty beds. The Annual fall festival on Friday, October 20. All are welcome to come and visit with the residents, our brothers and sisters in arms.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association** – *unable to attend*
- **Disabled American Veterans – Garrett Hanas**– We made history at the national convention in New Orleans with the first female commander of any service organization. Also, we excelled in a study of all charities in the United States and DAV was number one with 96.4 cents on every dollar going to help our veterans. On Nov 13, the Veteran’s appreciation dinner will be held at Golden Corral. 9/11 ride this Sunday. Locally, Chapter 24 wheel chair program is going strong. We got over 200 power wheel chairs. Looking for donations. DAV will sponsor Veterans breakfast in November in Powell. November 14-17 at Warner Robbins is the POW ride home if anyone is interested.
<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tn/24/default.aspx>
- **East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard – Reid Gerhardt** – no report
- **Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner** – Currently have 4 homes available for military/ Veteran family. 90-120 days to get in and is about 1 year less than regular application. If you know of anyone, refer them to us.

- **Combat Reboot – Mike Simpson** - Started on 29th, next Tuesday is 3rd session. Still more room but that will be the last night to start the program. Fliers in the back. Next session scheduled for late January or early February.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owens** – Health update - going well with chemo but going pretty well. Last week bike ride for suicide prevention went well. Care cut on first weekend of every month and provided about 450 cuts. New program, co-sponsoring expungement program on 28 October from 9a-2 with Mayor Burchette. Will get info out via Patrice. On 15 Sept, will be doing POW day at Elmcroft assisted living facility. Please come out and meet 3 POWs and hear their story.
- **ESGR – Bob Williams** In excess of 30k National guard and Reservist on active duty. On October 6, we will take a group of about 20 employers to show them what their Veteran employees do in their military service. Additionally, we are taking Freedom Award nominations every year for excellent employers that work with their Veteran Employees. Please nominate good employers for this award. Some Tennessee companies have received this award and it recognizes excellent employers.
- **Honor Air – Joe Sutter** – October 2007 was Honor Air's first flight taking WWII Veterans to Washington, DC to see the memorials in their honor . October 4th will be flight number 25. Gov Haslam invited to join us on the flight. Wreath will be laid at the tombstone of the unknown soldier. If you can, please come out on Wednesday, Oct 4 about 8:15 pm to welcome home those on the Honor Air flight #25.
- **Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries** - *unable to attend*
- **Knoxville Vet Center – Emily Feedback** - *unable to attend*
- **Marine Corps League – Eric Nash** Rifle match on rifle range road is coming up. Info is on the website. We are 9 days out from mud run. Come out and run or just watch others run. On November 10th, will have a birthday ball dinner at Bearden Banquet hall. <https://www.mclknoxville.org/>
- **Mountain Man Memorial March** – *unable to attend*
- **MOWW – Owen Haddock** – Meetings are held from 11a – 1p on 2nd Wednesday of every month. There is always an interesting speaker so plan to join us. Just back from our National Convention and was a successful meeting.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Steve Thompson** – Great meeting Tuesday night with a great speaker at the Red Cross. Earlier month event had 40 attend and 6 previous attendees were guides. Rod building contest in October each year will have some on display and will be for sale. Fundraising banquet, Oct 6-7. Fliers in back.
- **Veteran Appreciation Program – Larry Sharp** Aspiring to be connection between veterans and military and business in east TN who want to provide discount. Asked to put an addition on website listing different colleges in East TN and what their specialties are and what their discounts they provide for military/veterans. <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/>
- **Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew** is with Caris Healthcare and wants to extend a thank you to Kathy and Harry Winters with Young Marines. They honored a patient who got news of a terminal illness which crushed is dream of becoming a Marine. They came out and made him an Honorary marine and brought lots of stuff and his best friend who is going to the military was there. He was very touched and it meant so much to him. This Saturday is a big work day, national day of service starting at 8am ceremony at Sharps ridge, pavilion #2. Need people to come out, support and volunteer to work. Saturday, Oct 28 is the new date for the trail ridge run. Will send out info.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1076 – Don Smith** Couple of events coming up are September 23 at Chilhowee Park Veteran's appreciation Picnic. Organizations invited to set up display. Oct 24-28 The wall that heals will be here in Knoxville. 10am Grand opening ceremony will be held after the ETMAC meeting. Saturday morning at 10am will have a fantastic speaker, Captain Bill Robinson, longest held enlisted Vietnam POW speaker will be telling his story. Just back from National Convention in new Orleans and received recognition for membership growth and chapter of the year. 27 Sept at 6pm at the Red Cross will be the last organizational meeting for the Wall.
- **Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – Clyde Vincent** *unable to attend*
- **Women Marines Association – Lindsay Long** *unable to attend*
- **Rolling Thunder –Robert Sullivan** – Provides training and awareness of POW / MIA interests. We are on facebook.
- **Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost** We are a veteran and caregiver support group for post 9/11. Last 2 months, have had 2 veterans in crisis situations that were able to get into treatment facility. Had a joint meeting with VA in Johnson, TN about challenges of veterans are having and we came up with a plan for providing additional treatment. UT donated 100

tickets for this Saturday game. Partnered this month with project healing waters and some of our veterans will participate in that. Overnight retreat for some of our caregivers at a facility in Maryville and that was a huge success. Doing events with Ben Atchley where we work with random acts of flowers and repurpose flower arrangements and take them to the Ben Atchley Veterans home. Have an upcoming Spa day for caregivers coming up. VFW 5150 presentations and they gave a generous donation so want to say thank you. .

- **Chapter 24, DAV - David Swanson.** We are in process of giving VA Knoxville a new van. Late September or early October will have a ceremony at the VA where the VA will receive the van. City and county mayors will be there and would like for representatives from all ETMAC organizations to attend.
- **President Announcement:** Next ETMAC meeting on Thursday, Oct. 5 beginning at 8:30 at the Knoxville Chamber. Due to the opening ceremonies at The Wall That Heals starting at 10:00 am we will promptly end the ETMAC meeting at 9:15 so that those in attendance at ETMAC will have time to get to the opening ceremonies.

We are asking those of you that normally report out to **ONLY** do so if you have an important event taking place in OCTOBER (not Nov., Dec., 2018, etc.) or if you have an urgent need or message that you need to get out to the group. If you don't have an event or a need/message, please let Patrice know so she can state "nothing to report" on the agenda next to your organization. We really appreciate all of you cooperating and understanding the need to end the meeting at 9:15.

If you plan to attend, please let Patrice know and if you need to report out.

Next Meeting of ETMAC: Thursday, October 5, 2017
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
8:30am – 9:15

For Corrections or input, Contact:
Bonnie Harlow, ETMAC Secretary
SenoraHarlow@yahoo.com
865-406-4237