



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

Serving veterans and their organizations of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama

Project Homeless Connect

In case you have not heard, the next Project Homeless Connect event will be at the National Guard Armory (Holtzclaw Ave.) on May 8, 2015.

Project Homeless Connect would not happen without support from veteran agencies. Your participation counts and does make a difference.

If you would like for your agency to be a part of Project Homeless Connect then please fill out the online form at: <http://goo.gl/forms/D3r3J8dx7a>

Note: Even if you have already said that your agency will participate, please still sign up using the online form. This helps to better organize the communication with all of the agencies participating.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John P. Dorris, Chairman, Project Homeless Connect at (423) 503-1876 or via email at dorris_J@bellsouth.net

The link below will take you to the Project Homeless Connect website. There are links for both VOLUNTEERS and PROVIDERS!!!

Also, if you are interested in donating any new or gently used items for the event, Alexian Brothers' Senior Neighbors, which is located at 250 E. 10th Street, (Corner of 10th and Newby) Chattanooga, TN 37402, has stepped up as a drop off location until the day before the event.. Drop off times are 9:00 am to 4:30 pm – Monday - Friday. The receptionist at the front desk will direct donations to the second floor where they can be stored until the event on May 8th. So, if you are doing any spring cleaning, PLEASE keep PHC in mind...we need clothing donations for men, women, AND children!!! Foot wear too!!! Tents, blankets, bug spray, sunglasses, whistles, sunblock, raingear, socks, pocket first aid kits, travel sized toiletry items, toilet paper, new underwear, etc. Monetary donations are appreciated and accepted through Metropolitan Ministries. Thanks for your support!!!

<http://chattphc.weebly.com/>

Choo Choo Chorus Annual Show

You've heard the Choo Choo Chorus sing at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events at the National Cemetery. If you liked their singing bring your spouse or significant other to our annual show on Saturday evening May 16th at Girls Preparatory School starting at 7:00pm. "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" is the show theme. This show and Singing Valentines are their major fund raisers which allows them to give net proceeds from their Christmas Show to a local charity.

Tickets are \$15 purchased at the door, or by website www.choochoochorus.org

Group rates are available. Call 423-265-SING for more information.

May 29th- Salute to Heroes Baseball Chattanooga Lookouts v. Biloxi Shuckers

Cost: 4 Free Tickets to any Veteran with Proper Identification (DD214, VA Card, Military ID Card Active, Reserve or Retired)

Contact: MORGAN BILLUPS, Group Sales Manager, Chattanooga Lookouts Baseball, Minnesota Twins AA Affiliate at (423) 267-2208 ext. 181
www.lookouts.com

Special Thanks to our CAVC members For their 2015 dues

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council thanks the following member organizations who have paid their 2015 dues this past month:

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 942

Your Organization's dues payment helps pay the various overhead costs of the CAVC: copies, postage, PO Box, website, membership meeting lunches, insurance, etc. To pay your organization's dues, make your \$20 check payable to Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, and mail to: CAVC, PO Box 24984, Chattanooga, TN, 37422

The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation 2nd Annual American Heroes Dinner

The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation invites you to attend the 2nd Annual American Heroes Dinner to be held on June 5th. Our featured speaker will be LTG (Ret.) William G. "Jerry" Boykin. LTG Boykin was one of the elite warriors chosen in 1978 to make up the first unit in America's deadly Delta Force. He then became commander of the unit, and later still, commander of all U.S. Army Special Forces.

Also in attendance will be wounded warrior Taylor Morris, who will be sharing his story. Taylor Morris (Retired, Navy, EOD) is one of only five quadruple amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries. This very special event will take place at 7:00pm at The Chattanooga Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. Corporate sponsorships & tables, as well as individual tickets are currently available at: www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

Please save the date for this important and inspiring evening.



CAVC Executive Board

Billy Hewitt, Chairman	423-894-3568
Mickey McCamish, Chairman-Elect	423-394-0024
Alan Syler, Vice-Chairman	423-855-6876
Patty Parks, Immed. Past Chair.	423-326-0839
Mark Parks, Treasurer	423-326-0839
Carol Laing, Secretary	423-309-1457

VA Announces New Grants to Help End Veteran Homelessness

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald today announced the award of nearly \$93 million in Supportive

Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) 3-year grants that will help approximately 45,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. The grants will be distributed to 24 non-profit agencies in 15 communities, with \$30 million in awards being distributed to the Los Angeles area.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to using evidence-based approaches such as SSVF to prevent homelessness and produce successful outcomes for Veterans and their families,” said Secretary McDonald. “This is a program that works, because it allows VA staff and local homeless service providers to work together to effectively address the unique challenges that make it difficult for some Veterans and their families to remain stably housed.”

Under the SSVF program, VA is awarding grants to private, non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing. The grants announced today will provide additional resources to the fourth year operations of the SSVF program.

“With the addition of these crucial resources, communities across the country continue an historic drive to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans,” said Matthew Doherty, Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. “The SSVF program gives Veterans and their families the rapid assistance they need to remain in permanent housing or get back into permanent housing as quickly as possible.”

Through the homeless Veterans initiative, VA committed more than \$1 billion in FY 2014 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. VA provides a range of services to homeless Veterans, including health care, housing, job training and education.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Details about the SSVF program are online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

Navy League

The Navy League of the United States (NLUS) was founded in 1902 and has provided a powerful voice for a stronger sea service to Congress and to the American people. The Navy League has grown into the foremost citizens' organization to serve, support, and stand with all the sea services – U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.



The Navy League is comprised of 43,000 civilians in more than 245 councils around the world working to support sea service members and their families. We do this through a variety of education programs that remind our fellow citizens that the United States is a maritime nation whose national economic and security interests are inextricably tied to the freedom of the seas.

The Navy League has three missions: to enhance the morale of active duty personnel and their families; to inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and to support youth through programs such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines.

The support mission is accomplished through council activities including the adoption of a particular ship, squadron or station; family-centered gatherings; and direct material and/or financial support.

The educational aspect is completed through presentations to elected officials and local civic organizations which remind citizens that the United States is a maritime nation whose national economic and security interests are inextricably tied to the freedom of the seas.

Finally, youth programs are strongly supported throughout the Navy League from national annual performance awards to local council member visits and financial assistance.

Chattanooga's local council, Greater Chattanooga Area John J. Spittler Council, actively supports our active duty Navy, our adopted ship USS Tennessee (SSBN734), Chattanooga and Signal Mountain Sea Cadets and Howard High School NJROTC. The Chattanooga council offers social events (such as dinner meetings, museum visits, USS Tennessee tours, etc) every other month. Annual dues to National is \$65 which includes a subscription to the monthly Sea Power Magazine. Annual Local dues, which support the local chapter and its activities, is \$15.

For information visit www.chattanooganavyleague.org where you can learn more about the local council, read Compass Points (council newsletter), and find links to the National website (to join) and the Navy League Ship's Store (to order Navy stuff).

Fremont Society is accepting nominations for Civic Leadership

Do you know a current full time college student veteran/reservist who has donated time and talent to any U.S. Military Event, cause or issue during the current academic school year? If so, they may be eligible for our Civic Service and Military Merit Award and Honors.

The nominations must come from a U.S. Veteran, School Administrator or a Service Related Organization such as a VFW or American Legion, the person / organization nominating a student/Veterans who has first-hand knowledge of a particular student who has demonstrated community service via any outreach program that serves the Military Community in any manner. Students must be at least full time status at an approved college or University. Please note, UT Chattanooga is the only area school sanctioned at this time, however the Board of Directors reserves the right to add a school by recommendation and the school accepting our conditions of civic collaboration. So, this means the weight is on the individuals not so much as it is the college/university.

If you know of a current full-time student who is an active duty Veteran or an active reserve, or reserve Veteran of the services including Coast Guard and any veteran who has served in a combat zone as a National Guardsmen, they may be eligible. (all regular service members of any branch are automatically eligible).

Please send any questions to: Society@JohnCFremont.org

If you wish to nominate someone for this award, please send that person's name, rank, college and a brief less than 300 words describing their civic engagement and service to the Military/Veteran Community while they have been a student, in the academic year of 2014-15. The timeline for nominations is a short window: 15 May, 2015.

On behalf of the TN Civic Society, Jason Ware, Chair, and the Administrators of Fremont Civics, thank you for your service and commitment to civic engagement.

Alex (Aleg) Boyle
National Director
Fremont Civic Philanthropies &
The Civic Society of America
Post Office Box 17505
Nashville, TN 37217
Tel: 615 208 4401

Veteran's Benefit

American Legion Battlefield Post 214, 540 Park City Rd. Rossville, GA 30741 presents "Veteran's Benefit Bingo" every Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings.

Doors Open @ 5 p.m. Bingo starts @ 7 p.m. Total Payout up to \$1500 dollars, Jackpot up to \$800 dollars, 50/50 with lots of prizes and up to \$500.00 in cash. The public is welcome.

Come early and enjoy dinner from our Concession: Daily Specials, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chili, Salads, Drinks and Snacks. Come join us for Food, Fun & Games!

All proceeds support veterans and their families.

Contact Us: 706-866-3992 or www.legionpost214.org

Memorial Day Picnic in Walden

The Town of Walden is hosting a Memorial Day Picnic for the community of Walden and Signal Mountain. They would love to have some Veterans in uniform to meet and greet the day of the picnic. The event won't be just a picnic but also a remembrance of what Memorial Day stands for.

The picnic will be held at the McCoy Estate on Signal Mountain, directly across from St. Augustine's Catholic Church on Anderson. The date is May 25 and the hours are from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Interested veterans willing to participate should contact Carol Bishop by phone at (423) 825-4654, or cell (817) 797-0414 or via email at carol.o.duke@gmail.com.

VA Issued ID Cards Bill is Gathering Steam

A Florida congressman is claiming momentum for his bill H.R.91 ensuring every honorably discharged veteran receives an ID card from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which, he insists, can be done without burdening taxpayers. U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan introduced the "Veterans ID Card Act" earlier this year and claimed it was gathering steam on Tuesday. The bill has picked up more than 30 co-sponsors. On 21 APR, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Association of the U.S. Navy (AUSN) endorsed Buchanan's bill. The bill has also won the backing of veterans groups including AMVETS and Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) in the past few weeks. "I am very excited that momentum is building for this important legislation to help our nation's veterans ... The VSOs and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle recognize that this is a straightforward, cost-neutral bill that will make it easier for veterans to provide proof of their service." Buchanan said. The bill would ensure all veterans receive ID cards from the VA instead of just those who served 20 years in the armed forces or are seeking medical treatment for service-related wounds. Buchanan said veterans are forced to carry DD-214 paperwork, which contains sensitive information including Social Security numbers, and an ID card would be more convenient and would do a better job of keeping their personal information secure. "In an age of increased scrutiny in regard to the military service of individuals, every veteran who has served our nation honorably should be able to obtain a VA card if they wish to have one," said Edgar Rodriguez, the director of government relations for the AUSN, on Tuesday. "These cards empower veterans by allowing them to conveniently carry evidence of their military service, making their lives easier in a variety of ways. We at AUSN support this common-sense measure and hope that it is swiftly passed into law in the 114th Congress." Buchanan says his bill is budget neutral since veterans who opt for the ID card would have a "small fee" which the VA secretary would examine every five years. [Source: Sunshine State News | Kevin Derby | April 21, 2015 +