



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

Serving veterans and their organizations of East Tennessee, North Georgia and North Alabama

Special Thanks to our CAVC member Organizations

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council Executive Board would like to thank the following member organizations who have paid their 2016 dues this past month:

American Legion Post 214, Rossville
 Sons of the American Revolution, John Sevier Chapter
 82nd Airborne Division
 Knights of Columbus Assembly 3250
 Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6
 Coast Guard Auxiliary

Welcome new CAVC Veteran Organizations

American Legion Post 106, Trenton, GA
 UTC Student Veteran Organization

VA SSN Use - Vet Identity Theft Concern

A lawmaker on the Senate Appropriations Committee plans to introduce legislation that will force the Department of Veterans Affairs to transition from using Social Security numbers as the identifying numbers within the agency. At issue is a complaint of a leak of hundreds of veterans' Social Security numbers by a state agency in Wisconsin. "We don't want to put our veterans and their families at the risk of fraud and identity theft, and that's the concern that we are trying to address," Sen. Tammy Baldwin told FCW on 10 Mar after a budget hearing before the committee.

Baldwin got the investigation. But she's also looking to minimize the risk in the future, and planning legislation to change the way the VA uses personally identifiable information in its systems. "We hope to transition away from using Social Security numbers as the identifying number with the VA," Baldwin told FCW after an Appropriations hearing with VA leadership. VA Secretary Robert McDonald said that the agency was working toward a data architecture that would make such a move possible.

[Source: FCW | Aisha Chowdhry | March 10, 2016 ++]



**MAYOR ANDY BERKE
 MAYOR JIM COPPINGER**

and

**THE CHATTANOOGA- HAMILTON
 COUNTY 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION
 COMMITTEE**

Invite You to

A Special Commemorative Event

**'The Raising of the
 Commemorative Flag'**

Thursday, March 24.

The Raising of the Commemorative Flag ceremony will be held at the Hamilton County Courthouse at 1 p.m. and again at Chattanooga City Hall at 2 p.m. These are ceremonies that will recognize, honor and thank all Vietnam veterans and their families that served in Vietnam.

Chattanooga's Armed Forces Day Parade is 6 May

Chattanooga's 67th annual Armed Forces Day Parade in downtown Chattanooga is set for 6 May. The parade is a recognition of and a tribute to our nation's active duty military members of all services. Chattanooga's parade may be the longest-running such parade of its size in the nation.

The Armed Forces Day holiday replaced individual holidays for each military branch. The official Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. The local parade is held earlier and on a weekday to accommodate school schedules.

Nearly 1,000 local JROTC cadets from 10 Hamilton County programs and nearby Georgia schools along with local Sea Cadet Units will be marching in the parade. JROTC Units that march in the parade are graded on their performance. The top three finishers will be awarded a plaque by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council.

2016 is the Marine Corps year. **Semper Fi Marines!**

The estimated 45-minute parade will be followed by a luncheon at the Chattanooga Convention Center. This year's reviewing officer and Luncheon speaker is scheduled to be General Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps.



A table of 8 at the Luncheon costs \$200. Each table sold provides one seat at that table for an active duty person to attend for free. For more information or to buy a table contact Noah Long at noah@long.net.

Chattanooga Heroes 5k Walk/Run Sponsored by Erlanger Hospital

The Chattanooga Heroes Run/Walk will take place on 16 July. It is a five mile run (or walk) that begins on Amnicola Highway at the Naval Operational Support Center and Marine Corps Reserve Center, follows part of the path that EMS took on July 16th down Amnicola, then connects to the Riverwalk, winds through UTC's campus, and ends on 5th Street, just south of the Challenger Center.



Following the five mile run/walk, there will be a one mile kids run through UTC's campus beginning at 10:00 AM. To participate in the kids run, a child must be 8th grade or younger. After the run/walk, join us at Challenger Field for an expo the whole family will enjoy.

The five mile run and one mile kids run will both be timed events. [Click here to see the race route.](#)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6:00 AM - Registration Opens

Registration will be located across from Challenger Field After registering, participants and fans will be bussed to race start

8:00 AM - 5 Mile Run/Walk Begins

10:00 AM - 1 Mile Kids Run Begins

Due to the upfront nature of event costs, we have a uniform policy of no refunds, transfers, or deferrals to a future year. We know that plans change and unexpected things come up, but we feel it is most fair to apply a uniform policy to all, instead of an arbitrary line of who merits a refund and who doesn't. Thank you for your understanding.

To register for the walk/run follow this link: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=123489

VIETNAM VETERANS HONORING THEIR SERVICE, SACRIFICE, AND VALOR – FIFTY YEARS AGO IN VIETNAM

Operation Masher/White Wing/Thang Phong II by the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division and allied forces in the central lowlands along the coast and Operation Double Eagle by the Marines along the coast below Chu Lai which had started in late January continued in full force in early February. Planning for major operations throughout the country in 1966 started in order to be ready to utilize the additional troop strength which had been approved by the President.

From February 6th to the 8th at a conference in Honolulu between US and South Vietnamese leaders President Johnson took a strong stand on the need for "pacification" of the countryside. He pressed for expedited programs in such areas as health, education and democracy building activities. In the coming months additional thirteen man Seabee Civic Action Teams were deployed to small villages throughout the country to start implementation of this plan.

The first Swift Boats had arrived and began patrols along the southern coast line. The first Swift Boat was lost in action in Vietnam on February 14th when PCF-4 was sunk by an underwater mine in the Gulf of Thailand near a Viet Cong stronghold by Rach Gia. Four of the six man crew were killed. The other two crew members were rescued by a South Vietnamese Navy junk. The boat was raised and its weapons, comm gear and ammo salvaged.

Logistical support facilities of all types were becoming more critical by the day as more troops arrived and the operating tempo increased. None was more pressing than medical support facilities. In April, 1965 there was only one field hospital in country with 100 beds in operation at Nha Trang. Between then and the end of the year four hospitals and several numbered hospital units were moved in bringing the total number of beds to 1,627. But the number of casualties medevac'd to these units in the prior four months was 7,056. They were in all practicality overrun with patients.



The peculiar nature of counterinsurgency operations in Vietnam required modification of the usual concepts of hospital usage in a combat area. There was no "front" in the tradition of World War II. The Army checkerboarded the countryside with base camps. Although any one of these might become a battlefield, the base camp was relatively secure unless it was under attack. Semi-permanent, air-conditioned, fully equipped hospitals were constructed at a number of these camps. In contrast to World War II and the Korean War, the hospital did not follow the advancing army in direct support of tactical operations. All Army hospitals in Vietnam, including the MUST (Medical Unit, Self-contained, Transportable) units, were fixed

installations with area support missions. Since there was no secure road network in the combat area of Vietnam, surface evacuation of the wounded was almost impossible. Use of the five separate companies and five detachments of ground ambulances sent to Vietnam was limited largely to such functions as base camps as transportation between the landing strip and the hospital or the routine transfer of patients between neighboring hospitals when roads were secure. Air evacuation of the injured became routine.

Getting the casualty and the physician together as soon as possible is the keystone of the practice of combat medicine. 97.5% of patients who arrived at a field hospital within one hour of being wounded survived. The technical development of the helicopter ambulance, a primitive version of which had been used to a limited extent in the Korean War made rapid evacuation possible. Of equal importance was that the Medical Department was getting the two together in a hospital environment equipped to meet almost any situation. The degree of sophistication of medical equipment and facilities everywhere in Vietnam permitted Army physicians to make full use of their training and capability. As a result, the care that was available in Army hospitals in Vietnam was far better than any that had ever been generally available for combat support.

The growth of a solid body of doctrine on, air evacuation procedures, and the skill, ingenuity, and courage of the aircraft crewmen and corpsmen who put theory into practice, in a hostile and dangerous environment made possible the hospitalization and evacuation system that evolved in Vietnam.

The army medical evacuation helicopter units came to be called "Dust-off", after the call sign of the most famous of the heroic, early flying medics, Major Charles. L. Kelley, MSC, who was killed in action on 1 July 1964.



In

February, 1966 two men were awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for covering grenades with their bodies thereby saving the lives of their fellow soldiers. The first was Specialist 4th Class Daniel Fernandez, USA, on February 18th. He was from Albuquerque, NM and was serving in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry. The second was Staff Sergeant Peter S. Connor, USMC, on February 25th. Sergeant Connor was from Orange, NJ. He was with Company F, 2nd Platoon, 3rd Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Compiled by RADM Noah Long, CEC, USN (ret) from information in Web Site of the Vietnam War Commemoration Vietnam, the Naval Story by Frank Uhlig, Jr. The Pictorial History of the Vietnam War by Jeremy Barnes Web Site: militaryhistory.about.com/od/VietnamWar Web Site: history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/medspt

Tennessee Vietnam Memorial Wall at Hamilton Place Mall

Hamilton County and City of Chattanooga's joint committee on the Commemoration of the Vietnam War, is proud to announce its first event of the ten-year-long Welcome Home Celebration. The Committee has partnered with the Department of Defense. The Joint Committee is chaired by Mrs. Linda Mines, Hamilton County Historian and co-chaired by MG (Ret) Bill Raines. The Committee is comprised of veteran's organizations and citizens from across the city and county.

The first part of the celebration begins March 28th at the Hamilton Place Mall featuring the *Tennessee Vietnam Memorial Wall*. The Wall is own by Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 203; it will be on display all week to offer families and visitors the opportunity to pause and remember those who fell. The Wall will be manned by members of VVA Chapter 203 and by the Associates of Chapter 203. Ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be there to provide commemorative pins to the veterans of the Vietnam Era.

"The Corian-like Wall is four inches thick and consists of 4 panels, weighing over 200 pounds each; it is eight feet tall at the apex. It includes the names of those 1,292 Tennesseans killed in the Vietnam War. They are listed by date of death" says Chapter 203 President, Charlie Hobbs. "The names are engraved so that etchings may be taken. The total exhibit is 24 feet long."

The official day of the welcome home celebration is March 29 and other events will be announced in conjunction with that day. Hamilton Place Mall is located on 2100 Hamilton Place Blvd in Chattanooga. The Wall will be open from 10am – 8pm each day from March 28 – April 2nd. It can be found at the center court on the first floor.

Members of the Committee include: Adm (Ret) Noah Long), CAVC, Mr. Mickey McCamish, SETN Veteran's Coalition, Ms. Heather Hoffman for the city, Mr. Dan Saied, for the county, Mr. Joseph M. Gibson, of Amvets Post 36, Mr. Warbrit R. Lowrey, local business owner and veteran, Mr John L Edwards, a business owner, Mrs. Teresa Rimer, DAR, Bill Sachie, Chattanooga National Cemetery, and Bud Alley, VVA Chapter 203.



Burn Pit Toxic Exposure Update Burn Pit Registry

VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible Veterans and Servicemembers to document their exposures and report health concerns through an online questionnaire. In total, 61,338 Veterans and Servicemembers completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014 and February 28, 2016. Eligible Veterans and Servicemembers include those who served in:

Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001, Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm, Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990.

Check your eligibility and sign up at <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>. It takes about 40 minutes to complete the questionnaire. You can do it in one sitting or save it and come back later. You can print and use your completed questionnaire to discuss concerns with your provider. VA providers can also access an online copy of your questionnaire.

Some important points about the Burn Pit Registry are:

- No cost to participate
- Not a disability compensation questionnaire or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA's health care system not necessary
- Based on Veterans'/Servicemembers' recollection of service, not on their military records
- Veterans'/Servicemembers' family members are not eligible to participate

Data from the burn pit registry are available in the following reports:

Report (1.68 MB, PDF) highlighting health conditions and physical limitations experienced by Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers who filled out the registry survey between April 25, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/va-registry-data-report-june2015.pdf>

Report on the health effects of exposures, including burn pits and other environmental hazards, experienced by Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers who filled out the registry survey between April 25, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/va-ahobp-registry-data-report-april2015.pdf>

If you have health concerns, talk to your health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator who can be located at

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp> [Source: Veterans Health | <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp> | March 14, 2016 ++]

Traumatic Brain Injury Update VA Data Collection Improvements

The Veterans Health Administration has a Polytrauma System of Care to treat and care for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Depending on their health care needs, Veterans with TBI can receive treatment at one of the specialized rehabilitation programs in the Polytrauma System of Care (i.e. <http://www.polytrauma.va.gov/index.asp>), or they can seek treatment through their local VA Medical Center or community healthcare providers. VA maintains a "Traumatic Brain Injury Registry" to monitor Veterans who may have sustained a brain injury in order to provide early medical intervention and to prevent long term health problems.

"The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Registry software application collects data on Veterans who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom," according to Joel Scholten, Director, VA Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. "These individuals need to be seen within 30 days of a positive TBI screening result for a comprehensive evaluation and development of a plan of care, as indicated."

The "TBI Instruments" are a set of comprehensive evaluation questionnaires and templates designed to let rehabilitation professionals assess patients and collect standardized patient information. The information collected from these instruments is electronically transferred and stored as a medical progress note in the patient's electronic record and can be retrieved through the Computerized Patient Record System.

The CTBIE was developed by clinical and research subject matter experts, and established a consistent format and content for VA TBI evaluations. The online evaluation template was originally released in October 2007 with periodic updates to improve data collection and accuracy of TBI diagnosis. The availability of a national template ensures that patients and family members are evaluated using the same approach across VA medical centers. The use of electronic templates ensures that VA provides a standardized approach to diagnosis while still allowing our highly trained clinicians to develop an individualized care plan for each Veteran to best meet their needs.

VHA has now screened over one million Veterans for TBI. Screening Veterans for TBI and helping them to deal with the condition is one of the central programs of the Polytrauma System of Care.

Go to <http://www.polytrauma.va.gov/understanding-tbi/index.asp> to learn more about TBI. [Source:

Veteran Health Administration Update | March 8, 2016
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CAVC Calendar of Events

18 Mar	CAVC Awards Banquet
24 Mar	Vietnam Commemorative Flag Raising
28, 29 Mar	TN Vietnam Wall at Hamilton Place
19 Apr	Legion Post 257 Flea Mkt. Collegedale
23 Apr	MOH Heritage Center Fundraiser
29, 30 Apr	Women Veteran's Summit, Chattanooga
05 May	ESGR Lunch at Choo Choo
06 May	Armed Forces Parade and Luncheon
30 May	Memorial Day Service at National Cem.
4 Jul	Independence Day
16 Jul	Chattanooga Heroes 5k Walk/Run

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
PO Box 24984
Chattanooga, TN 37422

Check out our website at www.chattareaveterans.com

Billy Hewitt, Chairman	423-894-3568
Mickey McCamish, Chair-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

CAVC is a 501(c)19 non-profit veteran organization.

5th Annual WOMEN Veterans Summit

**April 29, 2016, 6-9 pm &
April 30, 2016, 8 am-6 pm**

Hampton Inn & Suites Hamilton Place
in the *Scenic City Meeting Room*
2014 Hamilton Place Blvd, Chattanooga TN



Attendees are invited to bring half or a dozen cookies to Friday evening's "Cookie Social." Light snacks and soft drinks will be provided along with comedic and musical entertainment. Vendors will be on hand to provide unique, appealing items as well as information on various support systems.

Saturday's program is set to include presentations on various topics including Veteran benefits, medical services & employment opportunities. Other subjects such as financial security, volunteer opportunities, etc., will also be discussed. An on-site catered lunch will be provided Saturday.

2016 Summit Reservation Form

Name (As you want it on your Nametag) _____

Mailing Address: _____
Address City State Zip

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Branch(es) of service: _____

Dates of service: _____

- ★ **Registration Fee \$60**
Includes snacks, Saturday Lunch, Goody bag, lapel pin & Summit gift = \$ _____
 - ★ **Sponsorship Opportunity** in support of the *Women* Veterans Summit = \$ _____
 - \$10 - \$100 = *Bronze Sponsor (Name in Summit program)*
 - \$101 - \$500 = *Silver Sponsor (Name & logo in Summit program)* + -----
 - \$501 & up = *Gold Sponsor (Name & logo in Summit program, displayed at Summit & included in PR activities)*
- Total = \$ _____**

Please make check payable to "MWAN Unit 157"
& mail with completed form to:

Patty Parks, Unit 157 Treasurer
6920 Sawtooth Drive, Ooltewah TN 37363

Seating is Limited so Register Now!

For more details contact Patty Parks at 423-326-0839 or
pattyjoparks@yahoo.com

Hosted by:





Charles H. Coolidge
 MEDAL OF HONOR HERITAGE CENTER
2016 Fund Raiser & Awards Banquet
Individual Reservation

The Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center's annual Fund Raiser and Awards Banquet will be Saturday April 23, 2016, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. at the Chattanooga Convention Center, 1 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN. Jed Mescon will be the Master of Ceremonies.

The speaker will be Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Wesley Fox, who fought in both Korea and Vietnam, and is considered to be one of the legendary war heroes within the United States Marine Corps. His awards include the Medal of Honor, Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star Medal with combat V, and Purple Heart (4). He was with the 5th Marines when he was wounded in action in Korea, September 1951. Col. Fox served in Vietnam with the 9th Marines in 1968- 1969, and was wounded three times when engaged with the enemy. For his heroic actions, he was presented the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon on March 2, 1971.

As you know, the Heritage Center is staffed by volunteers and its primary source of income is private donations. You will not want to miss this opportunity to help support an institution designed to honor those selfless service members who have given so much to defend our freedom. If you are unable to attend the Banquet your generous donation would be deeply appreciated.

National Medal of Honor Museum of Military History Foundation is a NON-PROFIT organization incorporated in the state of Tennessee in accordance with provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your gift is Tax Deductible per section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please Make Check Payable to: Medal of Honor Heritage Center

**Mail To: Charles H. Coolidge MEDAL OF HONOR HERITAGE CENTER, P. O. Box 11467,
 Chattanooga, TN 37401-2467**

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY 2016 FUND RAISER & AWARDS BANQUET ~
 INDIVIDUAL RESERVATION REQUEST

*RESERVATION NAME: _____ CONTACT PHONE/EMAIL: _____

*ENTER NUMBER FOR EACH MEAL CHOICE: _____ Grilled Filet Mignon
 _____ Grilled Atlantic Salmon
 _____ Vegetarian

*TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AT \$75.00 EACH = _____

*I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND. PLEASE ACCEPT MY FINANCIAL DONATION OF \$100 \$150 OTHER: _____

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!