



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

Armed Forces Parade and Luncheon

The 68th Annual Chattanooga Armed Forces Parade will take place Friday, 5 May 2017, on Market Street downtown Chattanooga. The parade is a tribute to our men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces stateside and around the world. All area veteran organizations are invited to participate – the parade application can be found at the CAVC website: www.chattareaveterans.com The Luncheon takes place immediately after the parade (12:00 pm) at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Download the reservation form from the CAVC website.

This year's parade reviewing officer and Luncheon guest speaker will be LtGen. Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., General Bunch is the Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, at the Pentagon. He is responsible for research and development, test, production, and modernization of Air Force programs worth more than \$32 billion annually.



General Bunch was commissioned in 1984 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 1985. He completed operational assignments as an instructor, evaluator and aircraft commander for B-52 Stratofortresses. General Bunch conducted developmental testing in the B-2 Spirit and B-52 and served as an instructor in each. Additionally, he has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Commander of the Air Force Test Center, headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

CAVC Annual Awards Presentation

Congratulations to this year's award recipients for their outstanding service to our Chattanooga Area Veterans:



Pictured left to right:

Patty Parks, National President, Military Women Across the Nation, received the Milton Thomas Award.

Ray Adkins, distinguished member of MOAA, VVA 203 (and others), received the The Charles H. Coolidge Veteran of the Year Award.

Carl Levi, 25 year Commander of American Legion Post 14, many years of leadership to the CAVC and the Armed Forces Parade Committee, received the first-ever CAVC Special Founders Award.

Ron Galante, Immediate Past President of The Chattanooga Navy League Council, received the Charles H. Coolidge Associate of the Year Award.

Desmond T. Doss Ceremony to be held at National Cemetery

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Government in conjunction with the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center, CAVC and Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a special commemorative ceremony on the anniversary of the death of Cpl. Desmond T. Doss, MOH. The ceremony will take place Thursday, 23 March 2017, 12:00 noon, near his grave at Chattanooga National Cemetery. Desmond Doss is buried at SECTION P SITE 6399-A.

Opening comments will be by Linda Moss Mines, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Historian. Statements will be made by Carl Levi, Brigadier General, U.S. Army National Guard (ret.), Bill Raines, Major General, U.S. Army (ret.). And Ray Adkins, CAVC's 2016 Charles H. Coolidge Veteran of the Year, will offer a memorial prayer. Veterans are invited to attend.

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 2017 dues:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6
US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Signal Mountain Division
American Ex-Prisoners of War, Chattanooga Chapter
American Legion Post 14, Chattanooga

Member's dues help to cover the cost of corporate filings, meeting meals, plaques, PO Box, stationery, and other expenses.

Aspen Dental Clinic Offers Free Exams

Veterans who need dental work can make an appointment at one of nearly 400 offices across the country to receive free care on June 25.

Aspen Dental will hold its second day of free service as part of its Healthy Mouth Movement, which launched in 2014 and aims to deliver services and education to people in need.

Interested veterans can call 844-ASPEN-HMM to schedule an appointment. Dentists will volunteer their time to offer services that include fillings, extractions and basic denture repair.

Veterans received free dental care from the MouthMobile in Phoenix in April. Photo Credit: Rick Scuteri/AP Images for Aspen Dental

If you can't make it on June 25, [check here](#) to see if Aspen Dental's MouthMobile is coming to your town. The dental-office-on-wheels is traveling around the country this year to provide free care that ranges from teeth cleaning to a set of dentures.



So far this year, the MouthMobile has helped 423 veterans with a donated care value of \$191,085. Since the Healthy Mouth Movement began two years ago, Aspen Dental has provided over \$4 million in free dental care to more than 7,000 patients.

Three-day Chattanooga event to honor Vietnam veterans

When Chris Linville got out of the Navy in 1969 after serving on the front lines as a Navy corpsman during the Vietnam conflict, he returned to Tennessee and signed up for night classes at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

During one class, a fellow student went around to the other students, asking everyone to show up for an anti-war rally the next day.

"I got quite agitated and went home and dug out my uniform my medals and wore it the next day," Linville says.

He was cursed and shunned by his fellow students for the rest of the semester and didn't touch the uniform again until many years later when he felt a need to reconnect with his past. As part of that reconnection, he got involved in a few veterans organizations.

Just last month, he ran into a guy wearing a Vietnam veteran ballcap and realized it was a dad he had coached youth baseball with years ago.

"Our sons were best friends and neither of us knew the other had served because we never talked about it," Linville says. Even after more than 40 years, "lot of guys don't feel comfortable yet."

His experience returning home after the unpopular war is fairly typical for Vietnam veterans, but the Department of Defense and fellow vets are trying to do something about it. Veterans who served during the conflict, primarily from 1965 to 1975, will be honored during three days of events, including a pinning ceremony and dinner, from Monday-Wednesday, March 27-29.

The U.S. Senate declared March 29 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in 2011 and groups around the country have been holding ceremonies since. A small one was held at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga last year, but a local committee has been working all year to put together a bigger event this year.

The committee is working with Chapter 203 of the Vietnam Veterans of America and seven area chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as the city and county mayors offices on this year's events.

Bud Alley is event chairman and says this year's three-day event will include a supper and a ceremony to give veterans a Vietnam War

Commemorative Lapel Pin at First Tennessee Pavilion on March 27, three showings at the Tivoli Theatre of the movie "We Were Soldiers Once," starring Mel Gibson and based on the book "We Were Soldiers Once And Young" by Joe Galloway and Lt. Gen (ret.) Hal Moore, on March 28 and a candlelight event at the National Cemetery on March 29.

While here, Galloway will conduct 14 interviews of veterans at Girls Preparatory School and those oral histories will be filmed and sent to the National Archives and the Department of Defense.

Willie Kitchens and Jericho Brass will provide entertainment at the pavilion event, and several local vendors will be providing food.

Galloway was a foreign and war correspondent who covered several wars, including Vietnam, during his career. "We Were Soldiers Once And Young" focuses on the role of the First and Second Battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, the United States' first large-unit battle of the war. Alley has written his own account of the fighting in the Ia Drang Valley in 1965 where he stationed as a young soldier.

Alley says the events here in March are designed to finally honor the soldiers who fought and, in some cases, gave their lives during the war. The names of all 124 soldiers from the area who were killed in action will be read during the candlelight service at the National Cemetery. These veterans have mostly been ignored or forgotten over the years because of the political and social hotbed that was the war, he says.

Soldiers, who were often teenagers right out of high school or just entering college, were spit on and called things like "baby killer" upon returning home. Many withdrew into themselves and rarely talk about their experience, much less participate in social activities with other veterans.

Linville, a member of the events committee, says, "It's easier for vets to talk to another veteran."

"We want veterans to come out of the woods," Alley says. "This is a safe perimeter."

Article courtesy of Times Free Press 27 Feb 2017

Schedule of Chattanooga events honoring Vietnam Veterans:

The 3 day commemoration featuring Mr. Joe Galloway, co-author of "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young", is planned for March 27-29 and will culminate with Galloway's address at the National Cemetery and a candlelight ceremony remembering those from Chattanooga who gave their lives for their country

Monday, 27 March: is a music program, supper, and remarks by TN VA Commissioner Many Bears Grinder. Each Vietnam veteran will be presented a pin and have a photo made of them with the Commissioner and Mr. Galloway. Supper is free for attendees. The events starts at 5:00 pm, at First Tennessee Pavilion, 1826 Reggie White Blvd., Chattanooga. Jed Mescon will welcome Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Joe Marm along with other heroes of the battle of Ia Drang Valley followed by remarks from both mayors. Vietnam Veterans and their families are invited and encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, 28 March: there will be three showings of "We Were Soldiers", at 10:00 am, 1:30 pm, and 4:30 pm at the Tivoli. Each to be followed with Discussion with author Joe Galloway and Ia Drang survivors.

Wednesday, 29 March: Memorial Service at Chattanooga National Cemetery at 6:00 pm. Missing Man Ceremony, 21 Gun Salute, Taps, Candle Lighting and reading of names of those who died.

The DOD is sending a team of Oral Historians from DC for the occasion and they will be working all week with veterans to film and record their stories. Bud Alley, Project Chairman, can be contacted via email at alleybud@gmail.com.

Donations to support this effort are needed and appreciated. Please mail your check (payable to VVA Chapter 203) to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 203, PO Box 23405, Chattanooga TN 37422.

U.S. Army Field Band Spring Tour 2017

The U.S. Army Field Band's Spring Tour 2017 is here and you are invited to attend.

The concerts are free and open to the public; however, tickets are required. You may contact Sergeant Major David Bullman to make arrangements for your participation, for tickets, or if you need additional information. SGM Bullman can be reached at [\(301\) 677-5237](tel:3016775237), or via email at david.l.bullman.mil@mail.mil.

CONCERT BAND & SOLDIERS' CHORUS

March 21st, 7:00 pm, Dayton, TN, Bryan College
For tickets call 423-775-6111

The Concert Band is the oldest and largest of the Field Band's four performing components. This elite 65-member instrumental ensemble, founded in 1946, has performed in all 50 states and 25 foreign countries for audiences totaling more than 100 million. Tours have taken the band throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, the Far East, and India.

JAZZ

AMBASSADORS

The Jazz Ambassadors-America's Big Band is the official touring big band of the United States Army. This 19-member ensemble, formed in 1969, has received great acclaim both at home and abroad performing America's original art form, jazz. Concerts by the Jazz Ambassadors are designed to entertain all types of audiences. Custom compositions and arrangements highlight the group's creative talent and gifted soloists. Their diverse repertoire includes big band swing, bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards, popular tunes, Dixieland, vocals, and patriotic selections.

Jazz Ambassadors – March 24th, 7:30 pm – Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. For tickets call 615-898-2724.
<http://www.mtsu.edu/music/calendar.php>

Guitars for Veterans Prove Therapeutic

An organization of volunteer guitar instructors gives free lessons to vets struggling with PTSD or who are disabled in some way.



Started in Milwaukee in 2007 by guitarist Patrick Iraq vet Chris Longdon plays alongside Vietnam veteran Kelly Johnson at the Guitars for Vets Columbia, Mo., chapter.

Nettesheim and Vietnam veteran Dan Van Buskirk, Guitars for Vets has more than 60 chapters in 30 states. Some 2,500 vets have graduated, which means 2,500 acoustic guitars and accompanying accessories have been donated. Lessons are given primarily at VA hospitals or community-based outpatient clinics. Instructors like Williams volunteer to teach the classes.

Chris Longdon was diagnosed with PTSD in 2011, he found such serenity in his guitar. "I found that playing the guitar took me to a better place," said Longdon, who served with the Marines' 1st Medical Battalion in Iraq for seven months in 2008. "I tried to deal with all of this on my own, but that didn't work out so well."

Longdon taught himself the basics of guitar playing, but once he was in the military, he never played. When he was discharged and struggling, he would drink and play his guitar. Eventually he slowed down on the drinking and replaced it with guitar playing. He heard about Guitars for Vets and knew he wanted to get involved. There was no chapter in the state of Missouri, which is where Longdon lives.

"I got one started at the VA in Columbia," he said. "It was the fastest chapter to get up and running, according to the founders."

For more information on Guitars for Vets, including how to form a chapter, visit www.guitars4vets.org.

This article is featured in the March 2017 issue of [VFW magazine](http://www.vfwmagazine.com) and was written by [Janie Dyhouse](http://www.janiedyhouse.com), associate editor, VFW magazine. Photo by Lauren Goldman.

A Personal note from Steve White:

"My name is Steve White and I am a 100% disabled service connected veteran. I did two tours in Vietnam. I just became aware of the guitar4vets.org while reading the March 2017 edition of the VFW Magazine. The website above has all the details but in a nutshell, it provides guitars for disabled vets. The lessons are free and if the vet takes 10 weeks of lessons then guitars4vets gives them a free guitar. Playing guitar has helped bring serenity to disabled vets especially those with PTSD. I personally don't play but my sons do. My youngest son Kendal has been playing for over 30 years. He has been in bands and has taught guitar both on and off of college campuses. He said he would be thrilled and honored to donate his time to teach the classes. If anyone would like us to attend a VFW, Amvets, American Legion, etc. meeting before then we will be glad to attend and give more details about the program and maybe if you are interested in offering a space for lessons we will pick a club/clubs at the meeting at the end of March. No money is involved and it's free to vets. Teachers are volunteers. Guitars4vets is a non-profit getting the supplies from donations. They have a chapter in Memphis and in Nashville. Let's work together and get this going in Hamilton County."

"My contact information is: Steve White 423-774-2380 (please leave a message if I don't answer)." stephendwhite@aol.com

Thanks. Steve and Kendal

Vietnam War History - Intelligence Gathering

As the Cold War escalated in the 1950s with the emergence of Communist China, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps began periodically carrying out covert electronic intelligence missions in the waters off the coasts of rival Communist nations. Using naval vessels including destroyers and submarines to conduct these missions, the United States planned to use them to intercept radar, radio, and other electronic communications with technologically advanced listening equipment.

In 1963, as tensions between Communist North Vietnam and non-Communist South Vietnam grew, President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized a new wave of intelligence-gathering missions in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Southeast Asia. Codenamed "DESOTO" missions, they were designed to intercept North Vietnamese and Chinese transmissions as well as to support covert South Vietnamese commando raids near coastal North Vietnam.

Then, on February 28, 1964, the administration decided to greatly increase the frequency of DESOTO patrols. The United States hoped to learn to what degree China and North Vietnam were coordinating their defenses against covert commando raids, and patrolling vessels were also ordered to search for Viet Cong boats that may be smuggling arms and ammunition into South Vietnam to supply the Communist insurgency.

Both China and North Vietnam soon became aware of these increased DESOTO patrols and began countering them accordingly. The United States continued the patrols, however, as a further (if unstated) overt show of force in the region, hoping to prove America's resolve to continue its support for South Vietnam. The U.S. destroyers that conducted the majority of DESOTO patrols were based in Keelung, Taiwan. According to the rules laid down by the Department of Defense, the vessels were required to stay at least four miles off the coast of North Vietnamese territory, and at least 12 miles away from any Chinese territory.

These new DESOTO patrols proved to be a critical turning point in the history of the United States in Southeast Asia. The increased presence of American naval vessels, and the escalated pace of U.S.-supported commando raids on North Vietnamese facilities that followed, set the stage for the first open armed confrontation between North Vietnamese and United States military forces. Fatefully, in late July 1964, the destroyer *USS Maddox* departed Taiwan on a DESOTO patrol through the Gulf of Tonkin. Days later, the *USS Maddox* was attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats, which set in motion a series of events that ultimately led the United States fully into the war in Vietnam.¹



USS Maddox

Edwin E. Moise, *Tonkin Gulf and the Escalation of the Vietnam War*, Spencer C. Tucker, *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War* (2nd edition).

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
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Check out our website: www.chattareaveterans.com

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