



# Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

## Girl donates money from lemonade stand to honor veterans

The recent tragic terrorist attacks in Chattanooga that left 4 Marines and a Navy petty officer dead, as well as a police officer and Marine injured have served to bring together the Chattanooga community in an unprecedented display of thoughtfulness, generosity and patriotism. One heartwarming example of the best in people comes from a 7 year girl named Amanda Gioengo. Like thousands of others, Amanda wanted to do something to support the families of this tragedy, so she decided to sell lemonade and donate the proceeds to the victim's families. Amanda entrusted the money she collected in the three days she sold lemonade to the Chattanooga Navy League. I accepted her check on behalf of the victim's families and the board shall decide how best to carry out Amanda's wishes. For her selfless act, I made Amanda an honorary member of the Chattanooga Navy League and gave her a Chattanooga Navy League challenge coin and ball cap, which she proudly displayed at the Navy Operational Support Center on Amnicola highway. In addition, WDEF gave Amanda \$500 as the winner of their "Do the Right Thing" contest. Following are pictures of Amanda and her family, the letter she wrote to the families of the victims and Chattanooga's display of patriotism.

Tom Winant, Past President, Santa Clara Valley Council, Navy League of the United States



Amanda Gioengo (center) with her family. (L/R) brothers Ryan and Kyle and parents Gwen, and Gary.

## Chattanooga Strong Benefit Bass Tournament

The fishing community has come together to host a benefit tournament for the families of the servicemen that lost their lives protecting our country on July 16<sup>th</sup>. This is going to be an event that no fisherman would want to miss. Hydrilla Hawgs, Fish Dayton, and The Chattanooga Bass Association will host the Chattanooga Strong Benefit Bass tournament on Saturday, August 22nd at Dayton Boat Dock in Dayton, Tennessee. Tournament hours will be safelight till 2PM. The tribute to the servicemen that lost their lives will begin at 5:45 am prior to blast-off. Please have your boat in the water by 5:30 prior to the tribute beginning.



### Tournament Details:

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2015

Time: Safelight till 2PM

Location: Dayton Boat Dock

Entry Fee: \$100 per boat or \$75 per boat if one member is either active or retired military / first responder

Payback will be at least 80% of entry fee's (All donations will go to the families)

You can sign up for this tournament beginning Wednesday, July 29th till Wednesday August 20th at the following locations:

Hamilton's Sport Shop (Hwy 58)

Tri-State Bait and Tackle (Cleveland)

Soddy Custom Tackle (Soddy Daisy)

or online at [www.noogastrong.fish](http://www.noogastrong.fish)

At weigh-in plate lunches will be available for a \$5 donation. All food and drinks have been provided by Wal-Mart, Five Star Vending, McKee Foods and Coca-Cola.

The NoogaStrong.Fish website will be live by Wednesday, July 29th.

Contact: Larry Brown at 706-671-7960 or Shane Frazier at 423-421-6022.

## Fremont Society honors Chattanooga with tribute

From our challenging past Month of July, as our city with its on duty US Military stationed here, came under attack for the first time since the Civil War- Losing five honorable men to a domestic attack has impacted so many of us in different ways. A modest effort by the Fremont Society and the TN-American Legion along with area Churches, like First Centenary and others, and UTC, for the collaborative effort: Five Bells for Five Fallen.

On the one week anniversary, at 4:05 pm, 23 July, 2015; Bells\* rang around the State and Chattanooga, to give a ringing salute to the Five Fallen, the hour of four was to honor all four branches of our un-armed services. Five past, was to salute all five who fell from mortal wounds sustained on that now dark day of our own cities history. One aspect that was not shared in the media, while it was noted in the conversations with several media outlets. Those Bells were also to be a thank you to all those who stand watch, ever ready to defend against the dangers we face abroad and at home across our Republic.

Fremont Society and the TN Department of the American Legion also shared that this was also a public thank you of the fast and fearless response of the Chattanooga Police Department in their expeditious response to ending the active shooter. Here is a link from National Public Radio- we also want to thank Mike Miller at WUTC, for reaching out to Fremont Society and his efforts to put the feature together, without his recording at UTC, this would not have been heard across the Nation.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/23/425654488/chattanooga-tenn-church-bells-ring-out-in-honor-of-killed-service-members>

Additionally, Fremont Society wishes to publicly thank Rear Admiral, Vance Fry, US-Navy-Retired, for his consult and frankly his encouragement of our efforts on the Five Bells for Five Fallen-

When we ring the Bells we are not only offering a tribute, we remind the Republic, we, the Military and our domestic agencies and civilian forces like our Law Enforcement, stand watch to defend as we all have. We thank all those who serve in active duty billets and our professional law enforcement and others. May all our ways be safe journeys, Shalom.

Alex (Aleg) Boyle, National Director, Fremont Civic Philanthropies & The Civic Society of America, Nashville, TN 37217, 615-208-4401.

## Military Appreciation Parade at Hamilton Place

Hamilton Place Mall is excited to announce a Military Appreciation Parade on August 16 @ 6:30pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to make donations which will go to the families of our recently fallen service members.



This a patriotic event and your organization is invited to participate in honoring our brave military men and women.

Thank you for helping to make #ChattanoogaStrong!

CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. | 423-855-0001  
2030 Hamilton Place Blvd., Suite 500, Chattanooga, TN 37421



The Registration Packet is attached as a PDF document. If you have any questions, contact Susan Hoff at 423.855.5282 x222.

## At Long Last, Hollywood to Tell the Story of the USS Indianapolis

As the 70th anniversary of the July 30 sinking of the USS Indianapolis during WWII approaches, two major motion pictures are in the works: "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage," starring Oscar-winner Nicolas Cage, began filming last month. Another project, still in development, would involve Robert Downey Jr., either on screen or in a producer role.

For the Indianapolis' crewmen, who are in their 80s and 90s, the widespread recognition that a major motion picture can bring has been a long time coming. Although many of them were haunted by their ordeal, "they want their story to be remembered," said Maria Bullard, the daughter of survivor Harold Eck and the chairman of Second Watch, a club for the crewmen's families.

"I have a whole box of documentaries," Bullard said, "but a Hollywood movie is the best way to get this story across to a worldwide audience. We all just feel like it's time for this to be told on the big screen."

The sinking of the USS Indianapolis occurred the night of July 30, 1945. The ship was returning from a U.S. base on Tinian Island in the Philippine Sea, where it had delivered enriched uranium and other components for an atomic bomb. That bomb would later be dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. A Japanese submarine slammed two torpedoes into the Indianapolis. The ship sank inside 15 minutes. The 900-some crewmen not killed in the initial attack went into the water, poorly equipped, some without so much as a life jacket.

The men huddled in small groups and wrestled with dehydration, hunger, hallucinations and sharks. Crewmen died from lack of water, too, and of exposure. Survivors would remove the life jackets from crewmen who died in the water and set them adrift. Sharks would come, Eck wrote, "and the floating dead were taken in a feeding frenzy." A rescue came on Day 5. Nearly 600 men had perished in the sea.

Such drama would seem to be the stuff of box office gold. But unlike "Unbroken," the World War II true story that was made into a movie last year and posted \$30 million in ticket sales its first weekend, the USS Indianapolis story did not end happily. Most of the crewmen died. Their well-liked commander, Capt.

Charles B. McVay, was court-martialed and driven to suicide. The ship's mission, though it did speed the war to its conclusion, led to death and destruction of a scope never before seen in human history.

"The overall picture is depressing," said Tim Irwin, artistic director of the nonprofit arts organization Heartland Film, "so you'd have to focus on an individual. "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage," which is directed by Mario Van Peebles ("New Jack City" and episodes of TV's "Empire," "Nashville" and "Law & Order"), also stars Tom Sizemore ("Saving Private Ryan," "Black Hawk Down") and Thomas Jane (TV's "Hung").

The Downey film would focus on the exoneration of Capt. McVay. The first script was tossed out, and a second one is expected to be completed by the end of the month, said Hunter Scott, who is now in the Navy.



"There is no shortage of people trying to make a movie about the Indianapolis," Scott said. "Whatever happens, I hope they do the crew justice."

Thirty-two men are still alive from the crew of the USS Indianapolis, including Richard Stephens, 89, who eagerly awaits the Cage film. "I think it's going to be a good movie," said Stephens, who

was 18 when he and the others received the command to abandon ship.

He visited the set in Mobile, Ala., earlier this month. "I told (Cage) I didn't like movies that were fictional, and they should be trying to show more respect, they should be using the facts. He said it's going to be pretty true to facts."

Stephens attended the annual survivors reunion in Indianapolis, which was held Thursday through Sunday at the Hyatt Regency. Many of the other survivors aren't well enough to attend the reunions. Last year 18 made the trek.

Films can take years to make. The Cage movie, the first expected to hit the big screen, is expected to be released late next year.

Eck has had a stroke and is not up and around much, said his daughter, Bullard. He was able to muster a smile last month, however, when his daughter told him the Cage movie had begun filming.

"I always knew," Eck whispered.

## Intro to Web Design Course

TechEd Labs (part of TechTown's workforce development division) is offering this intro Coding Camp free for Veterans. If after this course is completed a Veteran is interested in pursuing a career in programming, development, or IT help desk positions there may be scholarships available to complete an intensive 30 day course. After this course, they will be ready for an entry-level developer position or IT Help Desk position, and we've teamed up with major employers like BlueCross to accept these certifications for their open positions as part of our TechHire initiative.

There are limited scholarship slots for this intro course available. If anyone is interested please have them email me directly.

Tyler Yount, Civic Engagement Coordinator, Office of Mayor Andy Berke/City of Chattanooga, 423-643-7821 [desk], 865-582-6005 [cell].

### Intro to Web Design Course

Intro Cost: \$250 Future Cost: \$400  
August 10th-August 14th; 10am - 4pm Daily

#### Summary:

During our 1 week introduction to web development course students will learn the skills and tools necessary to build a personal resume website complete with a portfolio.

Using project based learning students will learn use foundational principles in HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, and Javascript. They will also be taught to use popular frameworks like Twitter Bootstrap to accelerate and empower their projects.

Finally, students will have a chance to learn more about careers in development by meeting with an industry mentor. After the initial class is complete, students will be able to continue working and learning with Tech Ed Labs through alumni hack days and other events throughout the year.

#### Schedule

Day 1 How the Web Works  
HTML/CSS 1  
Day 2 HTML/CSS 2Intro to JS  
Day 3 JS Cont.  
Intro to jQuery  
Day 4 Build Day  
Day 5 Build DayFizzBuzz Test

## Saluting Sacrifice

Vietnam Veterans are being saluted and thanked for their service and sacrifice during the ongoing observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The observance, which officially began in 2012, runs through November 11, 2025. CAVC became an official Commemorative Partner this year. We conducted our first salute on Memorial Day at the National Cemetery. The objective of the commemoration is to pay tribute to more than 3 million men and women who answered our country's call and to their families who awaited their safe return.

The United States had been sending military aid and advisors to assist the South Vietnamese government since 1956 it was significantly stepped up in 1962. It wasn't, however, until 1965, 50 years ago this year, that major units were ordered by President Johnson to join in actual combat. The Marines were the first units ordered deployed. They made an amphibious landing supported by Navy Seabee battalions at Chu Lia where they established a forward operating base and construction of an airfield was stated.

On August 18, 1965, these U. S. Marines launched Operation Starlite, the first major U. S. led ground offensive operation in Vietnam. It involved a regimental sized operation with 5,500 Marines of the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, 1st and 3rd Battalions 7th Marines, and the 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines and was supported by Naval Gunfire from the USS Galveston and the USS Cabildo.

It was intended to push back the Vietcong from the newly established base at Chu Lia and protect its vital airfield and communications towers. The US suffered 51 killed and 203 wounded and the Vietcong suffered 614 killed. To the Americans the battle was considered a great success for U. S. Forces as they had engaged a Main Force Vietcong unit and came out victorious. Two Marines, Corporal Robert E. O'Malley (3/3) and Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul (2/4) received the Medal of Honor for their actions during the operation.

Lessons learned were that a 2 gallons water allocation per man was insufficient in the heat of Vietnam and that the M14 rifle as too bulky for troops cramped into small personnel carriers and helicopters. This lead directly to beginning to equip U. S. troops with the M16 rifle which was used throughout the remainder of the war.



## Legislation Approves ID Cards For All Veterans

On Tuesday, 7 July, Congress approved plans to offer new veteran ID cards to honorably discharged service members, in an effort to more easily prove their military service.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., would create official VA cards for all veterans, instead of only those who qualify for certain health care and financial benefits. The cards would not replace medical IDs or official defense retiree IDs for veterans, and could not be used as proof of eligibility for obtaining federal benefits.

But they would serve as easy proof of military service for many veterans who complain they have to carry around copies of their discharge paperwork to get discounts or services at a host of private businesses.

"This legislation will assist veterans in proving that they are indeed veterans," said Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif. "The majority of service members leave before retirement ... and are sometimes challenged to provide proof of their honorable service. This is a simple way to resolve this issue."

Veterans requesting the IDs would have to pay a small fee to cover the cost of the program. The fee is yet to be determined by Veterans Affairs officials.

President Obama signed the legislation July 20<sup>th</sup>. No time frame has been established for when the first ID cards might be issued.

