Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

Chattanooga's Armed Forces Day Parade and Luncheon

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.

Last year's awardees were:
1st Place – Central High School JROTC First for Freedom Battalion.
2nd Place – Red Bank High School JROTC Lion Battalion.
3rd Place - Hixson High School AFJROTC TN-081 Squadron.

Photo courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press

Photo courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press

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.

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. To purchase a table use the form on page 8 of this newsletter. For more information contact Noah Long at noah@long.net.

Tolling the Boats Ceremony

The Chattanooga submarine veterans, USS *Carbonero* Base, will conduct a *Tolling the Boats* Ceremony on Saturday, 9 April, at 1100. The ceremony will take place at the *Big Table* restaurant, 118 Cross Street, Chattanooga, TN.

This is a solemn ceremony conducted to remember those men who gave their lives in the service to our nation in the submarine force.

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:

Knights of Columbus Assembly 1084

Welcome Home of Chattanooga

"shelter, healing and compassionate end of life care for those who are in need"

Welcome Home provides:
A comfortable, well maintained 3-4 bedroom home
Support through trained staff and volunteers
Partnerships with local hospices who provide professional care
A place of support and community for those in need
Assistance with applying for appropriate benefits for residents
Education for students and the community regarding the discussion and care around death and dying

We do this by:
Working with local hospices to provide in home medical care and support
Investing in and benefiting from partnerships, friendships and guidance from local groups, agencies, churches and synagogues, neighbors, universities and hospitals. Together we build relationships with residents and one another to impact and improve end-of-life care in Chattanooga.
Requesting that residents pay on a sliding scale for room and board. Funding is also provided by fundraising, donations and grants, as well as in-kind, for-impact gifts.
Ensuring that we are good neighbors and a benefit to the neighborhood and community around us, as well as good stewards of our resources.

Who we are:
Welcome Home of Chattanooga began with six friends of diverse backgrounds gathering together in prayer and mindfulness, recognizing a need for a shelter to serve those who are seriously ill. With encouragement from the community, we were able to turn "we wish" into "we can!". Founding members include Sherry Campbell, Rachel Smith, Cassondra Smith, Christie Smith, Lauren Jones and Duane Wade.
Our current directors are Dr. Steve Coulter (Chairman), John Kerns (Vice-Chairman and Secretary), Sherry Campbell (Executive Director), Corinne Henderson (Treasurer), Jack Zollinger, Rachel Smith, Anita Brandenburg, Mary Ollie Newman and Matt McAdoo.
We are also very grateful for our friends, who provide wisdom and support. We acknowledge that the only way our city's first comfort home will be successful is for it to be ***for*** the community and ***by*** the community, including partnerships with friends, agencies, neighbors, churches. *All* are welcome and invited to the table.

For more information go to http://www.welcomehomeofchattanooga.org/

Military Retiree Appreciation Day, 2016

Military retirees from all branches of the US Armed Forces are welcome to attend any Retirees Appreciation Day event at any military installation.

Fort Campbell, KY, Located near Clarksville, TN Saturday, September 17, 2016

Redstone Arsenal, AL, Located near Huntsville, AL, Thursday, September 22 thru Saturday, September 24, 2016

SEATED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

University of Tennessee Chattanooga Student Veterans Organization will host the inaugural Seated Volleyball Tournament at Maclellan Gym on the UTC campus, 23 April 2016.

The double elimination seated volleyball tournament benefits R.O.V.E.R who provides job training assistance and recreational therapy opportunities for veterans in our regional area. Deadline is April 10, 2016 Come out and meet and compete against the US Special Operations Command Warrior Games Seated Volleyball Team.

Admission is $5. Entry fees for teams is $100 for corporate teams, $75 for collegiate teams, and $25 for high/middle school teams. The funds raised go to helping provide recreational therapy events for veterans locally.
For more information and to sign up go to www.rover.vet.

Chattanooga Heroes 5 mile Run/Walk

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

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

Sponsored by Erlanger Hospital

CAVC Calendar of Events

03 Apr	AL Post 257 Flea Market – Collegedale
09 Apr	Tolling the Boats Ceremony
23 Apr	MOH Heritage Center Fundraiser
23 Apr	Seated Volleyball Tournament
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.
18 June	Veteran's Expo – McMinn County
4 Jul	Independence Day
16 Jul	Chattanooga Heroes 5 mile Walk/Run

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
PO Box 24984, Chattanooga, TN 37422

Check out our website at www.chattareaveterans.com

Mickey McCamish, Chairman	423-394-0024
Alan Syler, Chairman-Elect	423-855-6876
Chris Dooley, Vice-Chairman	702-701-2858
Billy Hewitt, Immed. Past Chair.	423-894-3568
Mark Parks, Treasurer	423-326-0839
Carol Laing, Secretary	423-309-1457

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

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,500 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service bring a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Together with Headquarters ESGR staff and a small cadre of support staff for each State Committee, volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR has served our country for more than 40 years, fostering a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. These citizen warriors could not defend and protect us at home and abroad without the continued promise of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families. ESGR has continued to adapt to meet the needs of Reserve Component members, their families and America's employers by joining forces with a network of other national, state and local government and professional trade organizations as together, We All Serve!

Mission Statement

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense office that develops and promotes supportive work environments for Service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws, and resolves employment conflicts between the Service members and their employers.

For more information visit http://www.esgr.mil/

ESGR
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

VIETNAM VETERANS HONORING THEIR SERVICE, SACRIFICE, AND VALOR

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN VIETNAM – MARCH, 1966

The Marine Commander, GEN Jonas Platt, upon receiving reliable evidence of a North Vietnamese Army ("NVN ") buildup south of Chu Lia ordered a coordinated attack. This was to be a joint operation with one battalion of Marines and one battalion of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam ("ARVN"). The 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines were ordered to prepare for an assault on the area that was predominantly open rice patties with 2 large hills that dominated the terrain.

On the morning of March 4th the objective was strafed and bombed but when the marine helicopters starting bringing in troops, they were met with heavy ground fire. Enemy positions were well dug in on the hills and little progress was made on the first day. With heavy contact and loss of personnel, GEN Platt offered in another artillery battery and the 3rd Battalion 1st Marines and another battalion on standby. The Assault was then named OPERATION UTAH. The hills proved to be riddled with concealed machine gun emplacements, "spider holes" and connected tunnels. At the end of the second day the third battalion was ordered into the battle. On March 6th one of the hills was taken. On the third night the NVA pulled out and retreated from the region. Operation UTAH was considered a success since the NVA was routed from the area but not without heavy casualties on both sides. The three battalions of Marines sustained 98 KIA's and 278 wounded, the ARVN had 30 KIA's and 120 wounded and the estimated NVA casualties were approximately 600.

On March 10th the NVA massed troops and overran the Special Forces camp A-120 in the A Shaw Valley. The end of the month saw major action in the Mekong Delta. A combined Navy, Marine, and South Vietnamese Army task force was launched March 26th. It made amphibious assaults along the Long Tran shipping channels leading to Saigon. Viet Cong had been firing from the shorelines on shipping coming up the river. It was critical to keep the shipping lanes clear for resupply of armed forces and trade commerce.

March also saw the first major protests by peace groups in the United States against the war and the draft. At the end of 1965 as a part of the ordered troop buildup, the 25th Infantry, known as the "Tropic Lightning", the Hawaii based Division, reinforced by two regiments of Alaska National Guard, were ordered to deploy to Vietnam. This Division was the only one in the Army that had extensive training in jungle warfare and specialized in oriental languages. Its mission was to set up to defend the northern and western approaches to Saigon.

The Division fought its way into Cu Chi northwest of Saigon with the intent that it was to be their headquarters. To the enemy Cu Chi was their Bunker Hill and Valley Forge rolled into one. It was the seat of much of the fighting in the southwest part of the country. It had over 240 square miles of tunnel networks beneath it. It is now a "holy place" and a National Historical Landmark. This fight came to be known as the Battle of Cu Chi and involved 11 major regimental sized engagements. It is an understatement to say the enemy did not give up this territory easily. The Division was awarded the Valorous Unit Citation for this battle. To construct the facilities almost all materials and equipment had to be flown in by transport helicopters. It was a difficult time, under almost constant attack, getting the Division headquarters defensible and operational. Its regiments began serious offensive operations in March.

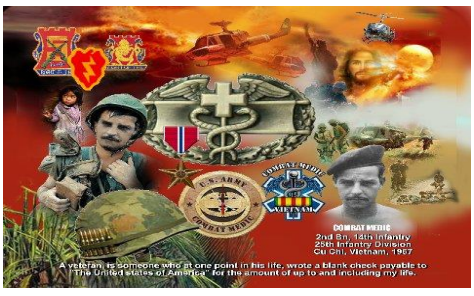
For actions in March, 1966 four men were awarded the Medal of Honor one of them posthumously. Second LT Robert John Hobbs, USA, from Des Moines, Iowa was serving in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, was killed on March 5th while leading an ambush patrol. His patrol disrupted a major attack on his battalion and he was killed by enemy fire when he stayed behind to provide covering fire for his retreating men.

On March 10th Major Bernard Francis, USAF, from Kuna, Idaho was serving in the 1st Air Commando Squadron observed that a fellow pilot had crash landed on a small strip adjacent to Special Forces Camp A-120 in the A Shau Valley. Although the camp and airstrip were under a heavy ground attack he landed his plane and rescued the downed pilot thereby saving his life.

Specialist Fourth Class Alfred V. Racon, USA, from Chiluahua, Mexico, on March 16 was serving as a medic in the Recon Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, of the 173rd Airborne Brigade saved numerous wounded often placing his body between the wounded and the enemy fire. He was wounded numerous times by grenade fragments and a rifle wound in the leg. He refused aid until all wounded men were taken care of and loaded onto medivac helicopters. Another medic, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Robert R. Ingram, USN, from Clearwater, Florida was serving with the 1st Battalion 7th Marines in Quanq Ngai Province. He was assigned to the point platoon of a patrol when they came under fire from a superior force of North Vietnamese regulars. He rescued and treated numerous Marines while continually exposing himself to enemy fire and being wounded himself in a conspicuous display of gallantry.

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: ephemealtreasures.net/operationutah
- Web Site: 1-5th-m-25th-inf-1966.com



SpiritHorses FOR VETERANS
3rd Annual
VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2016
1–5 PM AT EAGLES REST RANCH
Outdoor Fun and Food!
All military members and their families are invited!
» Horseback Riding in the Arena
» Hayrides and Walking Trails
» Fishing (bring your own gear)
» Kayaks & Canoes (Special thanks to Chattanooga Parks and Rec)
» Or just "chill out" (feel free to bring your own folding chair)
2 PM Equine Assisted Philosophy
demonstration offered for those interested
4 PM "Missing Man" Ceremony
by Rolling Thunder TN2 | "Soaring With Eagles" Pavilion
Donated and Built by Home Depot
Please RSVP the number in your party – so we can have plenty of food!
PLEASE RSVP FOR DIRECTIONS
Ginger Brown 423-421-3205
or email ginger@eaglesrestranch.com

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!

Armed Forces Day Celebration

Sponsored by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
P.O. Box 24984, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

2016 ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION

The celebration each year honors one of our five services. 2016 will honor the **United States Marine Corps.** We are most excited that our invitation to the **Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Neller**, **USMC,** has been accepted and he will be the **Parade Reviewing Officer and Luncheon Speaker.** Don't miss this opportunity to salute our local Marines and show our support for all the men and women who serve to protect our nation and freedoms.

Luncheon Information:
Time: 12 Noon
Date: Friday, 6 May 2016
Place: Chattanooga Convention Center
1150 Carter Street
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Attire:
Army……..……Class A
Navy……...Summer White
Coast Guard…….Tropical Blue
Marine Corps.....Service Charlie
Air Force……Service
Civilian……..……..Business Attire

*****Detach and return bottom portion with your check****

2016 ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Reservation Organization Name _____

Contact Person:_____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____Email: _____

#Tables (seats 7) Qty: _____ @ $200.00 each = $_____

 # Of People Who Will Actually Attend _____ **Donation Only_____**

Return Completed Form with Your Check Payable to: C.A.V.C. – AFD Lunch
P.O. Box 24984
Chattanooga, TN 37422

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

Unshakeable Foundation ∞ Unstoppable Force

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:
TriState Women Veterans
Georgia Alabama Tennessee
Unit # 157
Military Women Across the Nation