



# Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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



**THE U. S. NAVY BALL  
HOSTED BY  
NAVY LEAGUE UNITED STATES  
GREATER CHATTANOOGA COUNCIL**

**LCDR TIM WHITE, COMMANDING OFFICER –NAVY  
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER-CHATTANOOGA,  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Navy League of the United States-Greater Chattanooga is proud to serve as the host of the U. S. Navy's 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday Ball in the Chattanooga Area. The Ball will be held at the Marriott Chattanooga Downtown (2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402) on Saturday, October 8, 2016, 6:00 pm.

For the past twelve years, a Chattanooga U. S. Navy Birthday Ball has been held to show appreciation to our Navy heritage and to display pride and professionalism in our Navy service. The dinner attire is optional consisting of U. S. Navy Service Dress Blues, coat and tie for men and evening gowns for ladies. Dinner tickets are \$45 per person for U. S. Navy Officers and Civilians, U. S. Navy Petty Officers (E 7-E9)/Sea Cadet Leadership and Parents \$35 per person and U. S. Navy E1-E6 \$25 per person. Donations and sponsoring a table of eight are welcomed. Please join us as we celebrate 241 years of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

The reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter.

## DAR Searching for Vietnam War Veterans

The Daughters of the American Revolution want Vietnam War veterans to know their service is appreciated. In order to do so, they have become part of a U.S. Department of Defense initiative to find living veterans to thank them for a service for which many were never recognized.

The Department of Defense's Commemorative Partner Program, which began in 2008 with a presidential proclamation, honors vets who served between 1955 and the Fall of Saigon in 1975 with commemorative pins, a letter of thanks and more. The goal is to reach as many veterans as possible before 2025, the 50th anniversary of the end of the American presence in the country in 1975. "Because it was such a contentious war... there is an ongoing national effort to recognize, honor and pin the vets for their sacrifices," said Susan Harris, Chickamauga Chapter of the DAR's 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Committee chairwoman.

In order to reach out to more vets locally, Harris will have a booth set up at the American Legion Post 257 Flea Market in Collegedale Sept. 11. Commemorative pins will be handed out until the day's supply ends, she said. "They came home and were not welcomed. They were spit upon," Harris said. "There was no welcome, no thanks, no fanfare for their service, so many of them never spoke about it again.... We need to reach them. "While we can never rewind history or go back and say 'thanks' or change the way they were treated, this is a small but significant gesture to go toward healing this bad feeling and bad will that was perpetrated from this time period."



For more on the commemorative pins and honoring Vietnam vets, contact Harris at donchatt@comcast.net. Anyone who is a veteran but cannot attend the Flea Market can also receive a pin from the DAR at a later time.

Article courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press

## Chattanooga VA Celebrates New Clinic Opening

The Chattanooga VA will celebrate the opening of its new Point Centre VA Outpatient Clinic with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and open house starting at 2:30 p.m. Monday, September 26. The new facility is located at 1208 Pointe Centre Drive, Chattanooga, in the same building as University of Phoenix, just off East Brainerd Road up the hill from the Social Security Administration offices.



The 10,000-square-foot Clinic will house the entire Optometry Clinic and provide more room for an increase in Mental Health services, according to Chris Marcus, Chattanooga Outpatient Clinic Manager. The optical shop currently located in the main clinic will move in its entirety to the new location creating a "one-stop shopping" experience for our veterans, Marcus said. There will be one optometrist on duty at opening with another added later. There is no ophthalmology service available at this time. The Mental Health Clinic will operate out of both facilities, Marcus said, but the increased space will allow the clinic to double its Mental Health Clinic staff from approximately 25 to 50 employees. The Pointe Centre location allows space for two group meeting rooms. Group sessions have been very limited at the Main Clinic because of the lack of space, he said.

The new facility will operate during the same basic hours, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, and phone service changes should be invisible to callers. The main Chattanooga VA Clinic number is still (423) 893-6500 plus extensions. Marcus said some direct phone numbers will change for current staff who will move to the new location. However, during the first 90 days after the move, callers will be automatically forwarded to the staff members' new number. For 91-180 days after the move, callers will be given the new number and told to call it. Veterans can always call the operator line (423) 893-6500 and be directed to the correct extension.

There are NO Emergency and NO Primary Care services at the new facility, Marcus stressed. The VA does NOT HAVE Emergency service at any Chattanooga location. For primary care, tests and other routine services veterans should continue to visit the Main VA Clinic at 6098 Debra Road, Chattanooga, unless specifically directed to the new location for optometry or mental health treatment.

"It is a beautiful facility in a very nice location," Marcus said, adding there is plenty of parking and the entire Pointe Centre facility is on the bottom level of the building with no steps to maneuver.

## Ft Campbell holds Soldiers and Families Appreciation Week

Fort Campbell KY will hold a Soldiers and Families for Life Appreciation Week from 21-24 September 2016. On Friday, 23 September at 1600, there will be a ceremony for the Survivor Outreach Services "Boots on the Ground" display at the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) Headquarters at 1600. On 24 September there will be two events back-to-back: In the morning there will be a Veteran Benefits Fair from 0800-1200 that will include an opening ceremony with SMA (Ret) Kenneth Preston as guest speaker. This event will include information and seminars on Veteran benefits and also a Health Fair for Veterans (Sponsored by the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. VA ID Card or DD Form 214 with a characterization of service of other than dishonorable required for Health Fair).

Retiree Appreciation will be held Saturday, September 24, 2016, in the afternoon from 1230-1700. Retiree Appreciation will include information on benefits and a Health Fair sponsored by BACH. There will also be several areas to visit using buses including rappelling demonstrations at the Air Assault School, Engagement Skills Trainer, Pratt Museum, Unit Memorials and the 101 CAB Dining Facility for Brunch from 1030-1300. Tell a friend and come out as Fort Campbell honors Veterans, Families and Retirees.

Military Retiree from all Branches of the US Armed Forces are welcome to attend any Retirees Appreciation Day, at any Military Installation. Fort Campbell, KY, Located near Clarksville, TN Saturday, September 24, 2016. Redstone Arsenal, AL, Located near Huntsville, AL, Thursday, September 22 thru Saturday, September 24, 2016.

For more information you may email [usarmy.campbell.imcom-atlantic.mbx.dhr-mpsd-retire@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.campbell.imcom-atlantic.mbx.dhr-mpsd-retire@mail.mil) Theodore W. Faulkner, Chief, Transition Center/Retirement Services Officer, Fort Campbell, KY, 270-798-5280.

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council  
PO Box 24984, Chattanooga, TN 37422  
Check out our website: [www.chattareaveterans.com](http://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.

## Insight: Ridesharing Requires Coverage

Ridesharing companies such as Uber® and Lyft® are working to build up their ranks, and one of their strongest recruiting efforts is aimed at military members. The rapid rise in popularity of these services in big cities is creating many job opportunities as drivers. If you're thinking about signing up to join the "sharing economy," we suggest you make sure you and your car have appropriate insurance coverage.

Ridesharing companies, more formally known as "transportation network companies" (TNC), use online links or smartphone apps to connect passengers with drivers who use their personal vehicles as alternative taxicabs.

Uber has been particularly ambitious in targeting current uniformed personnel, veterans and their spouses. Last year, it launched an initiative called UberMilitary that aims to employ 50,000 members of the military community by early 2016. The company reported in mid-February that it had hired 10,000.

The sales pitch by Uber is that, by attaching themselves to the company, military members become self-employed transportation entrepreneurs with the flexibility to work full time or part time. In appealing to spouses, the company makes a valid point that frequent household moves — an integral part of military life — make it difficult to have a traditional job.

### There are insurance considerations to keep in mind.

Ridesharing drivers are typically covered by their personal auto insurance prior to activating the TNC's mobile app and then by a commercial insurance policy when they are matched with a passenger. Between those events — after turning on the mobile app but before connecting with a passenger — they may face an insurance coverage gap.

Colorado was the first state requiring TNCs to provide primary coverage to drivers in the "unmatched" phase if coverage is not available through another source. That state's law sets minimum coverage limits, which may not be sufficient to adequately protect a TNC driver in the event of a claim.

If you're a USAA-insured driver thinking about working for a TNC, you should know you are not covered by your personal auto policy during the unmatched phase of the ride-sharing process.

USAA now offers this gap coverage for drivers in certain states. USAA members interested in obtaining ridesharing coverage can learn more by calling 1-800-531-8722.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change.

Article courtesy of USAA

## TRICARE'S Nurse Advice Line

Do you know that more than half of all adults 65 and older have three or more chronic medical problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or arthritis? Older adults can have multiple health problems and not know whether they need to see a doctor or can administer self-care. Have you considered TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line (NAL)?

If you are suffering from a rash, a sinus infection, or perhaps you just have a common cold; there is help! When you call the NAL, a registered nurse will help you assess if you can handle your health concern with self-care or if you need to see a medical professional.

The NAL is a great medical assessment tool that provides access to care, especially after hours and when traveling, which is great for retirees on the move. When you don't know what kind of care you need, the NAL helps you access the right type of care at the right time. The NAL can also help you find a doctor and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics when available.

The NAL is an easy option for beneficiaries to get information on their medical problems quickly and at any time. To access the NAL dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select option 1. Get more information about the Nurse Advice Line on the TRICARE [website](#).

The Nurse Advice Line is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the U.S., except those enrolled in US Family Health Plan. Beneficiaries who live overseas can call the Nurse Advice Line for health care advice while traveling in the U.S., but must coordinate care with their [Overseas Regional Call Center](#).

You can call the Nurse Advice Line 24/7, at no cost to you, to talk to a registered nurse who can:

- Answer your [urgent care](#) questions
- Give you health care advice
- Help you find a doctor
- Schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics

Do you have a sick child?

- You can talk to nurses with specialized pediatric training.
- We can call you back after a few hours to check on your child.
- If you still need an appointment, we can help.

Do you have other health insurance in addition to Tricare?

You can call us for help. But if you need to see a doctor, remember:

- You must follow the rules of your other health insurance plan first.
- Your other health insurance is the primary payer.
- If we help you find a doctor make sure they're in your other plan's network or your care may not be covered.

You can call the Nurse Advice Line 24/7, at no cost to you, to talk to a registered nurse who can answer your urgent care questions, help you find a doctor, schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics and more.

## Veteran Treatment Courts

David Pelletier with Justice For Vets wants local veterans to know about an upcoming training opportunity for the **Volunteer Veteran Mentors** that work alongside the Veterans Treatment Courts throughout the state of Tennessee. Through their partnership with [Got Your 6, Justice For Vets](#) is fortunate to be able to provide a **Veteran Mentor Boot Camp** training at no cost to the state. In coordinating with the [Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services](#) they have secured the Tennessee National Guard Armory in **Smryna, TN** **September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** for this training.

This location was selected to provide a central point for the numerous programs within the state, as well as address the logistical and financial concerns of travel, lodging and meals. While those veteran mentors that attend are free to make their own arrangements, the National Guard facility has been generous in offering free onsite lodging and access to the dining facility for meals (Breakfast \$4, Lunch \$6 and Dinner \$8). The lodging will be in the local barracks and in an open squad bay style. During your registration you will be asked if you would like to take advantage of this option. Should you choose to do so more information will follow.

Registration is now open at <https://goo.gl/mVuUFx> and will close at **1700 September 14th**. Any questions can be directed to either Liz Ledbetter, TN Recovery Court Administrator at [Liz.Ledbetter@tn.gov](mailto:Liz.Ledbetter@tn.gov) or David Pelletier, Justice For Vets Project Director at [DPelletier@JusticeForVets.org](mailto:DPelletier@JusticeForVets.org).

David L. Pelletier, J.D., USMC Veteran, Project Director – Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative Office: [571.384.1870](tel:571.384.1870), Cell: [202.630.8762](tel:202.630.8762)  
E-mail: [dpelletier@justiceforvets.org](mailto:dpelletier@justiceforvets.org)  
[JusticeForVets.org](http://JusticeForVets.org)

NADCP is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to educating and offering technical assistance to Drug Court, DWI Court, and Veterans Treatment Court professionals. NADCP does not certify, accredit, investigate, supervise, or have any other authority over any Drug Court. **NADCP does not and cannot offer legal advice**, and NADCP cannot guarantee the privacy of the information you provide. Accordingly, please do not send any confidential information.



## Segways for Vets

If you are a veteran with limited mobility here is an opportunity to be provided a free Segway which is now a government approved medical device.



**Segs4Vets**, a continuing program which began in 2005, is a grass-roots effort sustained and administered by volunteers in the United States that provide [Segway PT](#) vehicles to disabled United States military personnel. The program made its first presentation in September 2005 to three recipients who had sustained injuries in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For more information on Segs4Vets go to <http://www.draft.org/Home.aspx>

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council does not endorse or guarantee the legitimacy of the Segs4Vets organization or website. Veterans are encouraged to thoroughly research this organization before providing personal or sensitive information.

## ROVER Takes Vets Diving



R.O.V.E.R.

Regional **O**utreach **V**eterans **E**ngagement **R**esources took six wounded veterans and a dependent diving at the GA Aquarium. Their next dive will be September 14th. If you or a veteran you know might be interested in this activity, please email James Macrellis at [info@rover.vet](mailto:info@rover.vet). The individual does not have to be SCUBA certified. This is open to veterans of all ages, abilities, and service eras, the only qualification is they must be honorably discharged. [www.rover.vet](http://www.rover.vet)

## Suicide Prevention Month: #BeThere

### *VA Highlights Initiatives to Prevent Veteran and Servicemember Suicide*

September is [Suicide Prevention Month](#) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking for the entire nation's help in reducing Veteran suicide. VA is calling on community leaders, supervisors, colleagues, friends, and family members to [BeThere](#) for Veterans and Service members starting with a simple act, which can play a pivotal role in preventing suicide.

"You don't have to be a trained professional to support someone who may be going through a difficult time," said Dr. Caitlin Thompson, Director of the VA Office of Suicide Prevention. "We want to let people know that things they do every day, like calling an old friend or checking in with a neighbor, are strong preventive factors for suicide because they help people feel less alone. That's what this campaign is about - encouraging people to be there for each other."

The campaign also highlights VA resources that are available to support Veterans and Servicemembers who are coping with mental health challenges or are at risk for suicide, and it encourages everyone to share these resources with someone in their life. "We hope our Suicide Prevention Month efforts help educate people about the VA and community resources available nationwide," said VA Under Secretary for Health David J. Shulkin, M.D. "We're committed to working with experts and organizations across the country to identify ways we can help Veterans and Servicemembers get the care they deserve and to expand the network of mental health support."

[Veteran suicide data](#) released by the VA Office of Suicide Prevention in early August 2016 serves as a foundation for informing and evaluating suicide prevention efforts inside the VA health care system and for developing lifesaving collaborations with community-based health care partners.

VA plans to host a series of roundtable discussions with key stakeholder groups in the coming months as part of its plan to develop a public health strategy for preventing veteran suicide. In August, VA hosted its first roundtable discussion, "Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business," with corporate sector partners.

In September, VA will host the [Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Innovations](#) event, which will bring together a community of experts from business, industry, academia, and government agencies to collaboratively identify solutions for reducing suicide rates among Veterans and Servicemembers. In addition, new programs such as REACH VET are being launched nationwide in September to identify Veterans in VHA care who may be vulnerable, in order to provide the care they need before a crisis occurs.

### **For more information about VA's suicide prevention efforts:**

Suicide Prevention Month  
website: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere)

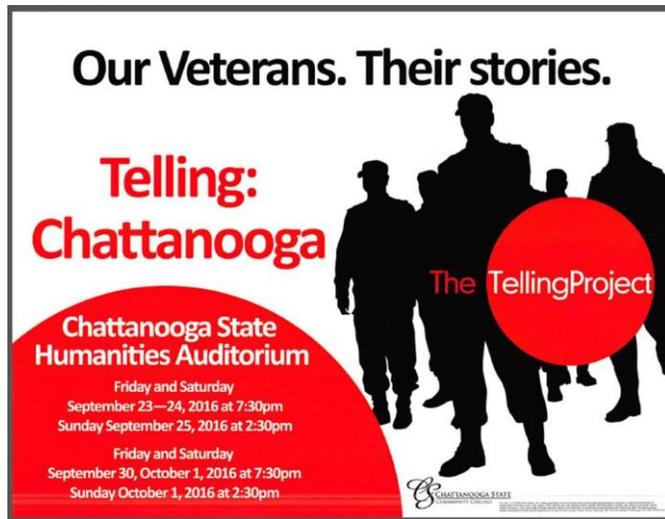
Suicide Prevention Month  
toolkit: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadTheWord](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadTheWord)  
[Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet](#)

VA's Veterans Crisis Line: Call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and Press 1; chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text to **838255** — even if a Veteran is not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

Make the Connection  
website: <http://maketheconnection.net>  
VA Mental Health  
website: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>



Redstone Arsenal, Military Retiree Appreciation Day, Retirees from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, are welcome and encouraged to attend. September 22-24, 2016, at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL. See the Redstone Arsenal Bulletin at [http://www.theredstonerocket.com/news/article\\_770d3332-5989-11e6-a33b-779dd64486d6.html](http://www.theredstonerocket.com/news/article_770d3332-5989-11e6-a33b-779dd64486d6.html)



## AAFES and Military Exchanges to Allow Veterans to Shop Online – Coming in 2017

The Defense Department's Executive Resale Board voted to recommend allowing online access to honorably-discharged military veterans. This is expected to be rolled out in late 2017, pending final approval.

This is a big change from the current system, which is only open to active duty, Guard / Reserve, retirees, family members, and a few select others. (Note: this only applies to the online stores, as it would be impossible to open military gates to 19 million veterans).

Win-win solution: This proposal, which looks like it will pass, is a win-win for everyone. Veterans gain access to savings on a variety of products, and military officials estimate this will generate upward of \$100 million for base Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs. Increased sales could also allow AAFES to negotiate discounts on larger, bulk orders of goods.

There is more information, including some FAQ's on the AAFES website:

<http://themilitarywallet.com/aafes-allow-veterans-shop-online/>

## VA Loan Eligibility for Members of the Guard and Reserve

Current or former members of the National Guard, Air National Guard, and Reserve are eligible to apply for a VA Loan if they meet one of the following:

- \* Served at least 90 consecutive days on active duty during wartime.
- \* Served at least 181 consecutive days on active duty during peacetime.
- \* Completed six years of in-service time with their Guard or Reserve Unit (These must be "Good Years" to qualify).

Note: These requirements are only to be eligible to apply for a VA loan; they do not guarantee your loan will be approved. You still must meet the financial requirements set by the lender.

There is more information here:

<http://themilitarywallet.com/va-loan-eligibility-national-guard-reserves/>

More information on current VA Loan rates and offers can be found here:

<http://themilitarywallet.com/va-loans/>

*The First Annual*  
**Women Veterans Arts Symposium**  
In Collaboration with Community Artists

*Charlotte Avenue West Police Precinct  
5500 Charlotte Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee*

*September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3:00 – 7:00 PM*

*Creative Art Displays, Exhibitions, Interactive  
Vignettes, Performance and Demonstrations*

*This is a free event open to the public.  
You are welcome to drop by throughout the symposium !*

*U.S. Navy 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday Ball  
Hosted By Navy League of the United States-Greater  
Chattanooga Council*

*Saturday, 8 October 2016  
Marriott Chattanooga Downtown  
2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402*

*Social Hour at 5pm  
Ceremony/Dinner at 6pm*

*Reservation:*

*E1 -E6 & Sea Cadets - \$25  
E7 -E9 & Sea Cadet Leadership/Parents - \$35  
Officers and Civilians - \$45*

*Reservation For: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_*

*RSVP by 30 September 2016*

*Make Payment Payable To: NLUS-Greater Chattanooga  
Mail Payment/Reservation to: Mark Parks  
6920 Sawtooth Drive  
Ooltewah, TN 37363-6894*