



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

Celebrating the Spirit of '45 and the Greatest Generation

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, in partnership with Chattanooga National Cemetery, conducted a ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII on Friday, 14 August to honor the Greatest Generation. The ceremony recognized 18 World War II Veterans who were able to attend including Medal of Honor recipient TSGT Charles Coolidge. These men served in all of the different services and in all the different theaters. They were submarine sailors, bomber crew members, Marines and Army infantry and Merchant Mariners. The Spirit of '45 celebration also honored the Home Front members of the Greatest Generation.

The Greatest Generation is defined as those who lived through the Great Depression and fought WWII, both as service members and workers supporting the war effort. They were born between 1901 and 1924. Those born between 1901 and 1918 were the backbone of the industrial effort to produce war material and those born between 1918 and 1924 were the bulk of the service members, male and female, who fought the war.



WWII vets and other attendees listen to Adm. Long's remarks. Photo courtesy of WRCB-TV.



Roses are placed at each of the monuments in the Circle of Honor at Chattanooga National Cemetery. Photo courtesy of WRCB-TV.

As Roy Exum said in his column in the Chattanooga, "The war was won as much by machine shops as by machine guns." The industrial production by the United States was phenomenal. For example, in the time of the 1365 days that the war lasted, we produced:

4,500 ships, 82,000 landing craft, and 124,000 other types of boats, 41,000 artillery pieces and 61,000 tanks, 809,000 Duce and half (2 ½ ton) trucks and 2,400,000 other vehicles, 12,500,000 rifles and 41 billion rounds of ammunition.

The United States field 16,350,000 service members – men and women. Of these 407,316 were killed in action. 671,816 were wounded in action and 130,000 were POW's. Our casualty rate was 2.5%. This contrasted with Germany having a 30.4% casualty rate, Japan had 25% and Italy had 8.5%. Our then ally Russia had 13.5% casualty rate of its 34,000,000 service members but in addition they had 24 million civilians killed.

As Tom Brokaw wrote in book, *The Greatest Generation*, the whole "generation had a rendezvous with destiny" and lived up to it in every way. They had common traits. They were a generation of independent, self-reliant, patriotic individuals who made no demands on either their peers or those that followed. They were modest, never boasting, but were a generation of towering achievement. They witnessed the unspeakable savagery of that war and that of the Axis Powers that we fought. They put all their mind and body toward defeating that savagery. They are truly worthy of emulation.

“Chattanooga Unite” Event Offers Closure to Tragedy

Actor and former Chattanooga resident Samuel L. Jackson will serve as emcee for a special concert/parade/memorial fundraiser for the families of the servicemen killed and police officer wounded on July 16 in Chattanooga.

The free special event will take place Sept. 16 at Ross's Landing and feature a concert by country singer Brantley Gilbert and other special guests. Also planned is a parade beginning at 2 p.m. from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Ross's Landing.



Photo courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press.

Events at Ross's Landing will start around 3:15 p.m.

Several dignitaries, including Mayor Andy Berke, officials with the Marine Corps and the Navy, will speak, and a choir will perform. A fireworks show will conclude the day around dark.

The proceedings will take place on the Coca-Cola Stage used during the Riverbend Festival. It will make its way from its storage place at Hales Bar just for the event. Three big screens also will be set up. Everything from lighting, sound and staging to talent and labor is being donated, according to Friends of the Festival Executive Director Chip Baker.

"This will be a very large event all done for free," he said.

Baker said talks are underway with several artists about performing, but no details have been finalized.

While there is no charge to enter, the event will be gated, and there will be a "passing of the hat" to raise funds for the National Compassion Fund, which supports victims of mass crimes such as shootings or terrorist attacks.

Contact staff writer Barry Courter at bcourter@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6354.

REMEMBERING WWII: LIVING HISTORY, EDUCATION & HONOR!

Come to Linden, Tennessee on Saturday, 26 September 2015 for an unforgettable day of honoring our heroes, connecting personally with the past, and experiencing a taste of life in the 1940's. For more information check out the event website: <http://rememberingwwii.com/>



TWO WWII BATTLE REENACTMENTS

WALK THROUGH AN AUTHENTIC ARMY ENCAMPMENT

ENJOY MUSIC OF THE ERA FROM THE SWINGING MERCHANTS OF COOL BIG BAND & OTHERS

GRAB A COKE FLOAT AT A NOSTALGIC RECREATION OF A 1940 CANTEEN

VINTAGE VEHICLES ON DISPLAY

WWII ERA SWAP MEET

ANTIQUÉ VENDORS

FREE ADMISSION!

The University of Tennessee Athletic Department is offering tickets to veterans and their families for the season opening game against Bowling Green that will be played in Nashville at Nissan Stadium (home of the Titans) this Saturday, September 5, 2015. Game time is 3:00 pm CT. Contact Mickey McCamish at mmccamish@epilepsy-setn.org to request your tickets. The Athletic Department will leave tickets at Will Call.

Labor Day at the Post Fort Oglethorpe, GA

September 7 - Labor Day at the Post
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bring the family for a day of fun, food and more on the Polo Field. Entertainment featuring James Rogers as well as music from Aimee Garner, New Grass Express, Howdyjoegetm, and Johnson Carpenter. Also enjoy kids activities and over 50 vendors with handmade arts and crafts. Get updated on activities and vendors at

www.facebook.com/pages/Back-from-the-Past-6th-Cavalry-Museum-Labor-Day-at-the-Post.

Entertainment Schedule:

- 11:00 a.m. - Gospel artist **Aimee Garner**
- 12:00 p.m. - Bluegrass/gospel group **New Grass Express**
- 1:00 p.m. - Blues/rock/folk group **Howdyjoegetm**
- 2:00 p.m. - Country/Southern rock group **Johnson Carpenter**
- 3:00 p.m. - **James Rogers**

U.S. Navy 240th Birthday Ball

Saturday, 3 October 2015
Chattanooga Hotel
1201 Broad St
Chattanooga TN

Social Hour at 5pm
Ceremony/Dinner at 6pm



Tickets:

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

RSVP for tickets by 20 September 2015

Make checks payable to: NOSC Chatt Navy Ball Committee and mail your payment / registration to: 6511 Bonny Oaks Dr., Chattanooga TN 37416

POC is Kateisha Lamb. You can contact her at klamb757@hotmail.com or call 423-902-5809.

Labor Day at the Post
September 7, 2015
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Polo Field in Fort Oglethorpe

Sponsored by the 6th Cavalry Museum

Entertainment by James Rogers at 3 p.m.

Also Performing:
Aimee Garner
New Grass Express
Howdyjoegetm
Johnson Carpenter

Kids Play Zone and Activities

50+ Handmade Arts & Crafts Vendors

Great BBQ, food & fun for the entire family!

Find us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/backfromthepast6thcavalrymuseum). Back from the Past 6th Cavalry Museum Labor Day at the Post

706-861-2860 www.6thcavalrymuseum.org

CAVC Executive Board

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Billy Hewitt, Chairman | 423-894-3568 |
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Get Veterans Involved Looking for Volunteers

Get Veterans Involved, Inc. was founded in January, 2014 by honorably discharged veterans, many of whom served more than 20 years in one of the military services of the United States. We each have a strong desire to help our returning veterans of the Iraq Afghanistan wars. At the same time, we realize that too many of our children lack sufficient positive role models in their lives. Our mission involves a dual-role mentorship program. We solicit, train, vet, and employ qualified military veterans in schools to support teachers as mentors, and additional positive role models for the children. There is ample documentation to indicate that children who have one or more positive role models are likely to progress toward higher education and success. Some veterans have returned from over 10 years of repeated combat deployments, and when discharged, feel they have lost purpose and don't have a mission to perform. Mentoring children has proven effective to help them realize that they do indeed have a purpose.

GVI mentors participate in the same classroom one hour, one day per week for the entire school year. During the 2014-2015 school year, our mentors worked in 14 classrooms at 5 elementary schools mentoring some 270 children. There were two other schools who had requested mentors but our limited manpower couldn't fill those slots.

Over the course of a full school year, we intend to impress on children that the freedoms they enjoy are not free, and introduce them to some of the <1% of our population who provide those freedoms. By our actions and commitment, we will demonstrate patriotism, honor, values, and faith. In addition to mentoring students, we are keenly aware that school security is a constant concern. With more 'eyes' around a campus we can help identify suspicious situations more quickly.

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

- Make *mentorship and character development* a mission for returning veterans and help them realize that their service is appreciated.
- Impress on our school children that the *freedoms* they enjoy *are not free*, and introduce them to the <1% of our population who provide those freedoms.
- *Teach* children "*Everyday Stuff*" to increase interest and practical reasoning.
- Show veterans that they still have a lot to offer and help them succeed as they transition into civilian lives.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION, WE NEED.....

MANPOWER

At this time, we have more requests for classroom mentors than we have manpower. GVI classroom mentors must be honorably discharged US military veterans or currently serving military personnel recommended by their commanding officer. GVI will walk mentor candidates through the application and vetting process, and will provide the training necessary to participate in the mentorship program.

VOLUNTEERS & CONSULTANTS

A diverse staff of dedicated and talented individuals is necessary to support the "Field Troops" (classroom mentors). GVI, has the typical organizational staffing needs for day-to-day operations of any non-profit corporation.

We maintain a roster of "on-call" consultants - people with widely varying skills, jobs, backgrounds, knowledge, and talents. Volunteers, consultants, and 'subject matter experts' need not be veterans in order to participate and support our work. To expand discussion and understanding of specific subject matter, a classroom mentor can search our "consultant database" to find someone with a related job or skill. This individual would visit the class as a guest speaker and discuss 'real world' work in their specific job or skill area.

FUNDING

Veterans have access to several programs that pay for approved training and schooling. Those funds are not available directly to the veteran, and aren't designed to be used for daily living expenses. GVI hopes to provide our mentors with some degree of 'supplemental funding' while they concurrently pursue career education and training opportunities. The Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga has provided some grant funding to support placement of fully qualified mentors in selected classrooms.

Our first year's operation has been supported by direct funding contributions from our directors.

GVI, Inc. is a non-profit corporation operated primarily for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; IRS approved September 8, 2014. Donations to support the mission are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

PLEASE VISIT THE GVI WEBSITE AT:

getvetsinvolved.org

DFAS Email Scam ► SmartDoc Lookalike

Email scams are targeting military servicemembers, retirees, and their families by posing as the Defense and Finance Accounting Service (DFAS). The most recent scam looks like a "SmartDoc" email with the subject line "myPay IMPORTANT SECURITY UPDATE," and appears to come from a DFAS-SmartDocs email address. The links provided in the emails direct the user to a malicious website that requests personal information. An example of a recent email reads:

Dear Account Holder,

It has come to our attention that your myPay account information needs to be updated as part of our continued commitment to protect your account and to reduce the instance of fraud on our website. If you could please take 3 minutes out of your online experience and update your personal records you will not run into any future problems with the online service.

However, failure to update your records will result in account suspension.

Once you have updated your account records, your Online sessions will not be interrupted and will continue as normal. To update your myPay records click on the Update button.

*Thank you,
myPay Customer Center*

DFAS provided the following statement regarding this scam: "Valid SmartDocs messages from DFAS are always sent in plain text, do not include attachments and do not ask you to send any information in response. Your email program may automatically convert a valid SmartDocs message into HTML and convert some text into clickable links. We recommend that you do NOT click on any links within any email message. To access a site referenced in an email, open your browser and type the link (URL) directly into the browser.

Don't get fooled. If you receive a SmartDocs message that contains a link, don't click on it. If a URL is listed in the message type it in manually within your browser. Delete unexpected or unsolicited messages that contain attachments or that request you to send information back." Online scams and cyber-attacks are increasing daily. MOAA members should be on alert for emails like this. Links that ask users to go to a website and submit personal information should always be taken as suspect. When asked to follow a link, follow the advice provided by DFAS, and enter the URL manually into the browser for verification. While it may seem cumbersome to constantly be on guard about these issues, taking a few basic steps can protect yourself and your family from scam artists. You can read the DFAS online protection guidelines at the following link:

<http://www.dfas.mil/pressroom/onlineprotection.html>. [Source: MOAA Leg Up | August 28, 2015 ++]

VFW Membership ► Auxiliary Opens to Male Spouses

The Ladies Auxiliary for the Veterans of Foreign Wars is now accepting men. Membership in the 101-year-old organization, founded to aid the venerable veterans service organization in its community outreach efforts, had been restricted to wives and female relatives of veterans, a policy that has sparked criticism in recent years from some who saw it as an anachronism from the days before large numbers women served in the armed forces. But VFW members voted at their annual convention in July to drop "Ladies" from the auxiliary name and open the organization to male relatives. The group already boasts about 465,000 members, and expects to grow significantly with the change.

"Gender equity is the real issue here," said VFW National Commander John Biedrzycki Jr. "Right now, nearly 20 percent of those serving are women. We know their family and spouses want to be more involved, so our members overwhelmingly approved this move." Several local and state chapters had already authorized "Men Auxiliaries" in recent years, and other traditional veterans organizations have founded "Sons of" and related subgroups in response to member requests. But women veterans have long complained that they are assumed to be spouses or daughters of male service members when they attend events with older members, a significant slight as they lobby for better support services from the government and outside groups. "The time has come for this change," Biedrzycki said. "And this is going to mean more hands, more capacity for the work the auxiliary is already doing."

Auxiliary program director Cara Day said the change in membership policy will not mean a corresponding update in the group's goals and mission. "We're still here to assist the VFW," Day said. "We're just making that mission more achievable by adding more people." Applications for new members are handled by local chapters, so officials don't know how many individuals have signed up in the first few days of the change. But Day said several VFW and Auxiliary staffers submitted their paperwork as soon as the change was formalized, and in recent days the office has seen a jump in inquiries about joining. Last year, auxiliary officials nationwide raised \$4.6 million in aid for veterans and active-duty charities and volunteered nearly 800,000 hours. The VFW counts about 1.4 million veterans as members. [Source: MilitaryTimes | Leo Shane | August 26, 2015 ++]

Merchant Marine WWII Compensation

► Recognition Bill

When Orville Sova, 88, returned to the metro-east after years overseas serving his country during World War II, he was welcomed home with neither parades nor medals. Unlike other veterans of his generation, in those days Sova was not eligible for the GI Bill, VA medical care or even burial in a military cemetery. The reason: Sova served as a sailor with United States Merchant Marine, the civilian-run cargo arm of the U.S. war machine that delivered troops and war supplies to war theaters from Siberia to Australia. Even though Sova and his fellow mariners played an essential role in winning the war; and even though they served under some of the harshest conditions and in some of the most dangerous war zones, in the eyes of the U.S. government, Sova was still a civilian — and therefore entitled to nothing.



Orville Sova, 88, served in the United States Merchant Marine during World War II.

Seven decades after the end of World War II, the lack of recognition and denial of benefits for his wartime service still rankles Sova. “Every merchant seaman you see floating around today has this fire in their belly because we didn’t get recognition,” Sova said. “We should’ve got it.” That is why Sova is joining forces with the dwindling pool of Merchant Marine World War II veterans and their children and grandchildren to take one last shot at getting the recognition from their government they believe they deserve. They are pushing for a bill introduced in the U.S. House called H.R. 563, which, if enacted, would provide a one-time lump sum of \$25,000 to each remaining eligible Merchant Marine veteran of World War II. Congress did pass a bill in 1988 that finally granted veteran status to Merchant Marine veterans, enabling them to access the VA healthcare system and attain military burials.

Gregory P. Williams, the executive director of the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans World War II, has spent much of his life trying to educate the American public on the importance of the Merchant Marine’s role during the war and the staggering losses these sailors suffered for their country, especially in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941. During the first three months of 1942, more than 400 American cargo ships attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean were sunk by

German submarines waiting off the East Coast, a fact that was kept secret from the American public on orders from President Franklin Roosevelt, according to Williams. “Because back home men, women and children literally were working in factories 10, 12, 14 hours per day making bullets and guns, sewing uniforms, making tanks and Jeeps,” Williams said. “If all those people knew that 33 merchant ships were being sunk each and every week in World War II, it would have had a huge, devastating effect on the morale of the industrial manufacturing.”

Even today it remains difficult to determine how many Merchant Marine sailors died during the war, according to Williams, whose group operates a World War II era cargo ship called the S.S. Lane Victory. A floating museum moored in San Pedro, Calif., outside Los Angeles, the ship gives visitors an idea of the difficulties its crewmen faced under wartime conditions. “A lot of times if a ship was sunk, the parents never knew if their kid was gone, except for when the war ended and he never came home,” Williams said. In terms of per capita losses, the Merchant Marine suffered worse than the armed services. About 243,000 men served in the Merchant Marine, which lost 9,500 dead to submarine attacks, ship wrecks and other causes, for a death rate of 3.9 percent or 1 in 26, according to the website www.usmm.org. This compares to the Marine Corps, which lost nearly 20,000 dead, for a death rate of 2.9 percent, or 1 in 34; the U.S. Army, which lost nearly 235,000 troops for a death rate of 1 in 48; and the U.S. Navy, which lost about 37,000 sailors, for a death rate of 1 in 114.

If Roosevelt had lived until the end of the war, things could have turned out differently for Sova and tens of thousands of other Merchant Marine vets. Roosevelt had intended to seek veteran status for these sailors, but with his death in April 1944, that effort stalled and then faded because of a lack of public support, according to Williams. “By the time World War II ended, everybody was so tired of war and there were no ticker tape parades,” he said. “And the story of what the Merchant Marine had done had gotten simply lost in time. Remember it was not a glamorous thing.”

Today, it is high time these sailors get the recognition they deserve, Williams said. “America needs to know what these guys did. I feel personally America is losing its history and its culture,” he said. “Everything is digital. Everything is about money nowadays. Very little is about honor and integrity and character and the good of the country.” The \$25,000 payment earmarked in H.R. 563 for Merchant Marine veterans won’t make anyone rich, Sova said. And he adds that it sure won’t make up for the important educational opportunities they were denied as young men because they were ineligible for the GI Bill, but it will end 70 years of waiting., Sova said. “We knew in 1944 that when they didn’t put us in the GI Bill, it was going to be a tough road,” he said. “We didn’t really know what all was going to happen.” [Source: Belleville News-Democrat | Mike Fitzgerald | August 15, 2015 ++]

VVA Chapter 203 Provides Funeral Honors for Veterans

VVA Chapter 203 Honor Guard works through local funeral homes to ensure that final honors are given to veterans when laid to rest.

The Honor Guard also performs the Missing Man Ceremony, 21-gun salute, and Posting of the Colors during military holidays and functions.

Honors Include:

- >21-gun Salute
- >Flag folding
- >TAPS
- >Chaplain
- >Pall Bearing (Nat. Cem. Only)
- >Bagpipes



If you would like military honors for your loved one, ask your funeral director to contact the Honor Guard Coordinator, Tom Sloan at 423-762-2522.

Honor Guard Captain
Denney Miller

Armory Sergeant
Wayne Walker
423-842-6099

Missing Man Ceremony
Rick Simpson

**NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION
OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER**

CAVC Calendar of Events

- 5 Sept UT vs. Bowling Green
- 7 Sept Labor Day at the Ft. O Post
- 11 Sept CAVC Quarterly Meeting Post 95
- 16 Sept Tribute Parade and Concert
- 18 Sept US Air Force Birthday
- 26 Sept Remembering WWII in Linden
- 3 Oct Navy Ball at Chattanooga Hotel
- 13 Oct US Navy Birthday
- 10 Nov US Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Nov Veterans Day Ceremony at National Cemetery