



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

68th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade Highlights Air Force Friday

Event To Begin With Flyover By Maj. Gen. Richard Scobee

Hamilton County and the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council will salute military members in the 68th annual Armed Forces Day parade and luncheon on Friday at 10:30 a.m. in downtown Chattanooga. Each year, the parade highlights a different branch of service. This year, the event features the Air Force and will begin with a flyover of two F-16s piloted by Lt. Col. Dave Snodgrass and Maj. Gen. Richard Scobee.



Maj. Gen. Scobee, son of Chattanooga resident June Scobee Rodgers, is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flight hours, including 248 combat hours. He is the 10th Air Force commander, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base. His command includes all fighter, bomber, special operations, rescue, airborne warning and control, fighter and bomber flying-training missions, combat air operations battle staff, remotely-piloted aircraft, space and cyber units in the Air Force Reserve Command.

Another special guest for the event is Lt. General Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., military deputy for the office of the assistant Air Force secretary for acquisition at the defense department. Lt. Gen. Bunch will serve as senior reviewing officer at the parade and will speak at a luncheon immediately afterward. He oversees research and development, production, tests and upgrade work on the service branch's programs. Prior to his current position, he was commander of the Air Force test center for three years at Edwards Air Force Base. He has more than 2,500 in flight hours as a command pilot flying F-16, KC-135, B-52 and other military aircraft.

This year, two Air Force veterans are acting as parade marshals: Jack Rolfson, a WWII B-17 pilot, and Eugene Parrott, a fighter pilot in the Korean War. Spectators will enjoy nearly 100 parade entries like JROTC units and high school marching bands, military vehicles, veterans' organizations, area businesses, volunteer organizations and entries from every military branch. The parade procession, the largest in recent years, will travel northward on Market St. from MLK.

The luncheon will be held at the Trade Center at noon, and service members in uniform may attend free of charge. Advance tickets are required for the lunch. For more information, visit the parade's Facebook page www.facebook.com/chattafparade/ or the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council at <http://chattareaveterans.com/>.

Article and photo courtesy of The Chattanooga.Com, May 1, 2017



Please Join Us

**YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED
AT THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL
CEREMONY FOR**

**GYSGT THOMAS SULLIVAN
SSGT DAVID WYATT**

**MAY 7, 2017 | 2:00PM EST
ROSS'S LANDING PARK
201 RIVERFRONT PARKWAY
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402**

HEROISM



Military Kids Serve Too!

Honoring the strength & sacrifice of our
military youth

Sunday, May 7, 2017
Registration starts at 4:00 p.m.
Program begins at 4:45 p.m.
Creative Discovery Museum
321 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402

RSVP is required. Free admission. Limited space.

Join us for a fun-filled day and special coining ceremony honoring our military kids. Children between the ages of 0-17 whose parent/guardian is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces (Active, Reserve, Guard) or is a military veteran are welcome to attend.

RSVP to american.redcross.org/mkstsoutheast2017

For more information,
contact Julia.Wright@redcross.org



American Red Cross
Southeast Tennessee



HONORING THE SACRIFICE

Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation 4th Annual American Heroes Dinner

The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation invites you to attend the 4th Annual American Heroes Dinner on Friday, 14 July 2017, at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Our featured speaker will be **Lt. Col. Oliver North (United States Marine Corp ret.)** Oliver North is a combat decorated U.S. Marine, a #1 best-selling author, the founder of a small business, an inventor with three U.S. patents, a syndicated columnist, and the host of "War Stories" on Fox News Channel.

This very special event will take place at 7:00pm at The Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, TN. Corporate sponsorships, tables, and individual tickets are currently available at www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

Please **save the date** for this important and inspiring evening.

Navy Exchange Online to be available to all Veterans

Beginning this Veteran's Day, November 11, 2017, myNavyExchange.com is proud to expand our online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Military. This highly anticipated change in DoD policy grants online exchange shopping privileges to an estimated eighteen million additional individuals.

According to DoD officials, "The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online business to better serve our current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments, and improved efficiencies."

We are excited about extending this new privilege to all honorably discharged veterans and invite you to keep visiting our site, or connect with us through our Navy Exchange Facebook page for further details and announcements as they become available.

Thank you for your service!

100% Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

Veteran representatives attended two Tennessee House Committee meetings recently. There have been many discussions and steps involved, so here is the bottom line of where things stand as of this time. Readers must remember that the tax exemption had been infused with the governor's gas tax bill in both the Senate and House. However, the Senate was looking to restore the exemption amount from the current \$100,000 to \$135,100. The House had increased the restoration back to the 2014 rate of \$175,000. So to vote for or against the gas tax was also a vote for or against the disabled veteran property tax exemption. The House also had three stand-alone bills that addressed the disabled veteran exemption and all three provided for full restoration to the \$175,000 amount. The Senate had one stand-alone bill that was awaiting action.

1. The full House Local Government Committee approved a separate bill that provides for a 100% disabled veterans (permanent and total) a property tax exemption of \$135,100. It also has indexing included, which means it adjusts according to the rate of inflation up to a max of 3% in any given year. This same bill had been approved in the Local Government Subcommittee yesterday.

2. The House Subcommittee for Finance, Ways & Means met to discuss and vote on a couple of actions related to the disabled veteran property tax exemption. First, they voted to support the separate veteran exemption bill that the House Local Government Committee approved a couple of hours before (reference item #1 above).

3. The House Subcommittee for Finance, Ways & Means also voted to remove the disabled veteran tax exemption section from the governor's gas tax bill. Next Tuesday the full House Finance, Ways & Means Committee will vote on the subcommittee's recommendation to separate the veteran exemption from the gas tax. If they do vote in the affirmative, then in the House, the veteran bill stands on its own and the gas tax stands by itself. So the vote on one no longer affects the other. However, when the subcommittee separated the veteran section from the gas tax and accepted the version approved by the Local Government Committee, the \$175,000 exemption was decreased to \$135,100.

However, all is not lost for full restoration. The full House Finance, Ways and Means Committee will hear an amendment to restore the exemption to the full \$175,000. Your veteran representatives have been hard at work at the capitol talking with legislators to support separation and full restoration.

4. On the Senate side Senator Green will take a bill that provides a separate action on the veteran tax exemption and get it activated for legislative action. The goal there is to separate the veteran action from the governor's gas tax bill and have it stand alone for its own vote. Meetings will take place next week on this.

So at this time it appears the House is on its way to fully separate the veteran exemption from the gas tax and possibly amend to full restoration. The Senate's actions remain to be seen and will dictate what future House and Senate interactions may be required.

Thank you
Bill Sumner

New Mailing Address For DFAS

The mailing address for DFAS Retired pay is changing on 1 May 2017. After this date you must mail information or requests listed below to the new address in Indianapolis, vice the London Kentucky address. Beginning on May 1, 2017 Military retirees and annuitants should use the new addresses when submitting any of the following information:

- * Written requests for 1099R Forms (Retiree tax statement)
- * Change Survivor benefit Plan information
- * Correct a 1099R (Retiree Tax Statement)
- * Establish a Retired Pay account
- * Manage Arrears of Pay (AOP) Beneficiary designation
- * Manage allotments
- * Report a retiree's death
- * Report a Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiary's death
- * Submit a retiree or annuitant change of address
- * Start/change Direct Deposit
- * Start international Direct Deposit enrollment
- * All other written correspondence

The new addresses are:

For Retirees:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

For Annuitants:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time. Likewise, any mail received at the new address before May 1, 2017 will be sent to the old mailing address. The telephone and fax numbers are not changing.

V/R

Theodore W. Faulkner
Chief, Personnel Processing Branch/
Retirement Services Officer
Fort Campbell, KY
270-798-5280-Office
270-798-6284-Fax
635-5280-DSN

Videos Help Family Caregivers Navigate Tricky Tasks

Groups around the country are mobilizing to help family caregivers manage medications, give injections, clean catheters, tend to wounds and perform other tasks typically handled in medical facilities by nurses or nursing assistants. In December, 15 organizations joined a new national consortium, the Home Alone Alliance, devoted to providing better training and instructional materials for family caregivers. Founding members include the AARP Public Policy Institute, the Family Caregiver Alliance, the United Hospital Fund and the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at the University of California, Davis. The alliance recently released a series of 10 short videos (five each in English and Spanish) designed to help caregivers deal with seniors who use canes or walkers and need help getting up or down stairs, into a wheelchair, or in and out of a tub or a shower: www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2017/home-alone-alliance.html. Two of the videos deal with falls — the most common cause of injury among older adults.

This summer, nine videos on wound care and topics will be added and include dealing with newly sutured wounds, bed sores, cellulitis and diabetic foot care, among other topics, and, by the end of the year, another 20 videos should be available. Potential topics include nutrition, the use of specialized equipment such as nebulizers, feeding tubes and oxygen tanks, and a revised series on medication management — a topic profiled in a pilot project for the alliance.

The [New Home Alone Alliance Video Series](#) Brings Together AARP and VA to Support Family Caregivers. AARP partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a [Home Alone Alliance](#) member, to release a [video series](#) instructing family caregivers how to perform mobility-related tasks.

Please see the evidence-based [video series](#) that include input from both practicing clinicians and family caregivers. We encouraged you to view the [video series](#) to enhance your Veteran's care at home and/or share with other Caregivers that may benefit from the instructional series.

Click [HERE](#) to view and learn more!



With VA's Caregiver Support Line assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.

Veterans Will Receive Free Dental Care at Nearly 450 Aspen Dental Practices

Thousands of veterans will receive free dental care on **Saturday, June 24th**, when doctors and their teams from nearly 450 Aspen Dental-branded practices in 35 states open their doors for Aspen Dental's [National Day of Service](#) – an event that is expected to be the largest single-day oral health initiative for veterans in 2017. Like millions of other Americans, veterans can struggle to find oral health care when they need it. That's why Aspen Dental's Healthy Mouth Movement, a community-giving initiative launched in 2014, is focusing its efforts on helping veterans get the dental care they need.

- Interested veterans should call **1-844-AspenHMM (1-844-277-3646)** to find a participating practice in their community and schedule an appointment in advance – *space is limited and appointments are filling up fast!*

Participating Practices in Tennessee: *Chattanooga, Cleveland, Hixson, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Nashville*

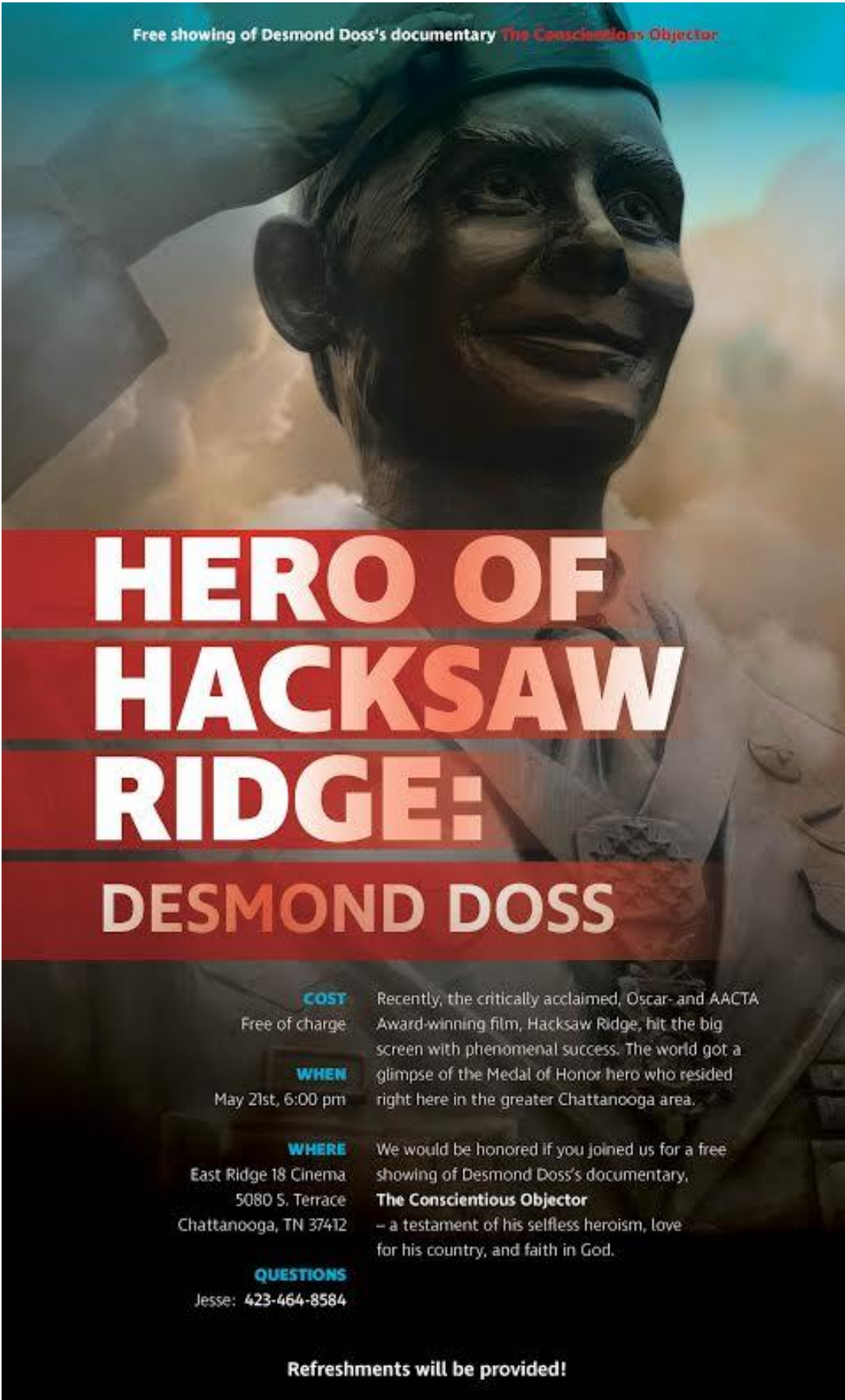
More About Aspen Dental's Healthy Mouth Movement

The Healthy Mouth Movement (HMM) is a community-giving initiative launched in 2014 to deliver free dental care to thousands of people in need in communities across the U.S. and oral health education to millions more. Since 2014, nearly 12,000 patients have received free dental care through the HMM - an initiative that has spanned 33 states, resulting in more than \$7.5 million dollars in free dental care, thanks to the generosity of dentists and team members from Aspen Dental practices across the U.S.

As you know, people who want a healthy mouth often struggle to find oral health care when they need it due to limited access to dentists, high costs, or lack of insurance. Those barriers kept more than 155 million American adults from visiting a dentist in the past year – just over half the adult population in the U.S. Among those are veterans, a patient population that resonated deeply with the volunteers from Aspen Dental practices because veterans do not receive dental care benefits through the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs unless they are 100 percent disabled or have a service-related injury to their mouths.

Since 2015, Aspen Dental has partnered with Got Your 6, a collaborative campaign that works to empower veterans and strengthen communities nationwide. [Got Your 6](#) – meaning “I got your back” – focuses on six key pillars of veteran reintegration, including leadership, health, and education. Aspen Dental dentists and team members share in this same belief, and have helped shine a spotlight on an important issue, thereby truly making a difference in the lives of many veterans. It is a commitment that has continued in 2016, as Aspen Dental focuses once again on empowering veterans with a healthy smile.

Aspen Dental branded dental practices are independently owned and operated by licensed dentists. For more information about the relationship between Aspen Dental Management, Inc. and the branded practices, please visit www.aspendental.com.



Free showing of Desmond Doss's documentary *The Conscientious Objector*

HERO OF HACKSAW RIDGE: DESMOND DOSS

COST
Free of charge

WHEN
May 21st, 6:00 pm

WHERE
East Ridge 18 Cinema
5080 S. Terrace
Chattanooga, TN 37412

QUESTIONS
Jesse: 423-464-8584

Recently, the critically acclaimed, Oscar- and AACTA Award-winning film, *Hacksaw Ridge*, hit the big screen with phenomenal success. The world got a glimpse of the Medal of Honor hero who resided right here in the greater Chattanooga area.

We would be honored if you joined us for a free showing of Desmond Doss's documentary, *The Conscientious Objector* – a testament of his selfless heroism, love for his country, and faith in God.

Refreshments will be provided!

GI Bill Update ► Reforms This Year Are All But Dead

Plans for GI Bill reforms this year are all but dead after a high-profile, emotional fight among veterans advocates in recent days over proposed dramatic changes to the popular benefit. The conflict comes after months of behind-the-scenes work testing the idea of charging future active-duty troops for an improved veterans education benefit, a proposal that proved more controversial when it became public sooner than supporters had anticipated. But a casualty of the fight may be a series of less sensational changes to veterans education benefits that a host of advocacy groups had hoped to push through Congress this year. Now, the legislative appetite for those moves appears gone. House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Phil Roe (R-TN) called the strong negative response from some groups to the pay-in idea "a giant step backwards" for GI Bill debate on Capitol Hill this year.

Veterans groups on both sides of the fight say they're hopeful they can change Roe's mind. Still, his comments are a stark change from the multiple GI Bill roundtables held by the committee since January, where a host of veterans groups offered ideas on possible improvements to the education benefits. They include expanding eligibility to certain reservists currently excluded from the Post-9/11 GI Bill — a benefit that awards 36 months of tuition and a monthly housing stipend to all eligible troops, with no pay in — and more money for scholarships for families of service members killed on duty. Those plans have broad support in the veterans community, but they also come with a problematic price tag. Officials at Student Veterans of America estimate that package of expansion ideas will cost about \$3 billion over the next decade, a significant amount for a Republican-run Congress eyeing the federal deficit.

Attempts to pass similar changes last year were stalled when lawmakers linked the funding to trims in the current GI Bill. A House proposal to cut housing stipends for dependents of veterans using the benefits was met with protests on Capitol Hill. A Senate plan to reduce all housing stipends by a small percentage received an even harsher response. Officials at SVA in recent years have viewed those proposals not as temporary problems but as long-term threats to the existence of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. "It's naive to think the support for veterans will always be as high as it is now," said Will Hubbard, SVA's vice president of government affairs. "We've seen cuts to the benefit in the past. "Some are saying there is no wolf lurking. I hate to say it, but it's a real thing." The response from SVA — founded as part of the 2008 debate over improving veterans education benefits — has been their "Forever GI Bill" campaign. That includes significant research work proving the value of the benefit in terms of veterans' graduation and employment rates, as well as an attempt to shift public perception of the tuition payouts from a wartime benefit (the Post-9/11 GI Bill was passed in large part as a recruiting tool at the height of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars) to a benefit for military service anytime. It also envisions consolidating all of the existing GI Bill benefits into a single offering, with generous post-9/11 benefit payouts as a framework for the new program. That provision includes a pay-in of \$2,400 from future troops to be eligible to collect the benefit after service, which sparked the controversy.

Hubbard said the pay-in idea is similar to how previous benefits, in particular the Montgomery GI Bill, were handled. Not only would it raise money for the desired expansions, Hubbard argued, but it would also make it more difficult for lawmakers to trim benefits later because of the personal investment involved. But it's a significant shift in how the GI Bill is viewed by many in the Iraq and Afghanistan generation of veterans. When the new benefit was approved by Congress in 2008, basing the entitlement on military service time instead of troops' contributions was a key focus for many advocates. Last year, officials at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America publicly stated they will oppose any cuts or pay-ins for the education benefit. Leaders at Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion expressed concerns with the idea of a pay-in during the congressional roundtables in recent months. But lawmakers and supporters of the idea drafted legislation earlier this month on the topic and scheduled a hearing for 26 APR for a formal public debate on the idea. Opponents took that as a signal the idea was gaining momentum and their objections were being ignored. "We were very honest all along that we would be opposed to this," said Kayda Keleher, legislative associate for Veterans of Foreign Wars. "We felt it was best that we let it be known publicly where we stood before the hearing took place." That response took the form of a scathing news release 18 APR, labeling the idea "a tax on troops" that named Roe as the author of the draft bill (his staff said he did not intend on sponsoring the legislation) and accusing lawmakers of looking to find savings at the expense of veterans. Within hours, officials with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America released a similar statement repeating the "tax" line. Leaders from veterans groups involved accused each other of broken promises on releasing information, exaggeration and outright lies. Democratic lawmakers on the committee quickly distanced themselves from the idea.

Continued on page 10

GI Bill Update continued:

Within days, the hearing was canceled. “This proposal was so outrageous, we doubted it would actually ever move forward to a public debate,” said Paul Rieckhoff, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. “Now that it has, our members and the American people have spoken, and they think it is unacceptable.” SVA officials have pushed back on that. Several groups — including Vietnam Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, the Association of the United States Navy and Concerned Veterans for America — have come out in favor of the pay-in plan, at least as a general concept. And even though the hearing was meant to be the public unveiling of debate on the topic, its cancellation is not a death knell for the proposal, according to Hubbard. “This is just the beginning of this conversation,” Hubbard said. “We’re disappointed that several groups out there are not interested in having the conversation. But it’s something we’ll continue to look at.”

Advocates in the “Forever GI Bill” camp are pressing for an open debate on the idea, calling it an important step toward protecting the education benefit for decades to come. “We can’t shut down debate before it begins and expect to help those that the GI Bill leaves behind,” John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America, said in a statement. “We’re excited to talk about closing loopholes, and expanding and protecting this benefit.” But they also acknowledge they need a better response to the “tax” label, which damaged the idea almost immediately, and a better explanation for why a change is needed sooner rather than later. Opponents say regardless of the marketing of the education benefit pay-in, it’s a non-starter.

Keleher said the sooner lawmakers completely dump the pay-in proposal, the sooner they can start looking to other areas to fund the needed GI Bill expansions. Rieckhoff echoed that. “The GI Bill is a cost of war,” he said. “As long as America is at war, and it looks like that’ll be for the indefinite future, it’s a price America must find a way to pay for.” But it may not be a price that’s explored much for the rest of this year. Roe said while he’s open to discussion on the topic in the coming months, it’s not one of the committee’s top priorities during that time frame. “I’m disappointed with the backlash,” he said. “Our idea was to expand benefits. We’ll continue to work on that. “But there are a lot of big lifts for us to do.” [Source: MilitaryTimes | Leo Shane III | April 27, 2017 ++]

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 this past month:

American Legion William E. Blair Post 95, East Ridge

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
PO Box 24984, Chattanooga, TN 37422
Check out our website: www.chattareaveterans.com

Alan Syler, Chairman	423-855-6876
Chris Dooley, Chairman-Elect	702-701-2858
Bob Woods, Vice-Chairman	423-413-9106
Mickey McCamish, Immed. Past Chair.	423-394-0024
Mark Parks, Treasurer	423-326-0839
Carol Laing, Secretary	423-309-1457

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