



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

Serving veterans and their organizations of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama

“TEDDY ROOSEVELT” to Present Youth Medal Awards at Navy League Dinner



The April dinner meeting of the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council will feature Joe Wiegand, who entertains audiences nationwide with his impersonation of President Theodore Roosevelt. As Teddy Roosevelt, Joe will share stories full of adventure, laughter, and inspiration as he recounts his life as a rancher, Rough-Rider, naturalist, and father of six in the White

House. He will also share the amazing tale of his youth as a frail boy who built his body and dedicated himself to the Strenuous Life and the Square Deal. From bear hunts to the Panama Canal, from Africa to the Amazon, T.R.'s delightful stories come to life. As President of the U.S. and former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, T.R. encouraged the development of the Navy League in 1902. At the conclusion of his address, T.R. will help present the Theodore Roosevelt Awards to our Sea Cadets, League Cadets, and NJROTC Cadet of the year. Don't miss out on this opportunity to walk through history and honor our local youth. The dinner meeting will be held in the Roosevelt Room of the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, 1400 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN on April 9, 2015 from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The deadline for advance reservations is April 8. The cost is \$30 per person for Navy League members and \$40 per person for non-members. Reservations made after that date or at the door will cost \$45 per person. To RSVP for this event contact Mark Parks, Treasurer, at 423-326-0839 or via email at mparks@epbfi.com.

The Armed Forces Day Parade is May 1st

To enter your unit, float or display, submit your application to Bill Norton at bill@metroservicesinc.com then get busy with you parade entry! This is the 66th year of Chattanooga's Armed Forces Day Parade – Let's make it a great one!

CAVC Presents Awards at Annual Banquet

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council recognized two individuals with the Charles Coolidge Award for their dedicated service and devotion to veteran causes at the CAVC's annual Banquet last month.

Larry Hester of VFW 3679, Fort Oglethorpe, received the Charles Coolidge Veteran of the Year award. He was cited for assisting more than 500 veterans this past year and for meeting with federal and local politicians to promote veteran causes. He also donated \$500 he received from the “Pay it forward Channel 9 program” to the VFW Post Relief Fund.

Patrick Abercrombie, Sea Cadet Commanding Officer (Chattanooga Division), received the Charles Coolidge Associate of the Year award. Among other achievements, he initiated a program to properly display the U.S. flag utilizing youth organizations, participated with Hurricane Sandy rebuild efforts and provided Sea Cadet Color Guards for more than 30 local events.

Special Thanks to our CAVC members For their 2015 dues

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council thanks the following member organizations who have paid their 2015 dues this past month:

American Legion Post 214

Your Organization's dues payment helps pay the various overhead costs of the CAVC: copies, postage, PO Box, website, membership meeting lunches, insurance, etc.

To pay your organization's dues, make your \$20 check payable to Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, and mail to: CAVC, PO Box 24984, Chattanooga, TN, 37422

FREE TICKETS FOR VETERANS

[Veteran Tickets Foundation](#) AKA Vet Tix is a nationally recognized 501c3 Veterans Support Organization whose mission is to "give something to those who gave." Vet Tix teams up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, companies, venues and everyday event ticket holders to provide free (and discounted) tickets to the more than 26 million active Military, Veterans and their families.

They support our Active Duty Military, Veterans and their Families with entertainment, lasting memories and reintegration opportunities by providing FREE event tickets to sporting events, concerts and family activities.

Vet Tix is proud to have already given out over one million event tickets across all 50 States, plus Washington, DC, to all currently serving Military, Veterans and their families.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND HOW TO GET VERIFIED - Vet Tix believes that every person who honorably served our great country should be thanked for their service. Visit the sign up link below for full details

- Currently Serving Military, Honorably Discharged Veterans, PNOG of KIA

- Use this link to sign up <http://www.vettix.org/ref/167415>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Am I only allowed to request 1 (one) ticket?

Answer: NO, unless we only have 1 ticket... It's the goal of Veteran Tickets Foundation for you to enjoy the event with your family and friends.

- Do I have to pay for the tickets? Answer: NO, tickets will always be FREE...All you pay for is the cost of delivery for your tickets.

- Do I have to wear a uniform? Answer: NO, 99.9% of the time. Only when some organizations are having a "Military recognition" event, we will inform you of this in advance in our event description. We strive to have NO uniforms required.

- Can my spouse use the service while I'm deployed? Answer: Yes, just give your spouse your account information and you are set. When setting up your account, you can also add other email addresses for event notification.

- Is your organization listed on the Department of Defense (DoD) website www.OurMilitary.mil? Answer: Yes - <http://www.ourmilitary.mil/comprehensive-list-of-community-support-groups/>

Information provided by Joe Pasternack, U.S. Army 1964-1967, QuiNhon Vietnam Sept 65 - August 66

USS Carbonero Base Tolling the Boats

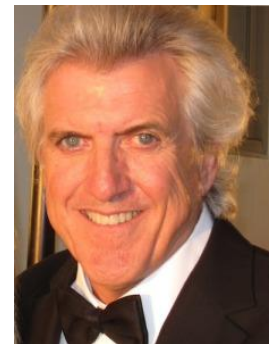
USS Carbonero Base is conducting a *Tolling the Boats* ceremony at its monthly meeting on Saturday, 18 April. The Tolling ceremony will take place at VFW Post 4848 at 11:00 am.



A free lunch will be provided for all attendees following the ceremony. Veterans, wives and children are welcome. Please register in advance so they can have an accurate head count. Contact Alan Syler, USS CARBONERO Base Commander, Storekeeper & **1MC** Editor at 423.855.6876 or via email at asyler@epbf.com.

Luke Zamperini will be keynote speaker at Bryan College Program Dinner

The 8th Annual Bryan Opportunity Program Dinner will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center starting at 6 pm on 16 April 2015. The Keynote speaker will be Luke Zamperini, son of Louis Zamperini. Luke will share his dad's story of survival, resilience and redemption as told in the book "Unbroken".



Luke knows every detail of Louis' incredible story of bravery and survival. His father's accounts of his struggle as a POW fighting for his life were Luke's bedtime stories growing up, and now he is honored to have the opportunity to watch these stories influence the lives of others.

When Luke speaks to audiences about his father, he adds a unique perspective. Luke focuses on how the discipline of athletics, scouting, and education prepared Louis to survive his incredible ordeal at sea, and would subsequently help him to endure cruelty and humiliation as a prisoner of war.

The cost for the dinner is \$50 per person. For more information and to register go to: www.bryan.edu/dinner or call 423-775-7323. Please RSVP by 9 April.

Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis to speak at MOH Museum Fundraiser

Sgt. Sammy L. Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for action against the Vietcong in the Republic of Vietnam West of Cai Lay on 18 November 1967. Mr. Davis will be the guest speaker at the National Medal of Honor Museum of Military History's Annual Fund Raiser and Awards Banquet held on Saturday evening, 25 April 2015, from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Plan to attend and learn why Sgt. Davis has been called the "Real" Forrest Gump of Vietnam!



The Banquet will include a Social Time from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm followed by the program, dinner, and a silent auction.

Corporate Tables will be available at three different levels.



For more information or to make a reservation contact Jim Wade, Museum Director, at jfwbike@bellsouth.net.

Visit the Museum's website at www.mohm.org.

Veteran's Benefit

American Legion Battlefield Post 214, 540 Park City Rd. Rossville, GA 30741 presents "Veteran's Benefit Bingo" every Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings.

Doors Open @ 5 p.m. Bingo starts @ 7 p.m. Total Payout up to \$1500 dollars, Jackpot up to \$800 dollars, 50/50 with lots of prizes and up to \$500.00 in cash. The public is welcome.

Come early and enjoy dinner from our Concession: Daily Specials, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chili, Salads, Drinks and Snacks. Come join us for Food, Fun & Games!

All proceeds support veterans and their families. Contact Us: 706-866-3992 or www.legionpost214.org



Battlefield Post 214 Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia

Sponsor a flag on the Veterans Bridge

Chattanooga's Veterans Bridge will continue to be lined with American flags for many years to come thanks to the area's patriotic citizens.



Photo Courtesy of WRCB-TV.com

For 10 years an anonymous donor provided some \$40,000 to provide 30 new flags annually in May which adorned the bridge's 30 light poles all summer and through November. When those gifts ceased in 2013, the Chattanooga Department of Transportation (CDOT) established a new program to generate replacement flag funds.

The Veterans Bridge Flag Initiative allows any group or individual to honor a service man or woman by donating the cost of a flag. Each flag is \$75 and will fly on a numbered pole on the bridge for about six months of the year.

When the flags are raised, honorees will receive a proclamation from the mayor of Chattanooga recognizing their service to the country and proclaiming the pole number from which their flag flies. The flags will be offered to the donors at the end of each season.

Original plans were to fly 30 flags each year between May and November. However, response to the program has been so tremendous that American flags will now be flown on the bridge year-round, according to Caroline Johnson, CDOT Special Projects Coordinator, who oversees the initiative.

Since flags must be replaced every six months, 60 veterans may be honored each year. Still, the community has rallied to the point there are more than 100 honorees on the waiting list.

While new applications are welcome, Ms. Johnson said, it will be several months before their flags will be flown.

If you would like to buy a flag, please provide the following information to Ms. Johnson, preferably by email at "johnson_c@chattanooga.gov":

1. Name and rank of veteran (as it will appear on the proclamation)
2. Military Branch (or branches) of service and inclusive dates of service
3. Significant service (such as war periods, duty stations, specific battles/engagements, etc.)
4. Miscellaneous military-related items (such as a nickname, awards, achievements, etc.)

Please call Ms. Johnson at 423-643-5963 for specific details on how to submit the accompanying \$75 donation.

DAV Opens Thrift Store

IT'S TIME!!!! Happy Grand Opening to the Cleveland TN Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store located at 815 S Lee Highway (Across from Bradley Central High School). The DAV is non-profit and the proceeds will go to help Veterans. So clean out your garages and closets and donate those unused items to the store.



82nd Airborne Association Dinner

The Sgt Alvin C York Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will host BG Robert Woods, Life Member 82nd Airborne Division Association, as guest speaker at their 14 April 2015 dinner meeting at the Epicurean Restaurant, 4301 Ringgold Road, Chattanooga, TN, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Bob Woods now serves as the owner and manager of The General Inn, a bed and breakfast in Rising Fawn, GA. He and his wife Nadine also operate a wedding venue and bridal service. He has over 30 years of leadership and management experience in the U.S. Army. He has led in both operational units as well as in Senior Staff positions. Bob's last position while on active duty was Commanding General, 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL.

All airborne qualified veterans are encouraged to attend with their wives or dates. For more information contact Chairman Doug Stephenson at 423-432-2715 or by email at: drstep@aol.com. Visit our chapter website at: www.chattanoogaairbornevets.com

Women Veterans Summit

April 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System Nashville Campus, 1310 24th Avenue, South Nashville, TN 37212. [Register today](#)
For event information call 615-327-4751 ext. 63020.



CONGRESSMAN CHUCK FLEISCHMANN
Third District-Tennessee


Invites You to Attend the
Annual MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY DAY

Saturday, April 11th, 2015

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University Center - Chattanooga Room
Chattanooga, Tennessee
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Students, Parents and Guidance Counselors are all welcome

Meet Representatives from:

				
U.S. Air Force Academy	U.S. Military Academy (West Point)	U.S. Naval Academy	U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Directions:
From 4th St Exit, go to McKenzie Arena, turn right onto Mabel St. Merge left onto E. 5th St. The University Center is located directly across from the Cemetery. Parking is available at the East 5th St. Parking Garage or in the lot at the end of the Cemetery.

For further information, contact Congressman Fleischmann's Academy Coordinator, Trish Mullins @ 423-756-2342 or e-mail Mj.mullins@mail.house.gov

CAVC Calendar of Events

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| 9 April | T. Roosevelt at Navy League Dinner |
| 11 April | Military Service Academy Day |
| 14 April | 82 nd Airborne Dinner |
| 18 April | Women Veterans Summit |
| 18 April | Carbonero Base Tolling the Boats |
| 16 April | Luke Zamperini at Chatt. Conv.Ctr. |
| 21 April | Parade Committee Meeting |
| 25 April | MOH Museum fundraiser dinner |
| 25 April | Fishing with a Soldier |
| 1 May | Armed Forces Day Parade and Luncheon |
| 25 May | Memorial Day Service at National Cemetery |
| 5 June | Honoring the Sacrifice Dinner |

The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation 2nd Annual American Heroes Dinner

The Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation invites you to attend the 2nd Annual American Heroes Dinner to be held on June 5th. Our featured speaker will be LTG (Ret.) William G. "Jerry" Boykin. LTG Boykin was one of the elite warriors chosen in 1978 to make up the first unit in America's deadly Delta Force. He then became commander of the unit, and later still, commander of all U.S. Army Special Forces.

Also in attendance will be wounded warrior Taylor Morris, who will be sharing his story. Taylor Morris (Retired, Navy, EOD) is one of only five quadruple amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries. This very special event will take place at 7:00pm at The Chattanooga Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. Corporate sponsorships & tables, as well as individual tickets are currently available at: www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

Please save the date for this important and inspiring evening.



CAVC Executive Board

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

VA Eliminates Net Worth as Health Care Eligibility Factor

Elimination of Net Worth Makes More Veterans Eligible for Health Care

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs is updating the way it determines eligibility for VA health care, a change that will result in more Veterans having access to the health care benefits they've earned and deserve.

Effective 2015, VA eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income Veterans and brings VA policies in line with Secretary Robert A. McDonald's MyVA initiative which reorients VA around Veterans' needs.

"Everything that we do and every decision we make has to be focused on the Veterans we serve," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "We are working every day to earn their trust. Changing the way we determine eligibility to make the process easier for Veterans is part of our promise to our Veterans."

Instead of combining the sum of Veterans' income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and copayment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Elimination of the consideration of net worth for VA health care enrollment means that certain lower-income, non-service-connected Veterans will have less out-of-pocket costs. Over a 5-year period, it is estimated that 190,000 Veterans will become eligible for reduced costs of their health care services.

In March 2014, VA eliminated the annual requirement for updated financial information. VA now uses information from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration to automatically match individual Veterans' income information which reduces the burden on Veterans to keep their healthcare eligibility up to date. That change better aligned VA's health care financial assessment program with other federal health care organizations.

Veterans may submit updated income information at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/ or by visiting their nearby VA health care facility. For more information, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Armed Forces Day Parade and Luncheon 5/1/2015



Bring your coworkers, friends and family to join in the festivities as Hamilton County and the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council (CAVC) honor military personnel at the 66th annual Armed Forces Day parade. Parade entries will include military services, area veterans groups, high school bands and JROTC units, patriotic organizations and others.

Event Details

Parade Admission: Free

Phone: (423) 762-1816

Email: cynthiadfagan@yahoo.com

Location: Downtown Chattanooga

Event Schedule

Parade begins at 10:30 am on Market St. at MLK and proceeds up Market St. ending at 2nd St.

The Luncheon takes place at Chattanooga Convention Center at 12:00 noon and will feature Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, as the guest speaker. Reservations required. The reservation form is on the next page of this newsletter.

Armed Forces Day Celebration

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

2015 ARMED FORCES DAY
LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Luncheon Information

Time: 12 Noon
Date: Friday, 1 May 2015
Place: Chattanooga Convention Center
1150 Carter Street
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Military 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

2015 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.
c/o Noah Long
P.O. Box 24984
Chattanooga, TN 37422