



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

Charles Coolidge Veteran of the Year & Charles Coolidge Associate of the Year Awards

Each year the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council selects a Veteran of the Year and an Associate (non-veteran) of the Year in recognition of support provided to the Veteran Community during the preceding year. First awarded in in 1985, the award is named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Charles H. Coolidge, Signal Mountain, Tennessee. Each CAVC Member Organization in good standing may submit one nominee for each award.

The nomination form is on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.

Nomination Submission must be postmarked no later than 14 January 2017

If you have questions please call CAVC Chairman Alan Syler at [423-855-6876](tel:423-855-6876).



CAVC Awards Banquet

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council will hold its annual Awards Banquet Friday, 17 February 2017, 6:00 pm, at the Roosevelt Room of the Choo Choo Hotel, downtown Chattanooga TN. Judge Don Poole, prior USAF JAG Officer, will be the guest speaker.

All veterans are invited to attend and enjoy this night of camaraderie, fellowship and recognition of those who will be identified for their work in support of the Chattanooga veterans community in 2016.

The reservation form is the last page of this newsletter. Your reservation must be received by 13 February so don't delay.

Hamilton County Veteran Service Officer

Charles "Chuck" Alsobrook is the new Hamilton County Veteran Service Officer.



Photo courtesy of Times Free Press

Contact info: Charles "Chuck" Alsobrook,
Hamilton County Veteran Service Officer,
1250 Market St. – Suite 1006, Chattanooga, TN 37402
Office: [\(423\) 209-7884](tel:423-209-7884)
Cell: [\(423\) 619-5147](tel:423-619-5147)

Reserve and National Guard to Finally Get Veteran Status

Retired National Guardsmen and Reservists will be granted veteran status for the first time, following Presidential approval of a much-haggled bill. President Barack Obama signed the provision into law last Friday, as part of a larger package on veterans' benefits.

Until now, Guard and Reserve personnel were considered veterans only if they served in a federalized capacity for more than 179 days other than training. Even a reservist who attended regular training and drill for two decades, but never was federalized, could not claim to be a veteran. **Now, Guard and Reserve members will be recognized as veterans if they serve honorably for 20 years.**

The previous definition was long outdated, said retired Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, president of the National Guard Association of the United States. "Many of those affected underwent arduous, even dangerous, training," Hargett said in a statement. "They helped win the Cold War. Others worked in direct support of those who did deploy."

And yet, Hargett said, the nation told them they were not veterans.

The status change does not provide an increase in veterans' benefits. It does, however, offer pride of identity.

"For so long, Guard and Reservists have known they have served, but they haven't known if they can call themselves veterans," John Goheen, NGAUS spokesman, told American Media Institute. "For certain members, this eliminates the doubt."

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The revised definition is welcomed even by those who would qualify as a veteran under the previous definition. "It's long overdue," said Chad Longell, an Army Reserve sergeant who has employed multiple times, including to Iraq and Afghanistan. "It's a recognition by Congress of the commitment of the Guard and Reserve and the role we have played in the defense of the Republic."

The new definition adds a measure of cache to troops who have found themselves on the receiving end of inter-component derision.

Active duty forces traditionally have referred to Guard and Reservists as "weekend warriors," because they live civilian lives and serve one weekend a month for drill, plus additional time for annual training.

The issue came to the fore in 2014, when then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno [told reporters](#) that the Guard "capabilities are not interchangeable" with those of the active duty Army. The comment spawned a debate over a number of issues, including whether Odierno had insulted the Guard.

The new legislation takes a step toward removing perceived insults.

"Anyone who commits for 20 years to be ready to put their lives on the line for our country deserves the recognition of being called a veteran," Longell said.

The changes were approved in both the House and the Senate last year, Goheen said, but the two chambers did not use the same language in their respective bills.

"They worked it out and came up with a version everyone agreed on," Goheen said. "With no added cost to the government."

The measure was contained within the Miller-Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Act, a comprehensive document that amends title 38 of the United States Code, pertaining to veterans' benefits.

by [Susan Katz Keating](#), [AMINewswire.com](#)

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.

TRICARE FOR LIFE

By taking a few simple steps, retirees can make sure they have their TRICARE benefits after they turn 65. Four months before your 65th birthday, you will receive a postcard from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) with information about keeping TRICARE coverage after age 65. DMDC is the office that supports the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), a database of information on uniformed services members (sponsors), U.S.-sponsored foreign military, DoD and uniformed services civilians, other personnel as directed by the DoD, and their family members. You must have Medicare Part A and Part B to be eligible for TRICARE For Life. TRICARE For Life is Medicare wrap-around coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B regardless of where you live or your age. The Medicare initial enrollment period is seven months. If you miss your initial enrollment period, your next chance to sign up for Medicare Part B is during the general enrollment period, January 1 – March 31. Your coverage will begin July 1, and your monthly premium for Part B may go up 10 percent for each 12-month period that you could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it. Also, there will be a lapse in your TRICARE coverage until Part B is effective. Be sure to sign up for Part B no later than two months before your 65th birthday. If you do not receive a postcard from DMDC, call them at 1- 800-538-9552. For more information about TRICARE For Life, visit www.tricare.mil/tfl. You can get information about Medicare Parts A and B at www.medicare.gov.



New Scholarship for Veterans

East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) is happy to announce the availability of a **NEW scholarship for veterans, the Colonel Kurt Davis Veterans Scholarship!**

Scholarship information, including detailed descriptions and application instructions, as well as 2017 applications, will be available on our website, www.easttennesseefoundation.org, beginning **November 1, 2016**. The scholarship application must be completed and submitted online. The application deadline for 2017 is **February 15, 2017**.

Please note: [The Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) opens October 1, 2016.

Below is a detailed description of the criteria for the **Colonel Kurt Davis Veterans Scholarship**. Please share this information with your colleagues and potential applicants.

ETF scholarship opportunities also include scholarships for which **adult students** are eligible. Scholarship criteria may also include county of residence, field of study, and other eligibility criteria, so it is important that candidates review all the scholarship criteria carefully.

All ETF scholarship applications must be completed and submitted online. For assistance be sure to see the online applicant tutorial, *Guideline to Completing Your Online Scholarship Application*.

Please feel free to contact me at [\(865\) 524-1223](tel:8655241223) or toll free at [\(877\) 524-1223](tel:8775241223) or via e-mail at bheller@etf.org with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you!

Beth Heller, Director of Scholarship Programs

EAST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION

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Knoxville, TN 37902

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Toll Free: [1-877-524-1223](tel:18775241223)

Fax: [\(865\) 637-6039](tel:8656376039)

E-mail: bheller@etf.org

Please visit us at www.easttennesseefoundation.org

GPS address for parking garage is 408 Locust Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

Celebrating 30 Years of thoughtful giving for stronger communities, better lives

Gulf War Syndrome Update

The VA is seeking to expand the time limit that veterans can claim disability benefits for Gulf War Syndrome by five years. In a document to be published in the Federal Register on 17 OCT, the VA seeks to expand the time limit that veterans of the Gulf War may claim disability benefits for the chronic multi symptom illness known as Gulf War Syndrome from December 31, 2016 until December 31, 2021. The document, with instructions for commenting can be found on the Federal Register website <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/veterans-affairs-department>.

Gulf War Syndrome is defined by the VA as a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems. Refer to Gulf War Syndrome page www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/gulf-war-syndrome.html for more details. There is no medical or scientific evidence about the nature and cause of the illnesses suffered by Gulf War veterans, however the VA says that studies by the National Academy of Sciences proved that these conditions occur in Gulf War Veterans three times more than they do in the civilian population. Based on that fact, the VA grants what it calls "presumptive disability" to veterans suffering from these conditions. Presumptive Disability means that Gulf War Veterans suffering from these conditions don't need to prove their military service caused the health problems in order to receive VA disability compensation.

In their request to extend the time period that veterans may claim disability for Gulf War Syndrome, the VA cited a study done earlier this year by the National Academy of Sciences that stated "at present, there is insufficient basis to identify the point, if any, at which the increased risk of chronic multi symptom illness may abate". That means the symptoms may still show up in veterans more than 25 years after the war's end. In order to provide fairness to affected veterans the VA says they want to continue to provide disability benefits to veterans suffering from Gulf War Syndrome no matter when the illnesses begin. [Source: Military.com | Jim Absher | October 14, 2016 ++]

Free Computer Class for Veterans and their Families

CompTIA IT Fundamentals Class, January 11-12

Overview

The CompTIA IT Fundamentals class is designed to help you learn more about the world of information technology (IT). It's ideal if you're considering a career in IT or if you work in an allied field that requires a broad understanding of IT. CompTIA IT Fundamentals can also be a stepping stone to more advanced certifications such as CompTIA A+, and, with specialized experience, CompTIA Network+ and CompTIA Security+.

CompTIA IT Fundamentals is back and better than ever! We've made it as convenient as possible to for you to take the class, earn this certificate of completion and prove that you know today's technologies. Using our Online Live Delivery (OLL) you can take this class at your school, your workplace or even from your home.

CompTIA IT Fundamentals Course Overview

This course will provide you with the fundamental skills and concepts required to maintain, support, and work efficiently with personal computers.

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for individuals who are considering a career in information technology (IT) and who might be planning to pursue CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification, CompTIA A+™ certification, or other similar certifications.

This class is free and being done in conjunction with ROVER and New Horizons Learning Center.

Contact James Macrellis for if you need more information:

LTC James Macrellis (USA, Ret) **ROVER**
Regional Outreach Veterans Engagement Resources
 Email: jamesm@rover.vet. Phone: [423.637.3490](tel:423.637.3490)



Cold War Recognition Certificate

As veterans, we served for many reasons. Some of us were drafted, some of us joined an all-volunteer force. Regardless of your motives (or choice in the matter), you have earned the right to call yourself a veteran. There is a tremendous amount of respect and responsibility that comes with that title, and an instant membership into a select group of people who understand what it means to serve.



It's often easy to look back at some parts of our military careers without taking into account the greater picture of what we did, when and where we served, what we accomplished, and what was happening in our world at the time. It is with this in mind that the Cold War Recognition Certificate was created. The Cold War Recognition

Certificate was created to honor those who served in the armed forces or as a federal government civilian during the Cold War Era, which is designated from September 2, 1945, through December 26, 1991. The award and issuance of this certificate was authorized by the Secretary of Defense under Section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act.

How to get a Cold War Recognition Certificate

Eligibility. The Cold War Recognition Certificate is available to all former members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991. Individuals must have served at least one day during this period to qualify for the certificate.

How to obtain a Cold War Recognition Certificate. To request a Cold War Recognition Certificate, [you will need to visit the site](#) to download the appropriate paperwork. [Here are the instructions](#), and the [FAQ Page](#). Then you will need to mail or fax supporting documents to the US Army Human Resources Command. The preferred application method is by using the following application form (the form is based on your mailing address and status as the member who is applying, or Next of Kin): (next page)

- [Application for Cold War Recognition Certificate.](#)

If you are applying as Next of Kin, you may wish to review the methods for obtaining a copy of military records regarding who is considered Next of Kin (generally a spouse, children, surviving parents, surviving siblings, in that order).

Print, sign, and confirm your application. You must send a copy of your application along with supporting documentation. Acceptable documentation includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991). Examples include your [discharge paperwork](#), [DD Form 214](#), military medals or awards, old pay stubs, or other documents. Here are instructions for [getting a copy of your DD Form 214](#), or [replacing your military awards](#).

(**Note:** Please do not send original documents as they will not be returned. Only send copies.). Please send your application and documentation to:

USAHRC

Cold War Recognition Program

ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480

1600 Spearhead Division Avenue

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

FAX: 1-800-723-9262 or 502-613-9510

Alternate application method: Applicants can elect to hand write a letter if they are unable to print the forms mentioned above. If you are applying for the certificate with a handwritten letter, then it must be signed and dated, and you must include the following phrase in your letter, *"I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."*

Applications without this phrase will be automatically rejected.

How long does it take? Response times vary, but expect it to take between 30-60 days to receive your Cold War Recognition Certificate. These certificates will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and will be awarded until the government runs out of them. (This award has been around since 1999, and they are still issuing it, so you likely still have time to receive your copy).

Important things to know

This award is only issued one time per person, and the government is not issuing replacement copies. It is recommended that you keep this [somewhere in a safe place](#), such as a scrapbook, in a frame, or in a lockbox. This should not have any identifying personal information, such as your Social Security Number, so display it proudly!

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

Charles H. Coolidge Veteran of the Year and Associate of the Year Award

Appendix A CHARLES COOLIDGE AWARD RULES GOVERNING THE AWARD

Each member organization of the CAVC in good standing may recommend one veteran member of the organization for the Veteran of the Year award and/or one auxiliary/non-veteran member for the Associate Award. The associate award nominee may be from an auxiliary group of the organization in good standing. An organization shall submit only one nomination for each award. If multiple candidates are nominated for any single award, all candidates for that award from that organization will be eliminated. The selection committee shall be made up as stated in article VII, Section 3 of the CAVC bylaws and shall use existing rules without alteration to judge the nominees. Should clarification of the rules be required, the selection committee shall seek advice from the executive committee. Recommendations for change, in the rules for future years, may be made, in writing, to the executive committee. The current CAVC chairman will be an ex-officio member of the selection committee and will be the administrator of the award. Therefore, the chairman will be ineligible for nomination. The period covering the award shall be November of the previous year through October of the current year. All nominations shall be postmarked or emailed no later than 14 January 2017. Late entries will not be considered for the award. The awards will be announced and presented at the CAVC Awards Banquet. People who receive the award shall not be nominated and/or considered for another award for at least three years.

Mail or email completed applications postmarked no later than 14 January 2017 to: Mickey McCamish, CAVC Chairman, 1534 Heritage Landing Drive, Chattanooga TN 37405. Or email to: mickey@riverbendfestival.com. Questions? Call Mickey at 423-394-0024.

The following guide is for your assistance in furnishing information on nominees:
(next page)

1. Organization:

Name of Organization Making Nomination

2. Nominee

Name of Nominee (Include branch(es) of service & highest rank for veterans)

3. Award:

(Veteran of the Year OR Associate of the Year)

4. Describe the nominee's contribution to the success of your organization during the past 12 months.

5. Describe nominee's contributions to other community veterans' organizations during the past 12 months.

6. Describe any community service the nominee has performed during the past 12 months.

7. Describe any honors and/or recognition the nominee received during the past 12 months.

Continue details on additional pages if needed.

Name & Title of person making nomination: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____

26th Annual CAVC Awards Banquet

Friday, 17 February 2017, 6:00 pm, Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel Roosevelt Room

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Reservation: complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below.
Make your check payable to CHATTANOOGA AREA VETERANS COUNCIL

Name : _____

Guest(s): _____

Reserve _____ dinners at \$24.00 each equals \$_____ (total enclosed)

OR

Organization: _____

Reserve _____ table(s) at \$180.00 for 8 seats equals \$_____ (total enclosed)

Dinner includes:

Chicken Marsala entree, Tossed Salad, Carrot Cake, Coffee/Tea
A Cash Bar will be available

The guest speaker will be Judge Don Poole, USAF JAG Officer 1966-1969

The cutoff for reservations is February 13th so don't delay.

Mail your check to: Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, c/o Mark Parks, Treasurer,
6920 Sawtooth Drive, Ooltewah, TN, 37363-6894