



Chattanooga Area Veterans Council

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

Chattanooga's Armed Forces Day Parade and Luncheon is Friday, 6 May

Chattanooga's 67th annual Armed Forces Day Parade in downtown Chattanooga takes place Friday, 6 May. General Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, will be the reviewing officer and special guest speaker at the Luncheon following the parade.

The parade will lead out with the U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard followed by the U.S. Marine Corps Band. There will be three other bands participating: Hamilton County mass band, Brainerd Band and Howard Band. There will be about 100 entries in the parade this year – more than has been in the parade in many years. Nearly 1,000 local JROTC cadets from 10 Hamilton County programs and nearby Georgia schools along with local Sea Cadet Units will march in the parade.

The parade steps off at 10:30 am on Market Street. The Luncheon takes place at Chattanooga Convention Center at 12:00 pm.

The day concludes with the American Dream Concert at 6:00 pm at historic Engel Stadium featuring 17 year U. S. Army Veteran, Craig Morgan. The gates open at 6:00 pm. The Concert benefits the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Veterans Entrepreneurship Program that enables veterans desiring to start their own business to attend at no cost. Concert tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at local Kangaroo/Circle K Stores as well as online.

<http://www.riverbendfestival.com/american-dream>



General Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps



Photo courtesy of wrbcTV



Photo courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press

Fifty Years Ago in Vietnam

On April 1st the U. S. Naval Force Vietnam Command (COMNAVFORV) was established under the command of RADM Norvell G. Ward. This new combined force command was to control operations on the inland waterways and rivers and some coastal areas. Its major operational command was TASK Force 116 with the river patrol boats which were just arriving in country. TF 116 was organized into five river divisions each with four or five Sections having up to ten boats each. The initial total of 120 boats were supported by four Landing Ship Tanks (LST's) as support and maintenance bases. The boats patrolled the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Zone where enemy controlled territory.



On April 12th as a part of the Rolling Thunder air campaign against the north, B-52 bombers were used the first time to strike targets in North Vietnam. The first target was to hit a supply route in the Mu Gia Pass north of the DMZ to interdict supplies coming into the south. The first MIG-21 was shot down on April 22nd when it arose to meet incoming bombers. The North occasionally used MIG's later in defense operations but they were generally no match for American airmen.

In early 1966 the medical command and control was evolving and responsibilities for non-division assets were being sorted out. The medical areas of responsibility were roughly equal to the combat corps areas with the Marines and Navy having I Corps and the Army having primary responsibility for the other Corps areas. Within the US Army command the office of USARV Surgeon was established and in April the Nursing Division was added. This office was to be the policy arm of the medical support operations and was in charge of determining common medical supplies for all services.

Meanwhile the 44th Medical Brigade was formed and activated at Fort Sam Houston and immediately deployed to Vietnam, arriving in March, 1966. This Brigade was to be the operational commander of the medical operations in country, including control of the hospitals, field units, and helicopter evacuation squadrons as well as coordinating medical evacuation with the Air Force. The division of responsibilities between the USAV Surgeon and the Brigade was initially confusing and often caused delays and coordination problems. Only after the command positions were elevated later in the year to flag rank was the confusion and duplication eliminated.

There was unrest by the Buddhist anti-government and anti-American movement in the northern cities of DaNang and Hue. Premier Ky on April 4th sent five battalions of ARVN rangers



and South Vietnamese Marines to quell the Buddhist uprising. GEN Westmoreland ordered all US personnel to remain on base so as not to get involved. However US Forces did block a pro Buddhist ARVN battalion from attempting to take control of the DaNang airfield. The confrontation was resolved with negotiations but Buddhist sentiments continued to simmer.

The 1st infantry Division was involved in two major operations during the month. The first was the Battle of Xa Cam My on April 11-12 in the rubber plantations about 42 miles east of Saigon. It started when Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry was ambushed by Viet Cong forces and suffered 142 casualties before relief forces arrived and beat back the Viet Cong. The second was Operation Birmingham in War Zone 3 north of Saigon against the Viet Cong 9th Division. After several days of fighting where the VC suffered heavy casualties they withdrew beyond the Cambodian border. The Americans were highly frustrated because the rules of engagement at that time did not allow them to pursue enemy forces across the border.

For actions in April, 1966 two men were awarded the Medal of Honor both of them posthumously. Both of these awards were for action in the intense fighting of the Army's 1st Division against Viet Cong units at Xa Cam My. SGT James W Robinson attacked enemy positions which were inflicting heavy casualties on his platoon. Despite numerous wounds, SGT Robinson dragged wounded comrades to safety, redistributed weapons and ammo and individually attacked enemy machine gun emplacements. In a final charge against the enemy he was killed as he threw grenades into the enemy position which protected his soldiers. Airman First Class William H. Pitsenbarger was on a rescue and wounded retrieval mission. He volunteered to be lowered into the jungle canopy where he collected and treated the wounded and helped evacuated the numerous wounded men. When an attack on the helicopters forced them to withdraw and the enemy attacked, he gathered up weapons of the evacuated wounded and joined the defense. He fought valiantly, attacking and counter attacking the enemy leading the soldiers of the 1st Division. He was killed when attacking a machine gun nest which he wiped out in a final burst of dying energy.

Compiled by RADM Noah Long, CEC, USN (ret) from information in: Web Site of the Vietnam War Commemoration; *Vietnam, the Naval Story* by Frank Uhlig, Jr.; *The Pictorial History of the Vietnam War* by Jeremy Barnes; Web Site: Wikipedia.org/wiki/1966-in-the-Vietnam-War#April; Web Site: history.army.mil/books/Vietnam/medspt.

TRICARE Mental Health Care Update

People in distress may hesitate to reach out for help due to perceived stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment. This perception and the belief that care may be hard to get, may prevent some people who need care from getting it. TRICARE has worked hard to eliminate potential barriers to mental health care by removing day limits for certain mental health services.

Day limits now in effect are:

- In-patient psychiatric hospitalization benefit was limited to 30 days per benefit year for adults and 45 days for children or adolescents. You could request a waiver for additional treatment days if needed. Now however, inpatient mental health hospital services, regardless of length or quantity, may be covered as long as the care is considered medically or psychologically necessary and appropriate.

- The psychiatric partial hospitalization benefit previously had a 60 day per benefit year limitation that could be extended with a waiver. This 60 day limitation has been removed to ensure that beneficiaries receive care for as long as needed.

- The 150 day limit on residential treatment care for beneficiaries under 21 has been removed. Although medical determination is still required, there is no day limit. If you or someone you know requires mental health care, get help. If you believe emergency care is required, you can get emergency psychiatric care without pre-authorization. However, you must get authorization within 72 hours of admission and the 72 hours starts the day after admission. Medical or surgical care does not and has not historically had day limits on care. Now, thanks to the federal mental health parity law, which requires that mental health benefits be equal to medical or surgical healthcare benefits, the same is also true for mental health care. For more information about mental health coverage, visit www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Mental/Treatments.aspx.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Marilyn Lewis | March 29, 2016 ++]

Chattanooga Area Veterans Council
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Check out our website at www.chattareaveterans.com

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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.

IRS Audits - Budget Cuts Mean Fewer Audits

Over the past couple of tax seasons, IRS security breaches that have put taxpayers' sensitive information at risk have highlighted an underlying problem of underfunding. But a recently updated report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) says that the rise in cybersecurity problems is just one of several ways the shrinking Internal Revenue Service budget hurts the federal agency — and in turn, taxpayers. Since 2010, the IRS budget has been cut by 17 percent, after adjusting for inflation. That has led to cutbacks in staff and employee training and delays of technology upgrades, according to the CBPP: These steps, in turn, have weakened the IRS's ability to enforce the nation's tax laws and serve taxpayers efficiently. Less enforcement means fewer audits, which means the IRS recoups less money for the federal government. Less efficient service means taxpayers who need to contact the IRS wait longer on hold — or never get through.

In response to criticism, Congress recently added \$290 million to the IRS budget for fiscal year 2016, but the CBPP argues it was "not enough to make up for the deep funding cuts, and the resulting reductions in personnel, the IRS has experienced since 2010." As the current IRS commissioner, John Koskinen, testified to Congress last week: "The IRS has been operating in an extremely difficult budget environment for several years, as our funding has been substantially reduced. In FY 2016, our funding level is more than \$900 million lower than it had been in FY 2010." The shrinking number of audits is perhaps the most costly side effect of the shrinking IRS budget. According to the CBPP report, the number of IRS staff devoted to enforcing tax laws has dropped by 23 percent since 2010. As a result, the number of audits conducted in 2015 was 22 percent lower than it was in 2010. Last year, the IRS audited 0.8 percent of individual tax returns, which is the lowest share in a decade.

While fewer audits might sound like good news to taxpayers, it costs the country at large. According to the CBPP, IRS audits have recovered 30 percent — or \$30 billion — less in revenue over the past five years compared with the prior five years.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Karla Bowsher | April 18, 2016++]

Retirement Planning

So, you are retired, financially solvent and have a little time on your hands. If you're like many people, you are in search of ways to be involved and to have a meaningful impact in your community. Here are some ways to get started exploring your new role:

1. Volunteer at a school - Public schools, in particular, are chronically underfunded and in need of volunteers for a wide array of tasks. There are always kids and teachers who need some help. (To work with kids you will likely need to agree to a background check for obvious reasons.) Here are a few roles to explore:

- Approach your local school, or school district, and ask where you can help as a tutor: math, science and English lead the list.

- Become a crossing guard. This is a critical position, especially in high-traffic areas and communities that have early rush hours.

2. Work at a hospital - According to the American Hospital Association, most hospitals require volunteers to go through a vetting process. This usually includes a background check along with an interview and proof of up-to-date immunizations. Volunteers receive thorough training for the particular positions and annual refresher courses are common, the AHA says. Some typical volunteer roles include:

- Visiting patients to see if they would like to talk, especially those who don't have family.

- Working at the gift shop; most are partly operated by volunteers.

- Helping to deliver books, newspapers and other reading materials to patients.

- Assisting in blood drives and health drives.

- Providing office help.

3. Get involved in politics - Volunteer for a political crusade, grassroots organization or political action committee. You can also work for a candidate you support. Other ways to get involved include:

- Contact your local city or town hall to see if it has committees that need your help.

- Work on a board of directors. Find a board in your area on almost any topic.

- Run for local office.

4. Help on a hotline - There are suicide hotlines in almost every city, manned by volunteers. Here are some other places to volunteer:

- Help lines for children in crisis.

- An organization called the National Eating Disorder Association has a help line for those suffering from anorexia and/or bulimia

- Help lines for people who just need to hear another voice.

5. Contact animal shelters and humane societies - Local animal shelters and humane societies need volunteers to care for animals, organize fundraising events, perform administrative tasks, or help rescue pets in the wake of floods, fires and other natural disasters. In addition:

- Pet owners can have their pets certified through pet therapy training programs, enabling them to visit patients in nursing homes, children's hospitals and hospices.

- You can walk dogs for people who are shut-ins or otherwise unable to take care of their pets.

- Your local shelter might need someone to foster animals until they can find a permanent home.

6. Check with AARP - AARP has a page on its website (<http://www.aarp.org/giving-back>) for volunteers: Share Your Experience in Your Community. Some options AARP suggests include helping older drivers stay safe and improve their driving skills, and working to end hunger.

7. Become a docent (Lecturer or tour guide) - Many organizations offer docent programs, including:

- Museums

- Learning institutions

- Planetariums

- Botanical gardens

- Equestrian parks

8. Lift a hammer for Habitat for Humanity - The organization, which addresses the issue of housing for the poor, gives you the opportunity to find a local chapter at <http://www.habitat.org/local>. Ways to help include:

- Disaster Corps: Lend your professional skills and expertise to affected Habitat affiliates in post-disaster areas at http://www.habitat.org/disaster/disaster_corps.

9. Help Meal on Wheels - The organization, which ensures that shut-ins and the poor have enough to eat, has a web page at <http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org> to help you find chapters in your area.

Spend part of your day not only delivering the meals, but offering an ear to those who might not have everyday human contact.

10. Check out your local YMCA - The Y offers endless ways to give your community a boost. Perhaps you want to motivate young people to develop education skills and community relationships. Or maybe you hope to help adults to live in a healthier way. You can also coach sports teams and teach classes.

11. Join a choir - Many volunteer their services to hospices, shelters and correctional institutes.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Hiram Reisner | April 15, 2016 ++]

**Invitation to participate in a guided tour
(provided by its crew) of the
USS Tennessee, SSBN-734**



USS TENNESSEE (SSBN734)

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Electric Boat Division

The Chattanooga Navy League Council is sponsoring a trip to Kings Bay Georgia for a guided tour by the crew of the USS Tennessee, SSBN-734 on June 17 and 18, 2016. The USS Tennessee is one of the most powerful warships in the world that routinely is deployed on deterrent patrols in its defense of the United States. Members of the Chattanooga Navy League Council had first priority for reservations for this visit. However, invitations are now being extended to veterans and other groups to attend this unique event. Following are highlights of this submarine themed visit:

- Board and depart on a modern full size coach bus from the McCallie School at 500 Dodds avenue Chattanooga, TN 37404 at 7:30 AM on Friday June 17, 2016. Overnight parking at the school will be provided at no charge to attendees. The coach bus has free WI-FI access, DVD and CD player, flat screen monitors, surround sound, 110 volt charging outlets, tinted windows, comfortable reclining seats with foot rests, spacious overhead and under coach storage, zoned air conditioning, clean and spacious restroom, passenger seat belts, rear and side cameras and other safety equipment.
- Travel to our hotel in Kingsland Georgia. We anticipate arriving at 4:00 PM. During the bus ride to and from Kings Bay we will watch submarine movies, such as Run Silent Run Deep (a classic WWII movie of a US submarine operating in the Pacific), Das Boot (an equally classic WWII movie of a German submarine operating in the North Atlantic), Crimson Tide (a movie of a potential nuclear showdown to start WWII aboard the USS Alabama, SSBN 731), The Hunt for Red October (Based on Tom Clancy's best-seller about a technology superior Russian nuclear submarine), Operation Petticoat and Down Periscope (two of the funniest submarine movies ever produced), and others such as U-517, K*19, Operation Pacific and In Enemy Hands. Water and snacks will be provided during this submarine "movieton" bus ride.
- Arrive at approximately 4:00 PM, to the Sleep-Inn hotel located at 1321 Hospitality Avenue, Kingsland GA 31548. Their telephone number is (912) 673-7116. This is a four year old hotel chain that has received 4+ star ratings from 467 customer reviews. Our group rate of \$59 + tax, with amenities such as free deluxe continental breakfast, exercise room, etc., with interior corridors and elevators.
- At approximately 6:30 PM, attend a meet and greet dinner at the Millhouse restaurant in a private dining room, with members of the USS Tennessee Gold Crew.
- The next morning, Saturday June 18, we will depart the hotel for the submarine base in Kings Bay for a personalized guided tour of the boat by members of the gold crew. This is the highlight of the trip and the crew is sure to do a fantastic job of familiarizing us with the operation of the boat. Wear casual attire, such as jeans/slacks and comfortable shoes, but avoid wearing dresses, high heels and flip flops so you can easily negotiate the stairs, ladders and passageways.
- At approximately noon, eat lunch in the base galley.
- Time permitting there will be a picture opportunity at the Franklin Gate at the retired USS George Bancroft, SSBN 643 memorial.

- After lunch, visit the nearby St. Mary's Submarine Museum, with a personalized presentation by the Executive Director of the museum.
- At 4:00 PM, depart for our bus trip back to Chattanooga, with arrival late that evening.

This should be a very interesting and remarkable visit to the USS Tennessee. It is not every day that you can visit an active duty fleet ballistic nuclear submarine that is one of the most powerful warships in the world.

The fee for this trip is \$200. It includes the round trip bus fare, overnight parking, refreshments and snacks on the bus, dinner at the Millhouse restaurant, the tour of the boat and the St. Mary's Submarine Museum. Additional costs to attendees are their hotel room, including any incidentals, and lunches during the bus ride and base galley visit.

Attendance is being offered to veteran groups, etc. until the bus is full. To guarantee your reservation your payment of \$200 must be received by the Chattanooga Navy League Council.

Please mail your check to our treasurer:

Mark Parks
6920 Sawtooth Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363-6894

Please include with your payment the following information to insure you are able to visit the submarine and to receive updated information regarding the trip:

- **Your full name as it appears on your identification that you will bring with you (any government issued ID card is acceptable, such as a driver's license, and is required to visit the submarine),**
- **Your confirmation that you are a US citizen, which you must be to visit the submarine.**
- **Your age as of June 18, 2016. The chief of the boat has requested the number of those under 18 and he wishes to have a separate discussion regarding those under 18 at a later date (I will update you once I have had this discussion).**
- **E-mail address, telephone number and mailing address, so I can update you with communications regarding the visit to the USS Tennessee.**

I look forward to seeing you on the bus and to updating you on more aspects of the USS Tennessee visit as we get closer to the date of departure. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at my contact information indicated below.

In Your Service,

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