

YOU FOUGHT
FOR YOUR COUNTRY.
NOW WE'D LIKE TO FIGHT
FOR YOU!
"Each One, Reach One, Teach One"



Mission

- ▶ Our organization aims to reduce Veteran suicide, homelessness and incarceration through PTSD awareness, intervention, prevention, and resolution training, mental health first aid, peer support and through mentoring. We advocate and work with federal, state and local agencies to accomplish our goals.

Our Programs and Advocacies

- Celebrate Recovery
- Expungement Clinics
- God's Word for Warriors
- Korean Ambassador For Peace Medal
- PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution
- Reboot Combat Veterans
- Repairs for Heroes
- QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention
- The 917 Society
- Veterans Courts
- Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations
- Veterans Mentoring Training
- Vietnam War Commemoration
- We Honor Veterans
- Women Veterans Outreach

Celebrate Recovery

- ▶ An internationally recognized Christ-centered program that supports and educates individuals to help them overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups.
- ▶ This program emphasizes personal responsibility and teaches participants to that wise choices must be made in immediacy while offering comfort in the power of Christ, which helps make difficult changes.
- ▶ This program incorporates the 12 Steps with accompanying Scriptures along with the 8 Principles based on the Beatitudes which offers participants a clear path of salvation and discipleship.
- ▶ Overarching goals are to introduce hope, freedom, sobriety, healing, and the opportunity to give back one day at a time.

Expungement Clinic

- ▶ The Tennessee Expungement statute allows people with criminal records to file a petition to expunge all dismissed charges for free after the charge is dismissed and court costs are paid, and to file a motion to expunge up to two eligible low-level convictions after a five year waiting period. Reading a criminal record and determining if charges and convictions are eligible is not easy; therefore, this program exists to assist in the understanding and actions necessary for this process.
- ▶ This exists through partnership with UT College of Law Professor Joy Radice.
- ▶ We have conducted two clinics:
 - ▶ Knox County September 28, 2017
 - ▶ 10th Judicial District April 21, 2018
- ▶ For free legal assistance, call the UT Clinic hotline at 865-974-6775.

God's Word for Warriors

- ▶ *God's Word for Warrior's*, based on a book written by Dr. Tom Seals, is also the title of his class taught at Lipscomb University Nashville, TN. We support and promote this curricula written by this theology professor and Chaplain to Veterans.
- ▶ This course is a “faith-based course focusing on spiritual development while addressing physical, mental and moral experiences that many veterans have faced,” says Seals.
- ▶ Since this course is designed specifically for veterans, a main component is to assist them in addressing situations that our veteran men and women face in their attempt to achieve this so called ‘normalcy’ post-deployment.
- ▶ Many sub-components relevant to most veterans are also included such as PTSD, anger management, survivor's guilt, depression, and suicide.

Korean Ambassador For Peace Medal

- ▶ The medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to US service men and women who served in the Korean conflict.
- ▶ To be eligible for this honor, the veteran must have served in country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.
- ▶ If a veteran was a Navy service member and served aboard a naval vessel, then he or she is eligible if the naval vessel was assigned to Korean waters sometime between 1950-1953.
- ▶ This medal recognizes women in service, such as nurse, clerical and administrative, and other positions that were predominantly held by women service members.
- ▶ The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.
- ▶ VTVT began this program on December 1, 2016.
- ▶ To date VTVT has assisted 151 Korean War Veterans from 99 different towns, 34 states and 5 countries. One (1) POW, 19 posthumously.

PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution

- ▶ This initiative resulted from a request from Blount County Sheriff Office (BCSO) Captain Burchfield who contacted our East Tennessee Veterans Treatment Court Committee who asked our organization to train the road officer of BCSO.
- ▶ The program emphasizes lecture and class participation; following, the attendees will be able to recognize presenting symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and respond appropriately.
- ▶ The Council provides the training for free! We coordinated with the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, The Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, the Knox County Veterans Service Office, Knox County VTC, the TN Director of Recovery & Resiliency and the Phoenix Arizona VTC in order to expand our training program throughout TN.

Reboot Combat Veterans

- ▶ This is a course that provides practical guidance for service members and families who are dealing with the aftereffects and trauma of combat.
- ▶ Much of this course focuses on the spiritual aspects of recovery which helps individuals sort through issues of morality, especially in the uniqueness of military culture.
- ▶ REBOOT is a 12 week, 2 hour course.
- ▶ These courses are provided free to families, including child care and dinner in fifteen locations throughout Tennessee.

Repairs for Heroes

- ▶ This program assists veterans with services that helps repair the mind, body, spirit and home.
- ▶ In some instances funding is available for repairs; however, funding is not always available to repair the home. In these cases, the program provides resources via the Department of Veterans Affairs, including suicide prevention and Chaplain services and other community based organizations.
- ▶ Informs veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) HISA program, or the Home Improvement Structural Alteration.
- ▶ In the case a veteran is in need of a wheelchair, the VA may help pay for home improvements before the surgery takes place. This program helps to foster such.
- ▶ HISA application is a VA prescription not a claim.

QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention

- ▶ This training is provided free to veterans, first responders, faith-based, hospice/home care, SUD & Mental health and educational organizations.
- ▶ The program is supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, QPR Institute and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.
- ▶ Classes are provided at 60 or 90 minutes pending the needs and availability of the organization or individual.
- ▶ We also offer a free QPR Gatekeeper Instructor class and certification to individuals who are in influential positions. This certification is generally \$500.
 - ▶ 8 hour instructor course
 - ▶ Applications accepted online
- ▶ The next Gatekeeper training will be held at William Blount High School as part of in- service training.

The 917 Society

- ▶ The 917 Society is a non-partisan non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization providing free constitutions and programs to educators to celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17 each year.
- ▶ The 917 Society's ultimate mission is to reach **4.5 million** students nationally, with Tennessee being the first state reaching all 8th grade students in 2018 — including public, private and homeschooled 8th graders
- ▶ September 17, 2018, was the **231th** anniversary of the signing of our U.S. Constitution in 1787
- ▶ VTVT, TN Representative Jerome Moon purchased 2,000 pocket Constitution handbooks for Blount County and members Sheryn and Don Davis purchased 7,000 handbooks for Monroe County.
- ▶ VTVT, Amvets and Disabled American Veterans distributed 2,700 handbooks on September 17, 2018.

Veterans Courts

- ▶ The court centers around the premise that a growing number of veterans suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions (such as PTSD), and trauma (such as traumatic brain injury) and that these issues may be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Research continues to link substance use disorders with service-related mental illness.
- ▶ Such conditions increase the likelihood of involvement with the justice system. In fact, 81% of justice-involved veterans had a substance use disorder prior to incarceration, and 25% were identified as mentally ill.
- ▶ This courtroom system helps struggling vets turn their lives around with an understanding that the vulnerabilities caused by the complexities of their military experience are of great consideration in the choices that they have made.
- ▶ Veterans courts transform the traditional way veterans interact with the criminal justice system. The results have led to an enhanced quality of life for thousands of veterans.
- ▶ 96% of VTVT JIV Graduates do NOT return to the justice system.

Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations

- ▶ Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation/Ministry (VMFC) was conceived to promote a sense of community, acceptance and support for Veterans and their families in East Tennessee.
- ▶ This idea was launched by the Knoxville Regional Mental Health Council's Faith-Based Committee in February 2012 and will become an integral part of the Faith Based Initiative.
- ▶ This idea expanded in January, 2018 when it was launched nationally by the Military Chaplains Association of the United States.
- ▶ There are only three simple enrollment requirements, making this an effortless way to positively network to assist our veterans.
- ▶ No fee nor annual registration is required.
- ▶ 118 VMFC are currently enrolled.

Veterans Mentoring Training

- ▶ VTVT provides 6 types of mentoring training:
- ▶ Peer support for readjustment to civilian life
- ▶ Peer support for veteran/family mental health and substance use disorder
- ▶ Peer support for veterans court including criminal and family justice involved vets
- ▶ Peer support for Repairs for Heroes program
- ▶ Peer support for homeless veterans
- ▶ Veteran specific suicide prevention training
- ▶ PTSD Awareness, Intervention, Resolution (PAIR) training

Vietnam War Commemoration

- ▶ The Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration purpose is to recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.
- ▶ On July 1, 2016 the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) program approved Vet to Vet Tennessee as VWC partner.
- ▶ VTVT is proud to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families.
- ▶ We aim for this program to be as home town-centric as possible as we want to thank and honor the Vietnam Veterans and their families where they are in a personal manner.
- ▶ We have presented over 7,000 Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pins.

We Honor Veterans

- ▶ America's hospice professionals are on a mission to learn how to serve Veterans through the challenges they may be facing from illness, isolation or traumatic life experience.
- ▶ The program "*We Honor Vets*" (WHV) mimics its title in mission.
- ▶ VTVT has assisted 8 WHV achieve 4 Star WHV certification.
- ▶ VTVT provides WWII, Korean, Vietnam and other war Certificates of Honor and free "Thank a Veteran" hats to Tennessee WHVs.

Women Veterans Outreach

- ▶ Our mission is to let all veterans know they are not alone, and, from a community level, we are ready to work together to equip individuals with necessities for life. *Each one, reach one, teach one.*
- ▶ We emphasize the recognition of women veterans.
- ▶ We provide education on current Department of Veteran Affairs programs as well as community-based veteran programs.
- ▶ A priority is to build communication and the relationship between the Department of Veteran Affairs and non-governmental agencies as well as the community of veterans.
- ▶ Our Inaugural Freddie J. Owens Women Veterans Summit on 10-04-18 held in Knoxville, TN was a successful initiative that fostered this outreach.
- ▶ The 2019 Summit is scheduled at Rio Revolution on 10-03-19 Maryville, TN.

George A. Thomas Memorial Award

- ▶ George A. Thomas, a Vietnam War Veteran, was a lifelong citizen of Blount County. He was a 35-year Alcoa retiree and one of the original 23 members of the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic's PTSD work group. George was the first member of the work group to pass away on July 19, 2012 due to agent orange cancer.
- ▶ Because of George's commitment to his country, family and the group, his continued service & sacrifice, faith and leadership, the group flourished. Our memory of his loyalty, kindness, gentleness and faithfulness helped foster the creation of Vet to Vet Tennessee during extremely difficult times. Thus, we dedicated an award in his honor.
- ▶ The new vision and mission was simple: *"Each One, Reach One, Teach One."* Each brother and sister are to be there for the other.

Gratitude

- ▶ We collaborate efforts with various community partners to serve those who served in the Military. From suicide prevention to housing to judicial issues, we certainly cover many areas of need.
- ▶ Ask about free suicide prevention training for your church or community group or how your organization can be added to the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)'s list of "Veteran/Military Friendly Congregations/Ministries".
- ▶ Donations are always welcome to benefit veterans and their families. 100% of the donations received by Vet to Vet Tennessee go directly to the vets
- ▶ We are grateful and blessed for the prayers, support and honor we have received from thousands of veteran advocates. Peace.

Welcome Home!