

VRC Celebrates Official Grand Opening

The University of Tennessee's Veterans Resource Center celebrated the official grand opening on November 17th.

Active duty, veterans, and supporters from across the UT community gathered together to honor past, present, and future Volunteer veterans and show appreciation for the new center.

An official ceremony was held on the second floor of Hodges Library. Universities Libraries Dean and South Carolina Army National Guard Veteran Steve Smith moderated the ceremony and welcomed key speakers.

Those speakers included UT Chancellor Beverly Davenport. Davenport spoke of her support and admiration for veterans, noting her son who served in the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

Additionally, Marine Corps Vet and MBA student Bill McGovern spoke on transitioning from life in the military to life as a student and how the VRC has helped him through those challenges.

Those in attendance were also welcomed by Country Music Recording Artist Charlie Daniels through a personalized video message.



Attendees gathered at Hodges Library to welcome the new Veteran Resource Center.

Daniel's Journey Home Project donated \$10,000 to provide the VRC with new technology for student vets.

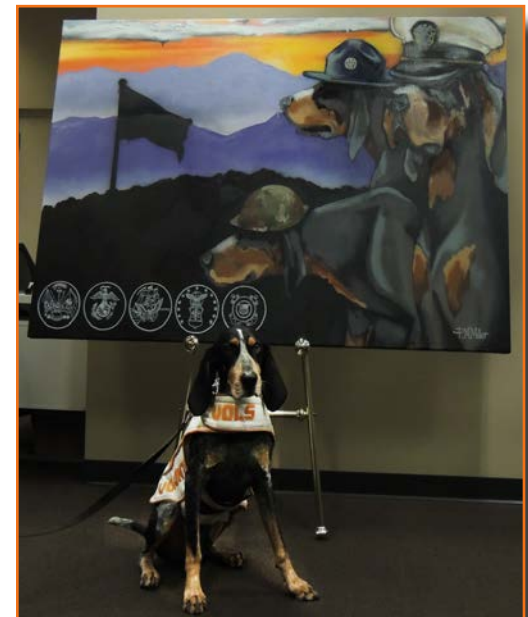
Following the speakers, Dennis Taylor, member of the North Knoxville Chapter of Quilts of Valor, presented 4 veterans with commemorative quilts to honor their service.

Those who received quilts were Student Veterans Brent Bennae and Brandon Pendergrass, Student Success Librarian Ingrid Ruffin, and UT Police Chief Troy Lane.

To conclude the ceremony, members of the UT veteran community gathered to perform the official ribbon cutting for the center.

Attendees were then welcomed downstairs into the VRC for a catered meal and to get a first-hand look at all the VRC has to offer.

VRC Coordinators Jayetta Rogers and Vickie Clark have been welcoming students to the new center all semester and look to continue the commitment to help veteran students network with each other and to more easily access the services they need.



UT Alumna Payton Marie Miller provided new wall art for the VRC. Miller, who is known for her artwork on the UT Rock, was provided paint and supplies by The Student Veterans of America Home Depot Vet Center Initiative grant. Smokey X was also on hand to welcome guests and honor those who have served.

If you would like photos from the grand opening, please contact Thomas Cruise at tcruise@vols.utk.edu



The Challenge Coin



The military challenge coin is a long-standing tradition to honor those who have achieved high merit in their duties.

The coin may be presented by higher ranking officials as a sign of respect, appreciation, or admiration for an individual's success. Generally, the coin will bear a symbol associated with the higher ranking individual or unit who is presenting it, as well as a notation to indicate the reason for the award.

The Veteran Resource Center and the Office of Alumni Affairs collaborated on the design of the coin for the grand opening.

The design was mutually agreed upon with all the permissions granted from the UT Athletics and military branches.

The theme of the coin, "past, present, and future," represents the past graduates of UTK, the present grand opening of the veteran center, and the future student veteran graduates.



Members in attendance received a commemorative challenge coin that honors the past, present, and future Vols.

Quilts of Valor



Quilts of Valor is a non-profit foundation whose goal is to cover ALL physically or psychologically wounded service members with a quilt to comfort them for their service and sacrifice.

The movement was originally started by Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware in 2003, but has now spread across the U.S. and the world.

Dennis and Doyleen Taylor coordinate quilt production from their home in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Veteran Resource Center specifically partnered with Dennis and Doyleen based on their interest in honoring student veterans who had been impacted by war.

They only require that the veteran be impacted in some way by war and that the quilt recipients are not notified beforehand that they are receiving the quilt. They both request that it is a complete surprise.



Veteran quilt recipients (From left-Brandon Pendergrass, Brent Bennae, Ingrid Ruffin, and Troy Lane receive their dedication from Quilts of Valor member Dennis Taylor.



UT Veteran Faculty of the Month

What do you love most about UT?

I enjoy the warm, friendly environment at UT, where people genuinely care about others.

When I see the way our faculty and staff are inclusive of students and others different from themselves, I feel grateful to be part of such a respectful and accepting community.

It reminds me of the comradery I experienced growing up in a military family, living in a lot of different places, and later during my own service to our great country.

**“Find your meaning, find your place.”
- Dr. Ron Tredway**

Name: Dr. Ron Tredway

Branch: U.S. Navy
Aviation Electronics

Years of Military Service:
1977-1984 - 7.5 years

UT Affiliation: UT System
Administration – serving all UT;
office in Knoxville



What advice would you give to our student veterans on campus?

Find your meaning, find your place. Everyone has a place to fit in, to learn, and to contribute to the community they are part of.

UT is a terrific place to find how and where you can make the greatest contribution to your community, whatever that might be for you, through learning and growth.

Be ready, willing, and able to embrace the learning opportunities and be confident in knowing you are accepted and valued as a student veteran, not just for how you served your country, but how you serve your community.

Congrats to our Fall '17 veteran grads!

The Veterans Resource Center would like to congratulate the

Fall 2017 graduating veterans. Veterans across several UT col-

leges will be graduating in doctorate, masters, and bachelor programs.



Additionally, the class of Fall 2017 will be the first recipients of the official VRC challenge coin medallion.

The medallion will be worn with the red, white, and blue cord at graduation as a sign of recognition for the dedication and sacrifice of UT's

veterans.

With a theme of “past, present, and future,” the medallion will represent all those who have and will graduate from UT.

Future student veteran graduates will also receive the medallion to continue the tradition.



2017

The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

Issue #3 Nov/Dec 2017

A Division of Enrollment Management

Dates to remember

- Dec. 5 – Classes End
- Dec. 6 – Study Day
- Dec. 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 – Exams
- Dec. 14 – Graduate Hooding
- Dec. 15 – Commencement
- Dec. 16 – Official Graduation Date

ATTENTION FALL GRADUATING SENIORS!!!

There will be a breakfast in the VRC from **9am-11am on DEC. 11th** to celebrate your achievement.

During this time, you may pick up your cord and commemorative medal to be worn at graduation.

GO VOLS!

To make a donation to the Veterans Resource Center/ Veteran Student Services please visit

<http://giving.utk.edu/veterans>

Fall 2017 Graduates

Doctorate

Education, Health, & Human Sciences

Gary Petree

Engineering

Jonathan Gill
Margaret Kurttz

Nursing

Stacy Emerson

Masters

Agriculture, Science, & Natural Resources

Samantha Jordan

Communication & Information

Jamie Cleek

Business

Hugh Bailey
Tom Barnett
Jeffrey Bradley
Dixon Brockbank
Hugh Cate
James Conatser
Travis Featherstone
Charles Fortner
Jake Graves
Stuart Greenfield
David Hawkins
Lance Herndon
Jeff Lancour
Joseph Martini
Phillip Montag
Jake Moore
James Munoz
Jonathan Newbold

Aaron O'Hern
Vincent Ongjoco
Stephen Owens
Christopher Parrett
David Plurad
Boyd Pritchard
Samuel Roberts
Herman Sacks
Rayleana Schenkenfelder
Jonathan Sellars
Michael Shafer
Kenny Smith
Jamie Spafford
Mike Tankersley
Austen Turner
John Ulett
Joann Walker
Dwight Warnock

Education, Health, & Human Sciences

Kathryn Strange

Engineering

William Hale
Eric Moore

Arts & Sciences

Anthony Estep
James Gallup

Bachelors

Agriculture, Science, & Natural Resources

Stephen Cowan
Alicia Davis
William Hickman
Kathleen Stanford

Education, Health, & Human Resources

Josue Lorenzo
Jana Sullivan

Engineering

William Newell

Business Administration

Nathaniel Hartley
Chadwick Hood
Daniel Kabath
Alan Maze
Traver Prince
Whitney Woods

Arts & Sciences

Ryan Dougherty
Aaron Hess
Cooper Hood
Brock Partlow
Orora Sezenias
Dylan Witucki

Communication & Information

Thomas Cruise
Hillary Welch

