

2018

# The Veterans Resource Center

At The University of Tennessee

November/December 2018

“Connecting Military Veterans to UT Student Services”

A Division of Enrollment Management

## Mayor Glenn Jacobs visits VRC

Recently elected Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs visited the VRC during a chili tailgate luncheon.

Jacobs, who is also a current professional wrestler with the WWE, met with student veterans to discuss his plans as new mayor.

Upon arrival, Jacobs was met by VRC Coordinators Jayetta Rogers, Vickie Clark, Thomas Cruise, and Student Veteran Brent Benna.

Benna, a senior in animal science, has been a fan of Jacobs long before he became mayor.

“I can remember staying up late just to watch him every Monday night,” Benna said.

“It’s awesome that I get to see him in person now as my mayor.”

Over a warm bowl of chili, Jacobs shared his support for the veteran community and discussed some of his upcoming plans.

One focus, Jacobs noted, is to work with local and state governments to combat the current opioid problem across East Tennessee.

Aside from meeting with student veterans and staff, Shiloh, the VRC’s therapy dog

from HABIT, provided Jacobs with a warm welcome as well.

Jacobs was presented a challenge coin by the VRC staff to express gratitude for his visit and support for UT and the veteran community.

Former Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, who also visited the VRC earlier this semester, was recently elected to

the U.S. House of Representatives and will continue to represent Tennessee in Washington.



VRC Staff present Mayor Jacobs with a challenge coin. (Front left: Thomas Cruise, Brent Benna, Vickie Clark, Glenn Jacobs, Jayetta Rogers.)



Major Jacobs meets with student veterans in the VRC

### VRC Staff

#### **Jayetta Rogers**

Coordinator/Certifying Official

#### **Vickie Clark**

Coordinator/Certifying Official

#### **Thomas Cruise**

Coordinator/Certifying Official

#### *Contact Us!*

<https://veterans.utk.edu>

Email: [utkva@utk.edu](mailto:utkva@utk.edu)

Phone: (865)-974-5420

### VRC Partners

#### **Regina Austin, Ph.D.**

Staff Psychologist  
Student Counseling Center  
[raustin4@utk.edu](mailto:raustin4@utk.edu)

#### **Lori Smith, Ed.D**

Accommodations Coordinator  
Office of Disability Services  
[lorismith@utk.edu](mailto:lorismith@utk.edu)

#### **Doug Cunha**

Outreach Ed. Specialist  
Veterans Pre-College Program  
[dcunha@utk.edu](mailto:dcunha@utk.edu)

#### **Lyle Allen, CPSS**

Vet Outreach Program Specialist  
Knoxville Vet Center  
[lyle.allen@va.gov](mailto:lyle.allen@va.gov)



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## Veteran Spotlight

**Name:** Paul Finley

**UT Affiliation:** UT Police- Corporal

**Military Service:** ARMY (regular) Active Duty 19D Cavalry Scout, Bradley Crewmember, Stryker Crewmember. 240B Gunner. Left Army service on hardship discharge (honorable) 2.5 yrs due to spouse injury during deployment in OIF.

**What do you love about UT?** I was surprised to find so many people here that I could relate to and to see how positive this area was in support of veterans. I have been to a lot of places that do not project the same sentiment. When I interviewed at UTPD approximately 5 years ago, I was shocked to learn that both Chief Lane and Assistant Chief Lambert had served and to find the department was home to several other veterans representing multiple branches. The UTPD has been very good to me during my time here. The department represents values and morals that are my own and I am proud to continue to serve the community as a part of this group.



**What advice would you give to student veterans?** Stay engaged! If you are not already, get involved with the VRC. When I got out of the service I had some GI bill money. The job market wasn't great and I was working construction, running and repairing heavy equipment. I decided to go to school to take advantage of the benefits. I soon found out I was in a strange place with people I had a difficult time relating to. They didn't understand me and I really didn't want to understand them.

I was several years older than most of the other students and thought about leaving the program a lot. My school of choice didn't have any resources for people with my experiences. I eventually ran into another veteran who also happened to be a Cav Scout. We were able to work through a lot of the frustrations as we were both having similar problems. VA had issues with payments, allowances were incorrect, classes were...well you get the picture. Long story short, I had a couple run-ins with local law enforcement and although they weren't all bad, they were, as a whole, not good.

From that point forward I figured I could either continue to be frustrated by that kind of thing or I could find a way to make a difference, or at least try. I eventually worked my way through school, obtained two degrees and went on to put myself through a law enforcement academy. Eventually, I ended up here in Knoxville with the UTPD, where I have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to address some of the issues I faced from the other side. You have a great group of people working for you in the VRC. This past week, I, along with UTPD Corporal Brad Duerr (US ARMY Ret.), were able to speak to several veterans at the VRC and answer some questions about Campus Concealed Carry and Handgun Carry in Tennessee. Over the next semester, UTPD will continue to partner with the VRC to deliver programs relating to topics of interest to Veteran students, staff and faculty. I look forward to meeting you there. If you have suggestions or questions about anything please let me know.





### VOLF Wraps Up Successful Semester

The VOLFFighters Student Veteran Group has had one of their most successful semesters yet!

VOLF President Kyle Mcalister has lead the group to take part in fund raisers and campus community outreach.



Some of this success has come from the popular “Big Orange Friday” t-shirt sales.

Design and collaborated by VOLFF members and local business Trench Monkey, the shirt displays support for R.E.D. Friday, which stands for Remember Everyone Deployed.



The VOLFF group was also seen on Ped Walkway throughout the semester, hosting trivia games and serving food and cold brew coffee.



The VRC is proud to support this incredible group of student veterans

and look forward to many successful semesters to come!

### VRC Hosts Veterans Appreciation Dinner

The Veterans Resource Center honored its student, faculty and staff veterans with a veterans appreciation dinner on Monday, November 5th.

The dinner was held in Haslam Hospitality Suite with Coach Phillip Fulmer as the keynote speaker for the event.



Veterans stand to be recognized during the VRC's Veterans Appreciation Dinner

The evening was preceded by UT athletics “Service to Sacrifice” weekend, in which special veteran themed events were planned with UT Football and UT Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams.



Student veterans pose for a photo with UT Athletic Director Phillip Fulmer (center). Fulmer was the key note speaker for the evening.





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## Introducing the Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Partnership (VSP)

Trout Unlimited (TU) partners with a number of veterans groups nationwide to serve all veterans by offering therapeutic opportunities to learn fishing skills, practice those skills on the water, and to participate in TU's conservation mission.

On a national level, TU partners include Student Veterans of America, Embrace-A-Vet, Warriors and Quiet Waters, and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, among others. It falls to each local Trout Unlimited chapter to establish those partnerships at a local level.

Locally, the Clinch River Chapter of TU in Norris is seeking opportunities to partner with additional veterans groups in the Knoxville area, Vol Fighters Student Veterans of America for example. No experience or equipment is necessary.

Through organized activities, our volunteers will teach the skills to make you a successful fisherman. Through our veteran programs, there are opportunities for fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, family events, and camaraderie with other veterans.

Trout Unlimited offers a free, one-year introductory membership for all veterans participating in its VSP programs.



### Annual Clinch River Cleanup

TU is thought of as a fishing organization and fishing certainly plays a big part.

But the primary charter of TU is conservation, with a focus on preservation of cold-water fisheries. Whether your interest is in fishing, or conservation and the environment, you will find opportunities with Trout Unlimited.

Creating fishing and camaraderie opportunities for veterans is the heart of the Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Partnership. All veterans are welcome.

To Learn More about the TU Veterans Service Partnership: [www.tu.org/member-services/welcome-to-my-tu/tackle-box/membership-tools/vsp](http://www.tu.org/member-services/welcome-to-my-tu/tackle-box/membership-tools/vsp)

Contact locally, Sam Hodnett, [shodnett@msn.com](mailto:shodnett@msn.com)

To Learn about Clinch River Chapter Trout Unlimited: [www.crctu.org](http://www.crctu.org)



On Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Clinch-River-Chapter-of-Trout-Unlimited-1409653059250953/](http://www.facebook.com/Clinch-River-Chapter-of-Trout-Unlimited-1409653059250953/)



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## Important Contacts

### National Veterans Crisis Hotline

1-888-244-6711

[www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

### U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

1-800-827-1000

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### Tennessee Dept. of Veteran Affairs

615-741-2345




[www.tn.gov/veteran](http://www.tn.gov/veteran)

### Veterans Healthcare Eligibility & Enrollment

1-877-222-8387

[www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits)

## December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	1
2 Chanukah begins	3	4 Classes End - Total Withdraw Deadline	5 Study Day	6 Exams	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Exams 	8
9	10 Exams	11 Exams	12 Exams	13 National Guard B-day Graduate Hooding 	14 Graduation	15
16	17	18	19 Winter begins	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 First day of Kwanzaa	27	28 Operation Enduring Freedom Ends, 2014 	29
30	31 New Years Eve	Jan 1 New Years Day	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5

GO VOLS!

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

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

