



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs' New Series Features Knox County Teachers

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— In November, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will recognize National Veterans and Military Families Month with an emphasis on local teachers who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The four-part video series will kick off today with new interviews airing each Wednesday on the County's and Mayor's various social media platforms.

The first video, which can be found [here](#), features Darrell Whitaker, a fire science instructor at Fulton High School. Mr. Whitaker dedicated almost 23 years of service to the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He then went on to serve at the Knoxville Fire Department before helping to create the Fire Services/Management Department at Fulton High School.

With a career centered around service, Mr. Whitaker was eager to contribute to his community after he retired. That opportunity came with Fulton High School and Knox County Schools.

“I still have a lot to give,” he said. “Really, it was all about service. They said there were a lot of kids involved and were excited about the program. I said I want to be a part of that startup. I want to at least help get it started for the next person to come in and take it over.”

In addition to teaching the technical aspects of Fire Science, Mr. Whitaker relies on his time in the military and fire department to give each Knox County student a different perspective in the classroom.

“The military opened my eyes to diversity. That’s the biggest thing. If you were in it, you were a team member and team is everything,” said Whitaker.

Mayor Jacobs thanked Mr. Whitaker for his service to our nation as the two went on to discuss some of the modern technologies regarding Fire Science and the impact veterans can have in the classroom.

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