



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 14, 2023

Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris
 306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
 705-1681 cell

Knox County RFC, State Veterans Cemetery to Host Dignity Memorial

Knoxville, Tennessee—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will join Chaplain Pat Polis, the Dignity Memorial Homeless/Unclaimed Veteran Burial Program, the East Tennessee Regional Forensic Center, and the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery will host a memorial for six unclaimed veterans at noon on Wednesday, March 22.

“These are men and women who served our country in various capacities,” said Mayor Jacobs. “Regardless of their current circumstance or family ties, they deserve the respect of a dignified memorial ceremony. I’m grateful that so many of our veteran community come together with the Regional Forensic Center to afford them that honor.”

Full military honors will be provided for:

- Sergeant First Class Jerry Alan Palmer (1950-2022), US Army, Retired (1968-1988), Redstone Arsenal, Ala.
- Specialist 5 David Brent Bledsoe (1952-2021), US Army 1972-1978), US Army Medical Research Institute-Infectious Disease, Fort Detrick, Maryland.
- Private First-Class Terrell Wayne Biggerstaff, Jr. (1960-2022), US Army (1980-1982), Company C. 1st Battalion, 58th Infantry.
- Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Charles Robert McMeans (1956-1962), US Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- Private Frederick Joseph Chase (1956-2021), US Army (1976-1977), Company C., 4th Battalion, 3rd Basic Combat Training, Fort Dix, New Jersey.
- Private Paul Deen Alexander (1957-2022), US Army (1975), Company C., 11th Battalion, 5th Basic Combat, Training, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Vietnam Veterans of America will officiate, and honors will be given at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery (2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy) by the US Navy, US Army, US Marine Corp, the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard, Volunteer State Honor Guard, and the Pigeon Forge Honor Guard. A motorcycle escort will be given by the Knox County Sheriff’s Office and numerous East Tennessee Bike Chapters.

The event is open to the public. Anyone interested in participating in the motorcycle escort will meet at Berry Funeral Home (3704 Chapman Highway) at 10:45 a.m.

For more information, please contact Jeff Berry from Berry Funeral Home (865-577-6666 or 865-660-4531).

###