

STUDENT NEWS

With the start of 2021, we're hopeful we will begin to see more people on the campus and be able to interact in person. Highlighting Skyhawk students, faculty, and staff on our campus serving toward the future seemed to be the best way to get the word out of how we coped with operations this last year. In addition, we added a new section highlighting notable organizations in our communities that continue to help Veterans! Honoring Veterans and helping students succeed continued in the Spring 2021 semester and it's due to the great drive of many.



VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE 2020

In other Veteran's observance news, the campus hosted a Virtual Veteran Day Event on November 11, 2020. The goal of this event was to take time to remember the service of Veterans in all wars. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the faculty, staff, and students who took the time to thank our veterans. In addition, a special thanks to our local American Legion Post 55 for performing flag honors during the ceremony. Lastly, thanks to our guest speaker Justin Johnson, who spoke about the importance of helping Veterans and the issues associated with suicide. Thanks for speaking at the event and your continued work toward improving quality of life to Veterans and their families.

Read more about this here:

<https://www.utm.edu/news/tag/veterans-day/>

<https://youtu.be/ngWFkBhR2Hc>



Justin Johnson

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Since the first edition of the newsletter in fall 2019, we have provided a poem as a symbol of a younger generation taking time to articulate their understanding of those who serve and have served this country. A special thanks to Mrs. Danielle VanCleave and her students of Sharon Elementary for sharing her students' artistic abilities while paying homage to the military.



Past and Present

They say heroes wear capes, have powers, and fly
Yet, here you sit even the ones didn't survive
Never on my knees, on my feet I'll stand
To pay my respect to these who fought for my land

A Veteran, whether active, decreased, or retired
Will always be a hero I truly admire
The freedom to make choices and to live as I choose,
All because of the things done by all of you

The weeks and months away from those you love,
To do all you did, to go beyond and above
The guns, the smoke, the echoing of the bombs
I couldn't imagine your year while remaining fierce and calm

The tears, blood, scars, and painful screams
Things we can only imagine in the worst of our dreams
While we were safe at home and you traveled the seas
You made sure to protect us and keep us free

I never been a soldier so I could never understand
The things you have encountered to protect our land
Out of all the colors of the rainbow, I'd only choose a few

To proudly wear and honor my red, white, blue
To all the soldiers past and those here today
Thank you for your service despite the price you had to pay

By: Chloe Ethridge



Steve Elliott grew up in Phenix City, Alabama. He went to college in New York, graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in foreign area studies (Middle East). He served 23 years as a field artillery officer on active duty in the Kentucky Army National Guard, retiring in 2017. He completed a PhD in mathematics at the University of Kentucky in 2005 and began teaching at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He became a director of the STEM Center for Teaching and Learning in 2015. Currently, he is professor of mathematics and STEM Center director.

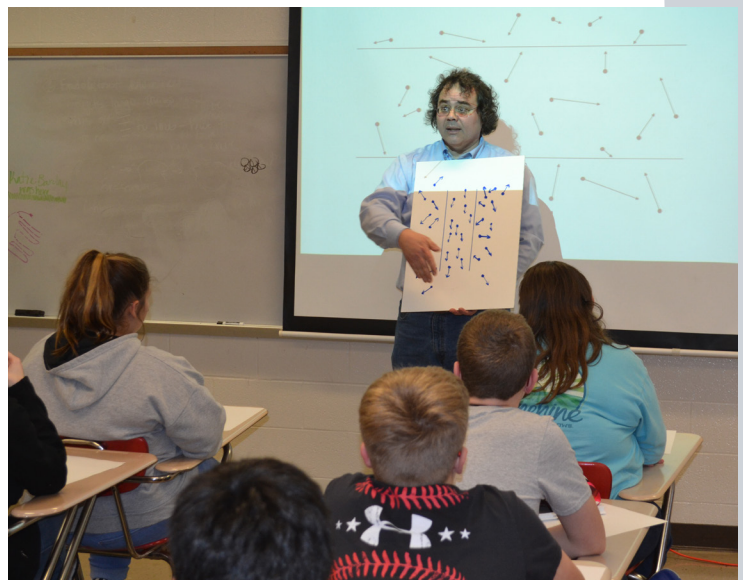


LTC Elliott served on active duty from 1994 to 1998 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His jobs included radar platoon leader; G/333 Field Artillery; fire support officer for A/3-69 Armor; platoon and battalion fire direction officer for 1-41 Field Artillery; and fire control officer for the 3rd Infantry Division Artillery. He joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in November 1998. He served as the 2-138th Field Artillery fire direction and then as the 138th Fires Brigade fire control officer. From October 2001 until September 2004, he commanded HHB/2-138th FA. During this assignment, the battery mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle. After battery command, he served a year as the Assistant S3 and then as the S1 and S4 for the battalion. Moving back to the 138th Fires Brigade, he deployed to Iraq from 2007 to 2008

as the fire control officer. Returning from Iraq, he spent a year as the Fires Brigade support coordinator, after which he served as 2-138th FA S3 from 2009 to 2010. In October 2010, he became the Executive Officer for 2-138th FA, and he served in that capacity during the battalion’s deployment to Djibouti, Africa from September 2012 to June 2013. From October 2013 to September 2016, LTC Elliott commanded 1-238th FA in Greenville, Kentucky. Following command, he became the Fire Support Coordinator for the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Richmond, Kentucky. He retired from the National Guard on March 30, 2017.



After leaving active duty in 1998, LTC Elliott began graduate school at the University of Kentucky. He completed a PhD in mathematics in 2005 and began his civilian career as an assistant professor of mathematics at the UT Martin. He was promoted to associate professor in 2012 and to professor in 2020. Since 2015, he has been Director of the Stem Center for Teaching and Learning.



In addition to his formal degrees, LTC Elliott is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Exercise, and Intermediate Level Education. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M device, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Steve Elliott and his wife, Holly, have two sons, Cannon, 13, and Connor, 8. They live in Martin,

Tennessee.

Dr. Elliott made a point to say the following, “*My COVID protective mask is no problem compared to my Army protective mask.*” I believe most Veterans would agree with this sentiment.

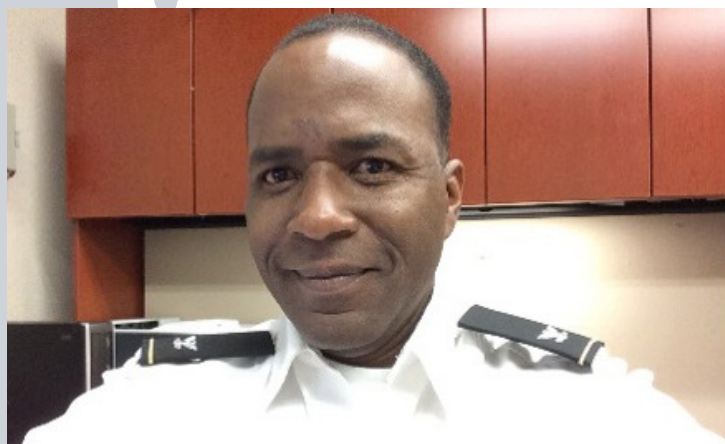


STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Please take the time to welcome Ardis C. Porter, U.S. Army Colonel Retired, to the team. He is the program manager spearheading the Veterans Employed in Technology and Service in Agriculture (VETSA) program, focusing on transitioning Veterans into the Agriculture profession. In his last military assignment, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, US Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee and a Master of Science Degree from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri. He has more than 30 years of military leadership experience in senior and executive roles and displays a high level of dedication to improving lives of student Veterans. He has a proven capability for strategy, collaboration, and forming and empowering talented teams. Throughout his military career, he was recognized as a proven senior Human Resources Officer with extensive leadership skills and a results

driven leader. This trend continues in his civilian career. He will be the guest speaker for our upcoming UTM Memorial Day observance program. More information on VETSA is provided in the scholarships and grants section.

[Click here](#) to read the Discovery Park Military Exhibit program on April 23-25, 2021.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT



The Office of Academic Records welcomes Alyssa Pettit as the UT Martin Transfer Specialist. She joins us from UT Martin Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement where she also worked extensively with

the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Alyssa provides a thorough understanding of the transfer enrollment process. In her new role, Alyssa strengthens the transfer credit process, and she is dedicated to working hard for our students, faculty, and staff. Alyssa resides in Martin with her husband Jamie and their children. She loves her family, her church, traveling, photography, cross-stitching, and her puppy Scout. One of her goals in life is to visit as many US state and national parks as possible. She can be reached at (731) 881-7052 or apettit4@utm.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

VETERAN EMPLOYED IN TECHNOLOGY SERVICE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (VETSA)

Ardis Porter stated, "I really do believe we need to have more conversations about the principles of Duty, Honor, and Country." Gen. Douglas McArthur said it best, these three principles will build courage when courage seems to fail, will regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, and will create hope when hope becomes lost. Our young men and women need to learn the importance of Duty, Honor, and Country!

The VETSA program ties into those three principles and providing participants a great opportunity to serve their individual communities. It allows them to show the honor and pride of perserving this great land that feeds us each and every day, and lastly, it ties back to protecting the great country we are so blessed to live in, allowing us the freedom to live out our dreams - finding happiness and peace.

For more information about the VETSA program (901) 757-7777 Extension 7120 or aporter@agricenter.org.

[Click here](#) for more information on the various scholarships and grants.

SPRING 2021 GRADUATES

Matthew Gunn	B.S. Health and Human Performance Cum Laude
Ashley Thedford	B.S. Agriculture Business
Joshua London	B.S. Business Administration
Michael Wilson	B.S.E. Engineering
Kristen Rice	B.S. Agriculture Business Magna Cum Laude
D'Rae Modrall	M.S. Education
Madison Orchard	B.S. Business Administration
William Seamster	BIS Interdisciplinary Studies



The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 303 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, (731) 881-3505 Office, (731) 881-4889 TTY, Hearing Impaired, (731) 881-3507 Fax, equityanddiversity@utm.edu, <http://www.utm.edu/departments/equalopp/>. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/finadmin/publicsafety/annualreport.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777. Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elam Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660. R05-4705-502-003-21

NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS FOR VETERANS

UNFORGOTTEN MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Veteran Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell once said, "I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. My Nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down, I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight."



This quote is representative of the Unforgotten Motorcycle Club, whose members can be seen around West Tennessee on motorcycles helping and honoring Veterans since October 2, 2010. President Doc-T recently stated, "Our clubs identity is centered around paying tribute to Veterans living and fallen, and we do that by helping and always will!"

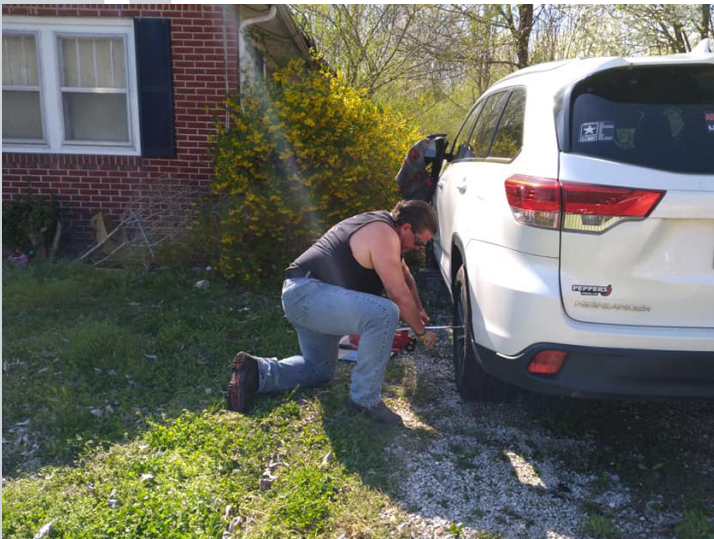
This organization has helped Veterans without families in nursing homes, assisted homeless Veterans to find homes, built ramps and other assistance devices on homes for disabled Veterans, donated wheel chairs and walkers, helped with auto repairs, and countless other needs for this population. They established the Adopt-A-Vet program, allowing them to utilize donations to assist Veterans within our communities. The organization was donated a van to ensure Veterans can get to medical appointments and that mission is performed weekly. All of this has been possible through generous donations of a state that loves its Veterans. Are you looking for a way to volunteer or an organization to provide donations to? Maybe you are a Veteran or family member looking to find a group of people who never forget the sacrifices of our Service members. If so, meeting these Patriots would put you on the right track to helping or ensuring their mission continues.

Contact Unforgotten Motorcycle Club President, Doc-T for more information at doct21mc@gmail.com or donations can be mailed to:

**Unforgotten MC Adopt-A-Vet Program
C/O Apex Bank**

PO Box 99

Big Sandy, TN 38221





21 MC

ADOPT-A-VET Program

MISSION STATEMENT

The Adopt-A-Vet Program is a Fund Raising Program that provides needed items for Veterans that have no one else to help provide for them. We are constantly checking with our different communities to try and locate IN NEED Veterans that we might offer assistance to. Any money donated to this program is put into a special account maintained as an active draw fund for these designated Veterans and a Cashier's Check is written in their name when money is removed from this account.

We feel that ALL Veterans deserve any help we can offer and we think this is just a small way that we can do our part to show these "HEROS" that someone does care!

Donation Jars are also set up at different locations throughout the year and at special functions and activities. Donations may also be mailed to: Unforgotten MC Adopt-A-Vet Program, c/o Apex Bank, P O Box 99, Big Sandy, Tn 38221.

For more information contact: Ronnie "Dr.T" Tyler 731-336-3822

THE UNFORGOTTEN MC

WHY ARE THE UNFORGOTTEN MC ALSO KNOWN AS 21 MC?

The name on the back of our vest (or CUT as it is commonly called in the MC world) has 21 letters: Unforgotten MC West Tenn. The letter "U" is the 21st letter in the alphabet...also, but more importantly it is to honor the Veterans reasons to honor 21...

1. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier the Honor Guard takes 21 steps, pauses for 21 seconds, then turns and repeats his walk. This happens 24/7 365 days a year no matter what the weather!
2. This is to honor the 21 Gun Salute...
3. Taps played correctly also last 21 seconds for the same reason.

You may also wonder why our "Colors" are red and black: red is for the blood that was shed and black is for the mourning in our hearts.

A lot of thought and time was dedicated to all aspects of the Unforgotten Motorcycle Club, what we stand for, what we do, and how we carry ourselves. We are not perfect by far but try to hold ourselves to a higher standard. Sad thing is...some still think of us as a "biker gang"!

UNFORGOTTEN MC

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 21 MC AND OUR ADOPT-A-VET-PROGRAM

The 21 MC began with five Biker Brothers from Tennessee and seven from Kentucky ("LOYAL 12" Patch Holders). We were all like minded about helping out local area veterans in need. We met at the Vietnam Vets/Legacy Vets MC Clubhouse in Paducah, Kentucky starting out. We were of the mind that we would be like no other club. Our first president, Claude "Chaser" Davis, came up with the idea to find a Vet with no family in a nursing home and help out. Our first was a gentleman who served in Korea. He said he would like a 12 pk. of Dr. Peppers a week and a carton of Viceroy cigarettes every 2 weeks! Our first Adopt-A-Vet program raised \$436... we were ecstatic! We could help this Veteran out for a year!

Over the course of the last 14 years or so, we have raised and given away nearly \$130,000 locally to veterans in dire need. We still work with nursing homes. We have moved 5 homeless Veterans into housing, built countless ramps, added handholds in bathrooms, supplied shower chairs, wheelchairs, and walkers to numerous Veterans in need. We have also done many auto repairs, bought tires, groceries, and seen to other needs. We have transported Veterans to doctor appointments numerous times. Four of the retired brothers volunteer and drive the Veterans Council van and also transport individual Veterans in their private autos. One of our brothers recently took his 94th trip transporting Veterans in need.

None of this would be possible if not for the big hearts of local area bikers, veteran organizations (American Legions, Am-Vets, and VFW's), churches, and the good people in our community who know what we do and wish to help. The 21 MC Adopt-A-Vet program is a separate part from the actual club. We have a separate checking account for the club dues, clubhouse monies, and deposits made by MC brothers. The Unforgotten MC Adopt-A-Vet is its own entity and has a savings account with Apex Bank. Donations withdrawals to veterans are taken out of this account as a cashiers check in a Veteran's name. All these records are available for anyone to look at.

If you wish to make a donation, please mail it to: **Unforgotten MC Adopt-A-Vet program. c/o Apex Bank, PO Box 99, Big Sandy, TN 38221.** Thank you and god bless our veterans and their families. **Questions? Contact Ron "Doc T" Tyler at (731) 336-3822.**