



Honoring Veterans
FOR SERVICE TO
State and Country

A CEREMONY WITH
GOVERNOR BILL HASLAM & FIRST
LADY CRISSY HASLAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

9:45 A.M. (CST)

TENNESSEE TOWER PLAZA
NASHVILLE, TN



TENNESSEE SALUTES YOU.



WELCOME

Yvette Martinez
Assistant Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Veterans Services
United States Marine Veteran

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Sergeant First Class Todd Eubanks
Tennessee Army National Guard

Sergeant First Class Lonnie Wheeler
Tennessee Army National Guard

Sergeant First Class James Howard
Tennessee Army National Guard

Staff Sergeant Caitlin Hooper
Tennessee Army National Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Irlene Mandrell
Country Music Artist

PRAYER

Jim Henry
Deputy Governor
United States Navy Veteran

REMARKS

Colonel Jimmie Cole
Tennessee Military Department

REMARKS

Colonel (Army Ret.) Many-Bears Grinder
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

REMARKS

Governor Bill Haslam



INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES

Rebecca Hunter
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Resources

Larry Martin
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Finance &
Administration

Ed Carter
Executive Director, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Bob Martineau
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment and
Conservation

Russ Deaton
Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam

CLOSING SONG

Irlene Mandrell
"We Will Stand"

POSTLUDE

129th Army Band, Tennessee Army National Guard

HONOREES



STEVEN BROWN **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Steven Brown is currently serving as Human Resources Program Director at the Department of Human Resources. Previously, Sergeant Major Brown retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2013 with 26 years of service which included deployments to Kuwait, Italy, Hungary and Afghanistan. Steven has worked for the state for two years and has created a lasting impression through his dedication and desire to promote cohesiveness, professionalism and excellence. He demonstrates a sense of quality, ownership and pride in his work. Steven has reorganized the Records Management Division in a manner that has improved functional workflow to efficiently serve internal and external customers. In partnership with DoHR Fiscal, Steven evaluated electronic file storage, identified inefficiencies and made improvements that resulted in an annual 47 percent reduction in cost. He is currently stepping into new responsibilities to include the Quality Assurance function for the agency and is currently developing a partnership approach to compliance review and process improvement.



DONNA CAMERON **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Donna Cameron was promoted to Office of Inspector General Program Manager in 2013, but has worked for the State of Tennessee for 29 years. Previously, she served in the United States Army. In her current leadership role, Donna has reorganized her division to improve efficiency. She has developed a new method of obtaining affidavits and claims to comply with legal standards that have met approval of prosecuting attorneys. This effort has the potential of preventing evidentiary issues in court. Donna recognized the need for bilingual employees for the OIG Hotline and spearheaded the effort to improve customer service to Spanish speaking customers. This initiative has resulted in an average of 20 new calls for service each month. Donna worked with the Comptroller's Office during an audit of the Office which resulted in zero negative findings. Her managerial expertise resulted in a 99.32 percent error free finding for this fiscal year, which includes case files, documentation and case referrals. Donna developed and implemented a system with TennCare management to receive Managed Care Contractors data quarterly for validation against OIG's Case Tracking System. This validation process has revealed an approximate 24 percent increase in referrals received for review by OIG.

HONOREES



BRANDON GEESLING TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

Brandon Geesling is currently a Wildlife Officer at the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. Previously, Sergeant Geesling served as a Combat Engineer in the United States Marine Corps which included a deployment to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brandon has worked for TWRA for eight years and has been selected as Officer of the Year in District 31. He is currently renovating the "Wildlife-On-Wheels" trailer which includes interior, exterior and marketing efforts. Brandon is also the scheduler for this mobile unit which has been used to educate thousands of Tennesseans. His outreach efforts also include educating young people about wildlife resources, opportunities and information on hunting, trapping and boating. Brandon also organizes efforts to bring in native fish and wildlife species for citizens to experience. Recently, his investigative abilities brought about the prosecution of several individuals involved in one of the largest deer poaching rings. This case involved approximately 130 charges against the offending individuals. This year, Brandon traveled to South Carolina to work with emergency agencies involved in rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Joaquin.



KEVIN MAHONEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Kevin Mahoney is currently the Budget Director for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. He has been with the State of Tennessee for five years. Previously, Specialist Mahoney served in the United States Army as a Combat Engineer and Unit Armorer. His time in uniform included deployments to Kuwait and Iraq. As TDEC's Budget Director, Kevin has transformed customer service and has received a 96 percent satisfaction rating in the most recent customer service survey. Customer responses included feedback about Kevin's ability to help employees better understand the state processes and gave employees the tools needed to be effective in what they do. Kevin's transformation efforts include templates and models now used by Finance and Administration as a monthly budget reporting resource. Kevin's efforts led TDEC to have two successful year-end close outs with no additional funding requests needed, resulting in TDEC reverting back \$8 million to the General Fund. In 2014, he received the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Nashville Emerging Leader Award in Finance.

HONOREES



TOM MORRISON

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Tom Morrison is currently the Veteran Education Assistant Executive Director at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Previously, Commander Morrison served 21 years in the United States Navy. Since retirement, he worked at Austin Peay State University where he served as a Certifying Officer before coming to THEC in 1999. Tom has developed strong relationships with all public and private institutions as well as technical schools as an esteemed asset and veteran advocate. His efforts have resulted in providing education and training for the 14,000 Tennessee Veterans currently receiving GI Bill benefits. Tom works in close partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the quality and integrity of programs of education and training, including Apprenticeship and On-the-Job training programs for the use of GI Bill benefits. Tom and his staff provide direct assistance to veterans and eligible family members, participate in outreach events to raise awareness about GI Bill benefits and procedures, as well as provide technical assistance to school officials and employers for the approval and monitoring of training programs. Tom has been instrumental in the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support (VETS) Program that passed into law in 2014. The program recognizes higher education institutions which allocate resources for veterans' successful transition into higher education. Since 2014, 12 institutions have received the VETS Campus designation.



SPECIAL THANK YOU



IRLENE MANDRELL COUNTRY MUSIC ARTIST

Irlene Mandrell was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, and is the youngest sister of the world famous country trio, The Mandrell Sisters. Irlene and her sisters come from a musical family. She began playing drums professionally when she was eleven. Irlene is a Country Music Hall of Fame Walkway of Stars inductee. She has received many awards including two comedy acts of the year awards from Music City News.

Though music has always been the Mandrell Sister's mainstay, Irlene has enjoyed an extraordinarily varied career as an actress, model and performer. Her first television series, Barbara Mandrell and The Mandrell Sisters aired on NBC and also in the UK with a viewing audience of 40 million. The show featured good-humored interplay between Irlene and her sisters.

In her down time, Irlene loves performing with her children. Her daughters, Vanessa and Christina are gifted singers, dancers and actresses. Her son, Deric is a very talented drummer and singer also. Irlene's three children demonstrate some of their talent as they sing in the background on her current single "We Will Stand" as well as in her new album she is currently working on. This new album will be dedicated to those who serve our country.



The Volunteer State is home to more than 506,000 Veterans. There are currently 2,941 Veterans working for the State. We are grateful for the service of all men and women who served their state and country in the Armed Forces and the families who supported their mission to defend our freedom.

www.tn.gov/veteran



Tennessee Department of Veterans Services.
Authorization No. 323335, 200 copies. November
2015. This public document was promulgated at a
cost of \$1.68 per copy.