



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Highlights U.S. Navy Veteran Maria Crowe in New Series

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed U.S. Navy Veteran, and substitute teacher, Maria Crowe, as part of his series highlighting U.S. military veterans who teach in Knox County Schools.

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month and the series focuses on local teachers who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. New interviews air each Wednesday on the county's and Mayor's various social media platforms throughout the month.

In the interview found [here](#), Crowe details her experience leaving the Czech Republic at a young age as her family sought freedom in America from behind the Iron Curtain.

“My family and I left the Czech Republic when I was two,” said Crowe. “That’s where my patriotism comes from because we came from a completely different world view and system, and we found so much opportunity and so much personal freedom here.”

After settling in Maryland, Crowe and her family would visit the U.S. Naval Academy where her 11-year military career began just after high school.

“It was just a beautiful place to go,” she said. “I met a friend who said she was thinking of going to the U.S. Naval Academy and she inspired me to apply.”

Crowe worked in data management and communications but left the career to raise her children and home school them. Crowe’s daughter enrolled in the University of Tennessee allowing Crowe and her husband, who is from Harriman, to settle back in East Tennessee.

Crowe, who now works as a substitute teacher in Knox County, says her passion for teaching comes from those years of home schooling her children.

“With two small children at home I just felt I was torn between two important missions,” she added. “So, I came home full time and stumbled into home schooling and that’s how I came to love the teaching profession.”

Mayor Jacobs and Crowe also discussed why military veterans bring value to the teaching profession and how educators, like veterans, are invested in the growth and success of our communities.

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