



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Highlights U.S. Army Veteran David Pearson

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed U.S. Army Veteran, and South Doyle Middle School Social Studies Teacher, David Pearson, as part of his series highlighting teachers who are also U.S. military veterans.

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](#), Pearson discusses joining the U.S. Army to help pay for college but soon learned his calling was to develop and lead Soldiers.

“As I got more introduced to the actual military community, I just wanted to lead Soldiers,” said Pearson. “They’re smart people however they ended up there and I knew I didn’t want to be in a job in the military that wasn’t leading them.”

Pearson grew up in Pennsylvania to a military family, as both parents served. After graduating from the ROTC program at St. Bonaventure University, he spent 6 years as an officer in the U.S. Army where he also met his wife who currently serves at McGhee-Tyson Air Force base in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Nearing the end of his contract, Pearson and others were given a chance to observe history projects for a local school sparking his desire to teach. Taking to it quicker than he imagined, Pearson and his wife moved to Knox County in 2017 and haven’t looked back.

“It was fun,” he said. “I just enjoyed it. I saw their projects and interacted with them and thought I never thought about being a teacher, but I liked it and it was fun, so I continued to pursue it.”

Pearson’s views and perspectives were shaped after serving stateside in Alaska and Colorado and abroad in Afghanistan and Jordan. Pearson hopes veterans view the teaching profession as a way of continuing to serve your community and to share those unique perspectives.

“It’s a way you can still serve. If you want to continue to serve in a way that you can really make a long-term difference in your community, teaching is a good way to do it,” said Pearson.

Mayor Jacobs and Pearson further discussed how leading troops in the U.S. Armed Forces translates to teaching students, and why more veterans should consider teaching as a post military career choice.

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