



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Highlights U.S. Army Veteran Calvin Hartwell

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed U.S. Army Veteran and South Doyle High School Jr. ROTC Instructor 1SG Calvin Hartwell, closing out his series highlighting veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who teach in Knox County Schools.

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month and the series focused on local teachers who served in our military.

In the interview, Mr. Hartwell says the Jr. ROTC program's motto is "to motivate young people to be better citizens," but the program does much more.

"A lot of people think all we do is PT and drill," said Hartwell. "But we teach kids about their character and the majority of the time we teach them life skills. That's kind of what our program does."

Born in Mississippi, Hartwell met a U.S. Army recruiter and joined almost immediately. After holding numerous positions over a 24-year career, Hartwell retired to take on his current role. Dedicated to serving others, he has worked for 23 years in the ROTC program and feels that what's most important about his class, is that his students are like family.

"I think we give people a sense of family. That's most important to me because everybody can't be an athlete. Everybody can't be the academic genius, but you can come into ROTC and find yourself," said Hartwell.

Mayor Jacobs and Hartwell further discussed his military career and how the Jr. ROTC program can be the right fit for students looking to become better citizens. To find out more, check out the story [here](#).

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