



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2023

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## **Grateful Nation Hero Card Program to Add Six Local Vets to Series**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and other local leaders will honor fallen veterans on Friday, June 16, by presenting Knox County Schools with a collection of Hero Cards in support of the Grateful Nation Project.

The cards will feature six new additions – all East Tennessee Veterans!

The event will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Friday at West High School (3300 Sutherland Avenue) in the main auditorium. The names of those East Tennesseans added will be announced at the event along with the other 144 card set. There are only three other Tennesseans included.

The Grateful Nation Project from Hero Cards is a program for schools, designed to connect students to those who gave their lives in service of the country, from the Revolutionary War to the present day. Each card has a service member's image, basic information, and a brief part of their story—along with a number for a website bio page with source links.

“Honoring those who gave their lives in service to the country is the very least we can do,” said Mayor Jacobs. “The Grateful Nation Project is a unique way to do that, and I’m thrilled we get to highlight the Volunteer Spirit that East Tennesseans are known for.”

Bill Robinson will serve as the keynote speaker.

While serving as a crew chief aboard a U.S. Air Force Rescue helicopter, Airman First Class William A. Robinson was shot down and captured in Ha Tinh Province, North Vietnam, on September 20, 1965. After a brief stint at the “Hanoi Hilton,” Robinson endured 2,703 days in multiple North Vietnamese prison camps, including the notorious Briarpatch and various compounds at Cu Loc, known by the inmates as the Zoo. No enlisted man in American military history has been held as a prisoner of war longer than Robinson. For seven and a half years, he faced daily privations and endured the full range of North Vietnam's torture program.

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