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POW to tell his story

By Pete Gawda

"Never give up. Never give in" was the attitude that got Bill Robinson through seven and a half years in a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. He will be telling his story at a breakfast to be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 14 at Black Oak Heights Baptist Church, 405 Black Oak Drive. Robinson, a 23-year Air Force veteran was shot down September 20, 1965 and released February 12, 1973 as the war was winding down and troops were preparing to withdraw. He and Neil Black, who was in the same aircraft, are the longest held enlisted POWs. Because of this Robinson received the Air Force Cross which ranks just below the Medal of Honor.



Bill Robinson

Robinson credits four things with keeping him going during those dark days in North Vietnam. "Faith in myself, faith in each other, faith in my country and faith in my Heavenly Father to see us through."

Religion played an important part in his survival. His experiences reminded him of the difficulties of Bible characters

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Jane Cade Young stands beside the bench dedicated to her late husband, radio personality "Your Dave Young." Both were employees at WIMZ Radio and the station supported her efforts to purchase four benches for the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Governor John Sevier Highway.

Benches for Bravery

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

If you've been to the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Governor John Sevier Pike over the past few years you may have noticed there are few places to sit down. For some time one long bench was located near the ceremonial building but none in or around the grounds.

That fact came home to one woman

a couple years ago and she decided to raise money and buy four benches. Those benches were dedicated in ceremonies Friday.

Jane Cade Young, wife of the late radio personality "Your Dave Young" of WIMZ, learned that finding benches and placing them would be a drawn out process. Dave Young was a Vietnam veteran and well known to lots of people in the area

including Congressman John Duncan, Jr.

So Jane Young got busy. She's WIMZ's Marketing Consultant and the station pitched in with a fundraising promotion. The listeners responded and so did Dunlap RV, Garza Law Firm, and the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association.

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KTA to pick up national transit award

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Usually when the Knoxville Transit Authority Board meets each month their agenda could be for any meeting during the year. It's a basic agenda of new and old businesses, reports from the various departments, and a pretty routine outline with a spot for public comment.

Yet a recent meeting broke the mold as Director Dawn Distler reported on a series of new business. She gave an update on the success of the system's seven new hybrid buses which replaced older buses on routes. She said the new buses were "very well received" and that ridership on them has increased.

The Knoxville system was recognized recently as the Outstanding Public Transportation System for Small Systems and Distler said she when she returns from the Atlanta meeting to pick up the award, she and her staff will share their

presentation with the board. The meeting of the American Public Transportation Association meets soon for award presentations.

She also said that the project to add new camera systems to city buses is about half done and said that the recent Bus Hop Trash Stop on Magnolia Avenue was so successful that another such event is planned for December. She also reported that ridership for the first and second UT football home games was up and praised the "Passenger Play Books" designed for riders attending the games.

Distler also said that August was the second month in row with no preventable accidents in the system.

Board member Chris Crouch asked Distler about a report of a liquid being thrown in the face of a Chattanooga bus driver and Distler said Knoxville Bus drivers are told to "be aware of their surroundings" and that the employee bus parking lot is secure and well lighted.

Board member Renee Hoyos, who is leaving the group to run for U.S. Congress, asked Distler, "where do old buses go to die?"

Distler said the buses are put up for auction if other city departments want them.

City Councilman Daniel Brown mentioned a complaint at a city council meeting by Anthony Brown about problems for riders at the bus stop at the Social Security office and the difficulties there for senior and disabled citizens to navigate the hillside from the stop to the office.

Distler said the bus used to go up into the parking lot there but could not keep the lane clear and often had to back out of the lot guided by a supervisor. She said a passenger count was completed and only two trips a day there had passengers for the office.

She said the neighboring auto dealer owns the entrance to the Social Security parking lot and

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City Council Large agenda includes cell towers, parking

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday the members face a long agenda of everything from appointments to the Historic Zoning Commission to renaming some streets but the biggest questions involve passing, on second and final reading, the city's new Parking Ordinance. They will also wrestle with the first reading of the new "Wireless Communications Facilities Plan" regarding cell tower regulations. Both will probably take up a bit of the agenda.

The updated Parking Ordinance may require a distance between parking lots, either 10 or 20 feet depending on the size of the lot, and require buffering between the lots and

the street. The cell tower regulations are an attempt by the city to have some say into where the towers are located, how they are located, and how to meet the different federal regulations for placement on private property or on right-of-ways.

Five properties are proposed for sale to individuals as part of the Home-makers Program. The properties vary in sales price from \$64,300 to \$1,000 and are located on Amelia Road, Linden Avenue, West Bellemeade Avenue, Ailsie Drive and Ivy Avenue. Most are vacant lots or homes taken by city because of blight or unpaid taxes. Habitat for Humanity is interested in the property at 3801 Ivy Avenue.

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