

Top Warrant Officers Chapter

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From staff reports

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The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association was named outstanding chapter at last week's 37th annual meeting of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association in Salt Lake City. The local unit was among 82 chapters represented and received three other awards.

Along with the outstanding chapter award - the chapter's third - the unit won the award for Community Affairs for Sustaining Programs and was runner-up for Community Affairs for Donations and Community Affairs for Service to the Community.

"We are thrilled and honored to be recognized as the Warrant Officer Association's best chapter for 2009," said retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Max Bennett, the chapter president. "The Tennessee Valley is lucky to have a dedicated group of warrant officers who first think of the needs of others. So many chapters are out there struggling every day with deployments, supporting families and communities, and raising money to do the things they need to do.

"To have the national organization recognize my guys and gals in the most patriotic community in the world, and then reward this team's efforts to make this community a better place is truly an honor."

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter was recognized this year for its intensive service to the Tennessee Valley (2,451 volunteer hours) including: building wheelchair ramps (in cooperation with CASA of Madison County); volunteering for Honor Flight - Tennessee Valley; burying indigent veterans who do not have family representation; Redstone ballfield cleanup; Chapter Secretary Johnie Keeter, one of Redstone's 2009 Helping Hands award winners; Memorial Day laying of the Warrant Officer Wreath; presenting a \$1,000 scholarship to a local student; working with Retiree Appreciation Day at Redstone; Salvation Army bell-ringing; and assisting with Operation Christmas Bears.

The Redstone chapter will host the 38th annual meeting next fall at the Embassy Suites in downtown Huntsville.