



# VETERAN TALON



## USI Student Veterans of America Chapter Awarded Grant - Ashley Watson

Bank of America and Student Veterans of America (SVA) have partnered to award the University of Southern Indiana SVA chapter a \$1,500 grant to continue its work on campus supporting veterans and enriching the community.

The SVA Chapter Grant Program is designed to encourage student veterans to think about long-term sustainability of their chapters and develop the best possible strategies and plans to achieve that. Chapter grants can be used to fund events, conference travel or purchases needed to enhance the experience for student veterans in an SVA chapter.

"This is the beginning of great things for our campus veterans," said Joe Acchiardo,

Chief Financial Officer for the USI SVA Chapter. "This chapter grant will afford our organization the financial room to grow and bring our student body so many new and exciting activities."



The USI Student Veterans Association is dedicated to supplying military veterans with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed throughout their campus careers.

A campus-wide organization, the USI SVA allows students who are current or former active-duty, reservists, veterans, ROTC, spouses and dependents of all military branches of service to meet on a regular basis for the purpose of enhancing their college experience. Through an exchanging of ideas, engaging in military-related service projects, students build upon their past or present military experience to further their own educational pursuits and enrich the overall student population at USI.

For more information on opportunities for veterans at USI, visit [USI.edu/Veterans](http://USI.edu/Veterans) or contact Joel Matherly, manager of the USI Veterans, Military and Family Resource Center, at 812-461-5302.

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4	SPRING 2017
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>
4-8 - SVA National Conference - Anaheim, CA	4 - Veterans Council Meeting - 6 pm - Evansville Coliseum
16 - MLK Celebration - 11 am - Carter Hall - TICKETS AVAILABLE	15 - Presidents Day
26 - VFW Post 1114 Meeting - 7 pm	<b>MARCH</b>
21 - SVA / AL Post 324 Military Appreciation Basketball Game - 1 pm (Womens) / 3:45 pm (Mens) - PAC Arena	1 - FAFSA DUE ( <a href="http://www.fasfa.gov">www.fasfa.gov</a> )

### AL Post 324 & SVA Offers FREE Tickets for Military Appreciation Game

On January 21st, our American Legion Post 324 and Student Veteran Association will offer **FREE** tickets to all veterans and military on our campus and in the community for the 5th annual "Hoops for Troops - Military Appreciation Basketball Game".

The Screaming Eagles will take on Lewis University in the PAC Arena. The game times are 1:00 for the women and 3:15 for the men.

"This is something we look forward to doing every year.

While we would like to see more of our community come out to support the teams, it's just a fun day to see everyone within the veteran community" said Joel



Matherly, Assistant Director of the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.

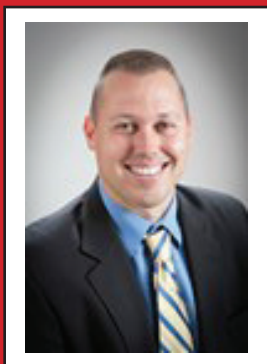
The event is open to veterans of all eras and includes tickets for

all guests. Tickets can be picked up the day of the game at the veteran ticket window in the PAC.

"We hope that the veterans will come out so we can expand on what we can offer to our campus and community," said Matherly.

The mobile Vet Center will also be on site to welcome veterans and their families.

Both the SVA and American Legion Post 324 agree that this is a growing event that is well attended by all veterans.



Mr. Joel Matherly  
Assistant Director  
(812) 461-5302  
jsmatherly@usi.edu



Mrs. Debra Mabern  
Associate  
(812) 461-1857  
dlmabern@usi.edu

*Did You Know?*

George Washington was born on February 11, 1731 under the Julian calendar. In the early 1750s, Great Britain converted to the Gregorian calendar. An act of Parliament added eleven days to complete the adjustment and Washington's birthday became February 22, 1732!

## *From the Desk:* Student Veterans Association - Mr. Chaze Patrick



I am very excited to be in my first term as your SVA Chapter President and continue the outstanding work that was initiated by my predecessor. It's my hope that together, we will be able to build a program that promotes the same camaraderie we experienced during our service.



Another goal of our SVA is to be a voice on campus for veteran concerns and relations. The university has taken an active role in developing programs to train and change policies to assist our student veterans and their families to reach their goals.

My first order as SVA Chapter President will be to attend the National Conference

in California with our other officers to express our concerns and gain guidance on issues surrounding student veteran success on campus.

No doubt, student veteran membership and involvement will be another topic this year. Membership is FREE and provides a means for you to have a voice on campus and make a difference for current and future student Veterans.

We have worked hard to bring different events to campus for you, but we must maintain our membership to keep this torch burning. If you have questions or would like to participate in our SVA, please contact me at clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu or stop by the Student Veterans Lounge in EC 0114.

## *From the Desk:* American Legion Post 324 - Mr. Pete Snowden



The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities in thousands of ways every day around the world. Help comes in the form of personal assistance, cash grants, donated goods, disaster relief, labor, networking, volunteerism and advocacy. Here is more reasons to join the American Legion (to name a few):

### **Benefits Assistance**

The American Legion offers expert advice, support and representation for veterans and families seeking government benefits they are eligible to receive at the federal, state and local levels.

### **Career Assistance**

Hundreds of job fairs and career events every year, all across the map, are coordinated, sponsored, promoted or produced by The American Legion. American Legion business workshops also help veterans and their families pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

### **Education Assistance**

The American Legion conducts student-veteran roundtables, networks with Student Veterans of America as well as college campuses, and works with agencies to better apply military experience toward professional and vocational licenses and certification credits.

### **Family and Community Support**

Cash grants and volunteer aid are among the ways The American Legion reaches out to families of military service members and veterans during times of financial difficulty, short-handedness at home or natural disaster.

### **Member Discounts**

The American Legion offers members and their families practical, money-saving discounts that can easily save many times the cost of annual membership dues.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Join today by contacting me at rpsnowden@eagles.usi.edu or call our office at 812-464-1878.

## Reminder of Applicable Fees for VA Consideration for Ch 33

When you are on Chapter 33, Post 9/11 benefits, one of the items that can be paid are fees. However, not all fees qualify to VA coverage.

In order for fees to qualify, they must meet one of three (3) criteria:

1. Must be class related
2. Must be required for graduation
3. Must apply to all students

without the possibility of refund

The semester fees that appear on students bills that fall under that criteria include lab fees assigned to any class, University Services, Enrollment, Application, Transportation and Parking, Distance Education and Nursing Pinning.

Student Activities Fee will not be paid by the VA. The Student Activities Fee (\$50) is placed on every account until the student requests a refund. Because this is a refundable fee, it can not be billed toward the VA.

As USI enrollment grows, the cost of providing student programs and activities also increases. The new student activity fee assures that present programs and services can continue and that significant new programs and services can be introduced.

For answers to questions you may have, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 812/464-1862.

To apply for a refund on the Student Activities fee, you can request this on-line at: <https://www.usi.edu/deanofstudents/student-activity-fee>.

Once you request a refund, it will be removed from your bill from that point until you re-instate it. This request must be made at the start of the semester.

If you receive a debt letter from the VA as a result of an over paid fee, you will need to follow the instructions on the letter.

**VETERAN HOLDS**—Veteran holds are placed on the Monday following the 100% drop/add period and run until priority registration. They are reestablished after the PR period ends and will come off during finals.

**PRIORITY REGISTRATION**—If you are currently using VA Benefits (GI Bill), you qualify for priority registration regardless your academic alignment (Freshman—Senior). Plan your next semester before this date and schedule an appointment with your advisor.

**VA CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT FORM DUE EACH SEMESTER** you plan to use benefits. Find this form at <http://www.usi.edu/reg/ssl/vaformlogin.asp>. Complete yours as soon as you register for classes.

**VFW 1114 Dining Room Open to Public—Friday, Saturday, Sunday Brunch**  
Breakfast \$6.00 1st/3rd  
Saturday  
Prime Rib 1st/3rd Saturday  
Buffet Friday Night \$9.95

**File you DD214 for FREE:**  
Vanderburgh County Chief Deputy Recorder at 1 NW Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 231  
Evansville IN 47708  
812.435.5215

## Evansville Vet Center Seeking VA Work-Study Applications

The Evansville Vet Center, located on Burkhardt Road in front of the VA Clinic, is looking for students on VA educational benefits who are interested in work-study opportunities.

If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree, vocational, or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance.

VA will select students for the work-study program based on different factors. Such factors include:

- Ability of the student to complete the

work-study contract before the end of his or her eligibility to education benefits

- Job availability within normal commuting distance to the student

The number of applicants selected will depend on the availability of VA-related work at VA facilities in your area. Veterans with service-connected disabilities of at least 30% may be given priority consideration.

For more information, contact Paul Greene at 812-473-5993 or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/workstudy.asp> for details.



**JANUARY 12, 2017**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA**  
Health Professions Building, Room 1027  
Evansville, IN 47712



## Donnelly's Final "Care Package" Provision to Become Law- Senator passes fourth major military mental health bill

- By Donnelly\_Press@Donnelly.Senate.Gov, Staff writer

Washington, D.C. — The final piece of U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly's "Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package" ("Care Package") passed the Senate today as part of the bipartisan national defense bill.

The legislation now goes to President Obama's desk to be signed into law. This will mark the fourth military mental health reform effort Donnelly has gotten passed and enacted in his four years in the U.S. Senate.

Donnelly, who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee said, "Getting the final piece of the Care Package signed into law is about getting our servicemembers better access to high quality mental health care. As we work to reduce the stigma around mental health and continue to combat military suicide, we will have to ensure that the programs from my 'Care Package' are fully implemented by the Defense Department."

Donnelly's bill that passed as part of the national defense bill is his *Frontline Mental Health Provider Training Act*. Given the shortage of mental health care providers, Donnelly's provision

allows the Department of Defense (DoD) to establish a pilot program to expand the availability of Physician Assistants (PAs) to provide mental health care evaluations and services for servicemembers and military families.

Donnelly has worked effectively and tirelessly over the past four years to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to combat military suicide and strengthen military mental health care. He has already had three military mental health provisions signed into law:

- In 2014, Donnelly's bipartisan Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act was signed into law. Named for Hoosier Jacob Sexton, a National Guardsman who took his life in 2009, the law, for the first time, requires an annual mental health assessment for all servicemembers including Active, Guard, and Reserve.
- In 2015, two provisions from Donnelly's "Care Package" were signed into law, which aim to help expand access to quality mental health care for servicemembers and veterans through both military providers as well as community

providers. These included:

1. A provision that creates a special designation, and an online registry, for private sector, community mental health providers who demonstrate – either through training or past experience – a strong knowledge of military culture and evidence based therapies for mental health issues common to veterans and servicemembers.

2. A provision that requires all DoD primary care and mental health care providers receive evidencebased training on suicide risk recognition and management.

According to the Department of Defense, through the first six months of 2016, 221 servicemembers were lost to suicide. In 2015, 478 servicemembers took their own lives. Last year marked the fourth consecutive year that more troops were lost to suicide than combat. In 2014, 444 servicemembers took their own lives. In 2013, 475 servicemembers were lost to suicide.



# HOOPS FOR TROOPS

## MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL GAME

### Screaming Eagles vs. Lewis University

January 21, 2017 - PAC arena  
Women's Game - 1 p.m.  
Men's Game - 3:15 p.m.

### FREE TICKETS

for all Veterans & Guests

Proof of service required. Tickets may be picked up the day of the game at the PAC arena, Veterans Hall, and the US Student Veteran Association.



**Hill Watch: Congress Passes Veterans Bill with Homelessness** - Provisions Bill heads to the President's desk for signature - *Staff Writer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans*

On Friday the U.S. Senate passed, by unanimous consent, H.R. 6416, the "Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016". This bill contained several provisions related to veteran homelessness, some of the highlights of which included:

- Permanently authorizing the use of VA homeless programs by veterans with "Other Than Honorable" discharges,
- An update to the VA's definition of homelessness, to include the McKinney-Vento updates which allow individuals fleeing domestic violence to be considered homeless,
- An authorization of a higher Per Diem rate to be paid to Transition in Place programs,
- The creation a program to allow for followup case management for veterans who have successfully completed a GPD program,
- Provisions designed to ease the transition for any GPD that wishes shift to units to permanent housing, and
- Permanently authorizing the National Center for Homelessness

Among Veterans.

"This bill represents the most significant piece of legislation for homeless veterans in more than two years," said Baylee Crone, Executive Director of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. "Permanently protecting access to homeless programs for all veterans without a dishonorable discharge has been an issue since 1996. NCHV is proud to have finally put the issue to rest."

NCHV is happy to announce that this bill is on its way to the President's desk for his signature. Its finalization into law is expected, as there have been no signals from the White House that they intend to veto the bill.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls for advocacy – both here and on our social media accounts. Your contributions to the effort made the difference; it kept this issue at the top of the agenda, even in the contentious environment confronting the Congress over the past several days. NCHV would also like to thank our national partner organizations who join

us as members of the Homeless Veteran Working Group, and who signed on as supporters of the legislation. These partners include: National Alliance to End Homelessness, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Volunteers of America, National League of Cities, Community Solutions, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust. Their efforts over the 114th Congress made huge impacts on the adoption and passage of this major legislation, and they too deserve accolades and our thanks.

For the latest news, resources and grant information, visit our website at [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org).

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**  
1730 M Street NW  
Suite 705  
Washington, DC 20003  
2025461969  
or tollfree  
1800VETHELP

STARTING **JANUARY 16**



REGISTER NOW AT: **REBOOTRECOVERY.COM**

**MONDAYS**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
10800 Lincoln Ave  
Newburgh, IN 47630

**DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED**

**Contact for Info:**

Adam Gamache  
Text to 812-313-6272

Mike Burkdoll  
Text to 812-453-1906

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & FAMILY EVENTS

## Help us help others. Join now.



Anyone who has served on federal active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and has been honorably discharged, is eligible for membership in The American Legion. Because eligibility dates remain open, all members currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces are also eligible for membership.

AUG. 2, 1990 TO TODAY *Persian Gulf/War on Terrorism*

DEC. 20, 1989 TO JAN. 31, 1990 *Operation Just Cause (Panama)*

AUG. 24, 1982 TO JULY 31, 1984 *Lebanon/Grenada*

FEB. 28, 1961 TO MAY 7, 1975 *Vietnam*

JUNE 25, 1950 TO JAN. 31, 1955 *Korea*

DEC. 7, 1941 TO DEC. 31, 1945 *World War II*  
*U.S. Merchant Marines from this era are also eligible.*

[www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join)

(800) 433-3318

### Get involved

Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary offer membership opportunities to the families of Legion-eligible veterans, and The American Legion Riders offers additional opportunities to members of all three organizations.



[www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)



[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)



[www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)

### Support

Tax-deductible donations help support the many Legion programs serving veterans, youth, families and communities across America.

[www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate)

(800) 433-3318



THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1200

@ [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

f [www.legion.org/facebook](http://www.legion.org/facebook) t [twitter.com/AmericanLegion](https://twitter.com/AmericanLegion)

### FOR VETERANS

- Free assistance for veterans and families applying for VA benefits
- Relentless advocacy for a strong VA health-care system
- Free representation for veterans appealing claims decisions
- More than 1,000 job fairs and career events
- Support and assistance for homeless veterans

### FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

- American Legion Baseball
- Scholarships
- Flag education programs
- Oratorical competitions
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- Junior ROTC
- Scouting

### DEFENSE

- Cash grants for military families who have temporary financial needs
- Comfort items for hospitalized military personnel
- Advocacy for fair military retirement benefits
- Family Support Network of volunteers to help military families
- Representation in Washington to support proper DoD funding
- Assistance in cases before military discharge review boards

### AMERICANISM

- National leadership in U.S. flag protection and respect
- Services to help legal immigrants become U.S. citizens
- Support for public expression of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem

### COMMUNITY

- Honor and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed
- Emergency relief in times of natural disaster
- Leadership at patriotic ceremonies and special events
- Connections with local schools and home-school students
- Numerous local programs and initiatives, tailored to each community's needs

Stocks 40-008