



# VETERAN TALON



## Welcome Back Student Veterans - Opportunities Available for All Students



As the new fall term begins I want to welcome you to or back to USI. This year will have more opportunities than past semesters.

Make sure you are taking advantage of all that is available to you.

The **Veteran Military and Family Resource Center lounge** is located in the Education Center in room EC 0114. This space offers all of our students an opportunity to relax, study and be around those with similar experiences. The space offers four (4) computer workstations, coffee, microwave refrigerator, and free printing if you are a VA education benefit recipient. We

also have student organizations that you can join to not only get you involved, but also be a way of promoting Veteran activities and programs for the campus. These organizations give you a voice on campus, but you have to be involved.

Mr. Chaze Patrick is serving as our Student Veteran Association (SVA) President. Our SVA is a local chapter of the national organization and is the voice for student concerns on campus. Chaze is also working to bring activities to our campus. If you are interested in being a part of this student organization, please contact Chaze at the student lounge in room EC 0114.

We are also very fortunate to have an on-campus American

Legion Post. We are one of the few institutions across the country that have this attached to our campus and our small post has already made the nation take note with it's initiatives.

Our post was named after a local United States Marine, Sgt Brock Babb, who was killed in Iraq. We are honored to have his name and family associated with our post. Mr. Chaze Patrick is also our new Post Commander and works tirelessly in supporting our student Veterans and community. Mr. Pete Snowden, Past Post Commander, is mentoring Chaze as he takes over Post duties. We want to say thank you to Pete, our original Commander and founder of our Post for his years of leadership.

## Forever GI Bill - What it Means to You - *By VA.gov*

The President signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act also known as the "Forever GI Bill," which will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits.

The law is named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in 1944, and will allow more Veterans to use the GI Bill and more time to use it. Some of the changes will go into effect immediately, and some are written to go into effect shortly after.

Some new provisions that go into effect immediately include:

- The 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is eliminated for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, and qualifying dependents (Fry children who became eligible on

or after January 1, 2013 and all Fry spouses).

- Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to the program sunset provision will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.

- Certain work-study is permanently authorized; previously it had to be re-approved by Congress every few years.

- The VetSuccess on Campus program will be available to students across the country

- VA will help Veterans to more clearly identify schools that offer them priority enrollment.

The majority of the changes enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, Service members, Families and Survivors.

Simple breakdowns to a portion

of the provisions can be found by visiting <http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIBSummaries.asp>

### Additional Resources

See communications on the Forever GI Bill.

- Take advantage of your local Veterans Service Officers to help you navigate the new information.

- Join the conversation on our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.

- Announcements will be made on our GI Bill homepage.

- As always, our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for any questions about GI Bill benefits.



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## On-Campus Student Veterans Association and American Legion Post 324 Membership Drive *By Chaze Patrick, Post Commander*

Today's veterans face numerous obstacles in their path of attaining a college degree. These challenges range from a missing sense of camaraderie to feeling like an outsider amongst 18 year old traditional students to a lack of understanding by university faculty. When coupled with the visible and invisible wounds of war, a college degree can be an elusive goal for men and women returning from military service.

The on-campus Student Veterans Association is a local chapter of the national Student Veterans of America (SVA) and is designed to help make your goals a reality.

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](mailto:clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu) or stop by the Student Veterans Lounge in EC 0114.

The American Legion Post 324, SGT Brock Babb was founded in 2013 and is one of the few on-campus American Legion Posts in the nation. We are very proud of that and of the nation-wide impact this small post has contributed to assisting veterans to obtain their goals.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

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

Join today by contacting me at [clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu](mailto:clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu) or call our office at 812-464-1878

**IT'S OUR TURN™**  
**Thursday, September 7, 2017**  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Mission BBQ**  
1530 N. Green River Road  
Evansville, IN

**TEAM RWB**  
TEAMRWB.ORG

★★★★★  
**ENRICHING  
THE LIVES  
OF AMERICA'S  
VETERANS**  
★★★★★  
FREE Appetizers  
for Veterans,  
Family Members  
& Supporters

**TEAM RWB EVANSVILLE KICK-OFF**

STARTING **SEPTEMBER 11**

**MONDAYS**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
10800 Lincoln Ave  
Newburgh, IN 47630

**DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED**

Contact for Info:

Adam Gamache  
Text to 812-774-5878  
adam\_gamache@wayne.com



REGISTER NOW AT: [REBOOTRECOVERY.COM](http://REBOOTRECOVERY.COM)

**USI Dental Hygiene Clinic to Offer FREE Dental Cleanings for All Veterans of All Era's Again for the Fourth Year**

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on November 6 and November 8.

The USI Dental Hygiene Program has expanded its schedule to include morning, afternoon and evening hours to serve more veterans.

"In the past, these dental cleaning appointments have booked very quickly," said Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center at USI. "The huge response points to the need in our community for veterans to have access to this type of care. We appreciate how the USI Dental Hygiene Clinic has responded to the veterans."

The USI Dental Hygiene Program collaborates with Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) and

USI's Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center to offer the special clinic hours for veterans. USI Dental Hygiene faculty will supervise the students who will be working in the clinic.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 812-464-1706. Proof of military affiliation and a picture identification is required.

The USI Dental Hygiene Clinic is located on the USI campus in the Health Professions Center Room 1040.

The Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Southern Indiana is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education.

**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

**USI Veterans Hosts Four Freedoms Veterans Day Parade on Webpage**



Once again this year, the USI VSS, SVA and American Legion Post 324 will participate in the Four Freedoms Veterans Day Parade which is held on November 11, 2017.

event is open to families and is a first come, first served basis for space on the float. Sign up sheets are located in the VSS office. Please let us know how many will be attending so we can plan for space on the float.

The parade will go down Franklin Street this year. For more information, please contact Mr. Chaze Patrick at [clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu](mailto:clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu) or visit [www.usi.edu/ffvp](http://www.usi.edu/ffvp).

SVA was able to get the USI float again this year, but still need Student Veterans to ride or walk behind the float and hand out candy to the spectators. This

**NO BATTLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS AT HOME**  
**Join Your local Veteran Service Organizations Today and Preserve Your Future**



**Vets Better Students than Civilians, Study Finds** - *VFW National Magazine* - <http://www.vfw.org/>



A study conducted by a prominent VFW partner concluded that veterans using Post 9/11 GI Bill fare better in college than non-veterans. Carried out by the Student Veterans of America, the National Veteran education Success Tracker (NVEST) study found that vets are more likely to graduate than non-vets of the same age and tend to earn degrees in "high demand, stable" career fields.

"Today's veterans, using Post 9/11 GI Bill, perform better than their peers," according to SVA, "and federal investment in higher education through this program is producing

demonstrable results. The study found that vets using Post 9/11 GI Bill:

- Had better graduation rates (42% to 39%) than their nonveteran peers (those who started school at age 24 or older)
- Sought "academically rigorous degrees" in fields such as business, health care, science, technology, engineering or mathematics
- Preferred to attend public or nonprofit schools
- Had a 72% "success rate" defined as having graduated or still enrolled between January 1 and September 1, 2015

The study focused on 822,327 vets who used the program between

August 2009 (when it began) and December 2013. Results showed the Post 9/11 GI Bill has helped nearly 348,000 student vets earn more than 453,000 degrees or post-secondary certificates. VA has paid out some \$71 billion in Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits since the program's creation.

SVA projected that, under current usage rates, about 100,000 vets will earn degrees annually using Post 9/11 GI Bill. By 2019, it predicted that student vets will have earned 1.4 million degrees through the program.

To read the entire report, visit <http://invest.studentveterans.org>.

**Keeping a Powerful Legion Voice** - *By Steve B. Brooks, American Legion writer* - <http://www.legion.org>



Addressing delegates to The American Legion National Convention Aug. 22 in Reno, Nev., National Commander Charles Schmidt said that while the work of the organization continues to make an important and positive impact on this nation, membership needs to be on the minds of every Legionnaire.

"The reason Congress pays attention to us is because we are large, we

are principled and we are altruistic," Schmidt said. "And while I see no diminishment of our principles and our good works, our voice will get proportionally smaller as our numbers go down.

"And so will our ability to run the programs that benefit so many people and their communities."

Programs such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Nation, Oratoricals, Shooting Sports, Scouting and flag etiquette all will suffer if

the Legion's membership rolls don't increase.

"Who is going to advocate for veterans, just as the doughboys returning from World War I did when they formed an organization that pledged to leave no American servicemember behind and to ensure that their widows and orphans would receive the compassion and assistance of a grateful nation?" Schmidt asked. "Who is going to lobby Congress, encourage the White House and convince the media that freedom is not free and America must

maintain a strong national defense in order to protect our way of life?"

The American Legion has been doing that for 98 years, Schmidt said, (continued from Page 5) thanks in part to Legionnaires at the local level. "You don't have to be a famous national leader like Harry Colmery or Teddy Roosevelt Jr. to be a legend in your own communities," he said. "In fact, most of the great work by The American Legion family is performed by unsung heroes – people whose names we don't know and probably will never know."

Those Legionnaires volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, conduct blood drives and facilitate Operation Comfort Warriors grants. Schmidt also pointed to the efforts of American Legion Post 171 in Colorado, which teamed up with the Home Depot Foundation to renovate the home of a 100-percent service-connected disabled veteran – Andrew

Smith – and his 8-year-old special needs child. The family had been forced to vacate their home when it was determined uninhabitable, but thanks to the post and others the man and his son were able to move back into it last Father's Day.

"The American Legion saw a challenge and our family stepped up," Schmidt said. "Now who is going to fill their shoes and help the many other Andrew Smiths that are out there?" Schmidt asked Legionnaires to focus both on those serving in National Guard and reserve units, as well as former members. He suggested using MyLegion.org to get a county-by-county list of those who have not renewed their membership in The American Legion.

"Make sure that every one of those former members within your post, district and department receives a personal contact – not just a form letter – from someone who cares," he said. "Sometimes a phone

number is not included in the contact information. If that is the case, Google the information that you do have or call directory assistance for a phone number. But a personal visit works even better. Find out why they left the fold and find a way to fix it. If people feel wanted and appreciated, they will renew."

Schmidt asked national convention delegates to take what they've learned in Reno and take it back with them. "Membership determines our ability to implement and execute our Four Pillar programs," he said. "It also determines our ability to effectively advocate, since numbers matter to Congress, the White House, governors and state legislatures. The numbers in our communities can also make the difference between mayors and city councils supporting American Legion programs or ignoring us.

"I am hopeful that with all of your help we will stop this membership slide."



**PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2017  
PARADE BEGINS AT 3:00PM  
ON WEST FRANKLIN STREET**

For More Information Visit:  
[www.usi.edu/ffvp](http://www.usi.edu/ffvp)



# WHAT'S THE WORD: EDUCATION BENEFITS

## VA Education Benefit Spotlight - Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

MGIB-SR program provides education and training benefits to eligible members of the Selected Reserve, including the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. Eligibility for this program is determined by the Selected Reserve components and VA makes the payments.

### Types of Training

Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, co-op training, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Get the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve pamphlet (PDF).

### Available Benefits and Eligibility

You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits.

### Eligibility

To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your

original obligation. For some types of training it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after Sept. 30, 1990.

- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT).
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB-SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

### Other Factors to Consider

*Your eligibility for the program normally ends the day you leave the Selected Reserve.*

An exception exists if you are mobilized or recalled to active duty from your reserve status in which case your eligibility may be extended for the amount of time you are mobilized PLUS four months. For example, if you are mobilized for 12 months, your eligibility period is extended for 16 months; 12 months of active duty PLUS four months. Even if you leave the Reserves after mobilization, you may have additional eligibility under

the MGIB-SR.

If your unit is deactivated during the period beginning Oct. 1, 2007, through Sept. 30, 2014, or you are involuntarily separated for reasons other than misconduct, you will retain your original period of eligibility, which is 14 years from the date of your first six-year obligation with the Selected Reserves.

### Apply

Follow these steps to become eligible and apply:

1. Get the DD Form 2384-1, Notice of Basic Eligibility, when you become eligible for the program from your unit. Your unit will also code your eligibility into the DoD personnel system so VA may verify your eligibility.
2. Then make sure your selected program is approved for VA training. If you are unsure, VA will inform you and the school or company about the requirements.
3. Obtain and complete VA Form 22-1990 (Application for Education Benefits). Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the state where you will train.
4. If you started training, take your application and your Notice of Basic Eligibility to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999 not available online Enrollment Certification, and send all the forms to VA

## QUESTIONS TO THE VMFRC - Student Q&A Passed to You!

### **Who's responsibility is it to provide military honors at funerals?**

The Department of Defense, not the VA, is responsible for providing military funeral honors under a program titles Honoring Those Who Served. The honors include folding and presenting

the United States burial flag and playing "Taps". At least two (2) or more uniformed military persons will be members of the funeral honors detail, one of whom will be from the veterans service of the armed forces. The funeral home director can request military honors. If the veteran is being buried in a VA national cemetery, then the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration

staff will coordinate the military honors.

A veteran has earned the right to a proper burial with honor and respect. Plan ahead for this difficult time. Indicate clearly your preferences and leave the information and correct VA forms so your family can follow your wishes.