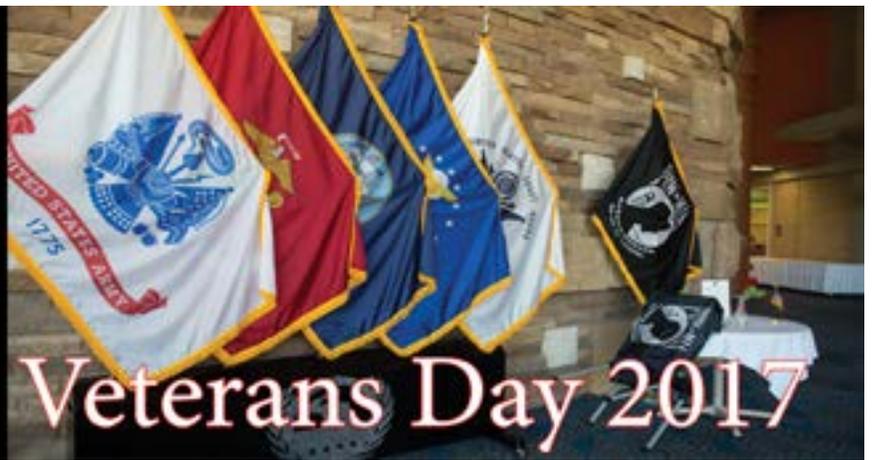




# VETERAN TALON



Honoring Those  
Who Serve



## Priority Registration Open to VA Beneficiaries

If you are a VA Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Spring and Summer 2018.

Registration is now open and is available to students based on the number of earned and attempted hours.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the VMFRC. This is still considered a new program and we are aware that not all advisors are informed that students on VA Benefits receive priority

registration. If you have any problems, please let us know as soon as possible so we can assist you in getting this completed.

**Please check your account and make sure the only hold you see is the "Veterans Administrative Hold".** If you have other holds, please see those departments before priority registration so you have no issues at the time of your registration.

**YOUR VETERAN HOLD WILL COME OFF FOR REGISTRATION FOR SPRING**

**AND SUMMER ONLY!** You will not be able to change your current semester. This is your time to register, please take advantage of it. The VA hold will not be a factor during this time period.

This option of priority registration puts you in the front of the line for your classes. Please do not let this pass.

Because your time with VA benefits is limited, this ensures you get your classes unless you have additional holds at that time.

## Student Veterans & Families needed to Ride Veterans Day Parade Float

The Four Freedoms Veterans Parade will host the 8th annual parade on Saturday, November 11th at 3:00 p.m.

The USI VSS, SVA and American Legion Post 324 will ride the USI float again this year and will meet at the staging area in front of Fulton's on Franklin Street, west

of the rail road tracks at 2:15 p.m.

If you or your family would like to ride or walk behind the float and hand out candy to the spectators, please contact the SVA in EC 0114 as soon as possible so seats can be accounted for.

This 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.

For more information, please contact Mr. Chaze Patrick in the Veteran Office in the Education Center 0114 or [clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu](mailto:clpatrick@eagles.usi.edu).

**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)





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



Mrs. Debra Mabern  
Veteran and Military Services Supervisor  
(812) 461-1857  
dlmabern@usi.edu

### Old National Bank & Rolling Thunder Present POW/MIA Display

The Missing Man Table, also known as the Fallen Comrade Table, is a place of honor, set up in military dining facilities of the U.S. armed forces and during occasions such as service branch birthday balls, in memory of fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service-members. The table serves as the focal point of ceremonial remembrance, originally growing out of US concern of the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue.

In Honor of Veteran's Day, please join the ONB Military Veterans Resource Group and Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 6 for the Missing Man Table Presentation on Wednesday, November 8 at 3 pm in the Old National Auditorium at ONB Headquarters; 1 Main Street, Evansville, IN on the 4th Floor.

Resource Group at  
Nathan.Monroe@onbinvestments.com or  
(812) 468-3272 .



For more information, contact Nathan Monroe, Old National Bank Veterans

### Such a thing as a FREE LUNCH? American Legion, SVA and Sodexo Team Up to Honor Veterans

For the fourth year in a row, the American Legion Post 324, USI Student Veterans Association and Sodexo have teamed up to honor our veterans.

Sodexo will offer one FREE meal to all current and former military at one of their venues.

At the Loft, veterans can receive their entree, three sides and one drink.

At all other venues, the veteran will receive their entree, one side and one drink. This offer is limited to one ticket per veteran and applied to the veteran only.

"This is a great way to honor our veterans on campus and will allow them to participate in the free meals without having to leave campus and classes to attend" said Joel Matherly, Manager of the USI Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.



Students can receive their tickets for the meal at the student desk in front of the Sweet Spot in the University Center West, 2nd Floor on November 10, from 10 am - 2 pm. This is limited to one per student while supplies last. Offer is only good on November 10th.



### Fallen Comrade Ceremony November 9th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Evansville National Guard Armory

For More Information:  
Sue Gipson - 205-739-1699 or sgipson@southerncaireinc.com  
Melissa Schroeder - mschroeder@wevv.com



### Patrick One of the SVA Graduating Class of 2017 for the Leadership Institute - Barrett Y. Bogue., Vice President - SVA Public Relations

Washington, D.C. — Student Veterans of America (SVA) ended the 2017 Leadership Institute on October 22, 2017, successfully graduating a class of 93 student veterans and empowering them to be the leaders of tomorrow including University of Southern Indiana's own, Chaze Patrick.

Identified as the highest-performing student veterans in higher education, the Class of 2017 traveled to the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, TX to receive nearly fifteen hours of intensive classroom training from business and industry leaders.

This premier training for emerging leaders in post-secondary education focused on teaching a personal leadership ethos and how to apply it. Upon graduating, the Class of 2017 had a significantly increased understanding of how their personal values

directly supported and reinforced their leadership philosophy.

Graduates defined their personal leadership vision and developed an action plan to implement said vision in chapters, colleges, and communities across America.

The 2017 Leadership Institute was hosted by the George W. Bush Presidential Center providing both a venue and opportunity unmatched in America. President Bush spent time with the cohort speaking to and answering questions about leadership in a time of crisis and leaders he admires, "A true leader is someone who is optimistic and tries to figure out how to achieve a common objective that is good for everyone," President Bush said. "Great leaders weigh our national interest with our moral interest. In my administration, we sent aid to the AIDS pandemic in North Africa saving 11 million people,"

he offered as an example. "Every veteran should return to civilian life with the confidence that he or she has the ability and skills to be a great leader. You are a leader. Do not let anyone tell you that you're not," President Bush said in closing.

The Class of 2017 were taught by business and industry leaders with significant private, public, and non-profit experience. Serving as mentors, these eight individuals taught student veterans the importance of leadership, branding, and more. Such visionaries included Robert A. McDonald, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) and CEO of Proctor and Gamble, Sloan D. Gibson, former Deputy Secretary of VA and CEO of the USO, Tom Allin, former Chief Experience Officer at VA and CEO of McDonald's Europe, and Carrie Lauren, Director of Veterans and Disabilities Initiatives at Apple, Inc.

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

## Professor to Present on Evansville in World War II

"During World War Two, the city of Evansville was one of the most important cities in the country, manufacturing hundreds of ships, thousands of fighter planes and literally billions of other items that contributed hugely to the Allies' victory. It was an exhilarating time of great change and opportunity for everyone who lived and worked in Evansville, but also a period of extremely difficult challenges and of profound loss."

University of Evansville professor of history James MacLeod will read from his newly released book, *Evansville in World War II*, at Kleymeyer Hall in the College of Liberal Arts on November 15, 2017 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the History Department and the David L. Rice Library.

MacLeod's book discusses the importance of Evansville to the war effort during World War II. The city manufactured hundreds of ships, thousands of fighter planes, and billions of other materials that made a huge contribution to the Allies' eventual victory. It was an exhilarating time of great change and opportunity for everyone who lived and worked in the city, but also a period of great challenges and profound loss.

MacLeod explains how this industry came to be in Evansville, reveals the

enormous impact that it had on its social, economic and cultural life, and analyzes how the city dealt with a time of astonishing transformation.



## 'Agent Orange Made Veterans Sick' - VFW Urges President to Take Care of Blue Water Navy Veterans

- VFW National Magazine - <http://www.vfw.org/>



WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is thanking the leadership of the House Veterans Affairs Committee for attempting to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, and is now calling on President Trump to fix the 15-year inequity.

At issue is the Agent Orange Act of 1991, which regarded all Vietnam veterans as the same, regardless of where stationed. A regulation change in 2002 stripped coverage from nearly 100,000 so called "Blue Water Navy" veterans — all with valid service-connected disability claims.

"Excluding Blue Water Navy veterans is a long-standing wrong that essentially marginalizes the service and sacrifice of thousands of Vietnam veterans," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, who served in Vietnam as an Army helicopter crew chief and door gunner. "Agent Orange has made Vietnam veterans sick. If any Vietnam veteran

has one or more of the presumptive illnesses, our government has an inherent responsibility to take care of them."

In today's markup, Committee Chairman Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) and Ranking Member Tim Walz (D-Minn.) discussed how to offset the cost of passing H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would cost more than \$1 billion over 10 years. A recommendation to round down annual cost-of-living increases to the next whole percentage point was rightfully dismissed because it would take from one veteran to give to another, which the VFW has strongly opposed in the past. This stopped movement on the bill, and is the reason why the VFW national commander is asking the president to intervene.

"The Chairman and Ranking Member are both veterans and friends of the VFW," said Harman, "and we suspect because of the projected cost, H.R.

299 was not going to pass without some form of pay-go," he explained. "Budget caps, the sequester, and a whole lot of factors are standing in the way of this bill becoming law. I'm just glad everyone agrees that we absolutely cannot financially penalize one group of disabled veterans just to expand services to another group of disabled veterans," he said.

Bypassing Congress and urging the president to change the regulation is now the next step, since he has the authority to fix this issue with the stroke of a pen. Since the two previous administrations from both parties had failed to correct the inequity, the VFW national commander hopes President Trump's campaign promise to take care of America's veterans includes Blue Water Navy veterans, too. "Those serving in the nation's all-volunteer military force, who have been fighting a nonstop, multi-front war for 16 years, need to be reassured that their service today will not forgotten tomorrow," said Harman.

## Indiana Honors Evansville Native and Hoosier World War I Hero

- By Matt Grills, American Legion - <http://www.legion.org>



On Nov. 3, Hoosiers marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Army Cpl. James Gresham, one of the first American combat casualties of the Great War.

A native of Evansville, Ind., Gresham was killed in the early morning hours of Nov. 3, 1917, in a raid by the German army at Bathelemont, France. Two other soldiers -- Pvt. Merle Hay of Iowa and Thomas Enright of Pennsylvania -- died as well, though Gresham is often considered the first member of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) to lose his life in action.

The Indiana World War I Centennial Committee and the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the cenotaph on The American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis. The mall is part of the Indiana World War Memorial Plaza, built in the 1920s and home to The American Legion National Headquarters building.

"The properties we stand on today were conceived to commemorate the bravery, courage, valor and sacrifice of the soldiers, sailors and Marines of the United States, and all others who rendered faithful, loyal, heroic and self-sacrificing service overseas and at home in the Great War," said retired Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin, executive director of the Indiana World War I Centennial Committee.

Gresham was representative of the 135,000 Hoosiers who served, and the 3,300 who died, Goodwin said. Born in 1893, Gresham was the son of a Confederate Civil War veteran. He enlisted in the Army in 1914 and served under Gen. John Pershing during his pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico. After the United States entered the world war in April 1917, Gresham was among the first wave of doughboys sent to France.

Prior to the wreath-laying, James Glass, former deputy state historic preservation officer for Indiana, gave a historical review of Gresham's life and the circumstances of his death.

On Nov. 2, 1917, Gresham and the rest of Company F, 16th Infantry, 1st Division were training on the French battle line near Lorraine. At midnight, his platoon replaced French troops holding the line, and three hours later German shock troops attacked with an artillery barrage and cut off reinforcements.

"Fierce hand-to-hand fighting occurred," Glass said. "When the rest of the company finally broke through, they found Cpl. Gresham and two other Americans dead. Every indication ... showed they had put up a desperate fight but were hopelessly outnumbered."

Gresham's mother requested his body be returned to the United States after the war, and in 1921, people lined the streets of Indianapolis as Gresham's body was transported to

the statehouse's rotunda for a second funeral. From there, he was taken to Locust Hill Cemetery in Evansville for final burial.

In 1933, Gresham's sacrifice was commemorated permanently in a sunken garden at the north end of the American Legion Mall. In the center of the garden is a black granite cenotaph, or symbolic sarcophagus, with this inscription: "A Tribute by Indiana to the Hallowed Memory of the Glorious Dead Who Served in the Great War." Close to it, on a red and dark green granite floor, is a bronze plate memorializing Gresham.

"A factory worker at the time of his enlistment, Gresham symbolized thousands of Hoosiers willing to give all for a cause not fully understood," said Lois Casey Huntington, Indiana state regent for the DAR. "He made the ultimate sacrifice and will never be forgotten."

Participants of National American Legion College attended the ceremony following their graduation.

"It grabbed my heart and made me appreciate all those who have fallen," said Mary Jane Fisher, a member of San Dieguito Post 416 in Encinitas, Calif., and the department's Recruiter of the Year. "We're wrapped up in the current wars, so to go back to that time, when The American Legion was born ... it was really good timing to be at American Legion College."

## Donnelly Marks Milestone with Local Veterans in Opening of VA Clinic in Mishawaka

- Press Release

Mishawaka, Ind. — U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly joined leaders from the Department of Veterans Affairs, local veterans, and St. Joseph County-area elected officials for the grand opening of the St. Joseph County VA Clinic in Mishawaka.

Donnelly has played a critical role since 2007 to make the center a reality for north central Indiana veterans.

First as Congressman for Indiana's 2nd congressional district and now as U.S. Senator, Donnelly has worked tirelessly with local veterans, the VA, and other community partners to secure congressional authorization and federal funding for the new health center in St. Joseph County.

He also worked with the VA and Transpo to ensure there is public transit to the new clinic. Donnelly, at the ribbon cutting, said in part,

"Today is a huge milestone. The grand opening of the St. Joseph County VA Clinic fulfills an important promise that we made to our veterans...For the past 10 years—in the U.S. House and in the Senate—it's been my mission to work with our vets all throughout our region to provide the best possible care."

# WHAT'S THE WORD: EDUCATION BENEFITS

## Your Benefits Now - Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill"

As you know, the recent passage of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," enacts several changes to the GI Bill that will positively impact Veterans and their families. Some of the changes became effective the day the law was signed, some next fall, and some in the future. In the months to come, we'll be updating you on how this new law impacts VA education benefits and what actions Veterans may need to take.

Here's a breakdown of some of the legislation that immediately went into effect with the President's signature, and what it means for you.

**The 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill** - The 15-year limitation to use benefits is removed for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, children who became eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) on or after January 1, 2013, and all Fry Scholarship eligible spouses.

There is no action you need to take; if eligible, the limitation is simply removed for you.

**Restoration of Benefits due to School Closure** - We are now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to Veterans affected by school closures or disapprovals.

If you attended courses or programs discontinued from January 1, 2015 to August 16, 2017, and attended an accredited institution of higher

learning, and did not transfer any credits to a comparable program, entitlement will not be charged for the entire period of your enrollment. The law also provides separate criteria for partial benefit restoration for school closures after January 1, 2015.

To apply for restoration, we will develop a web page with instructions, information, and a form to complete and return. I will update you when this page is available, and we'll post an announcement on our main GI Bill page and social media sites.

**Independent study programs at career and technical education schools covered by GI Bill** - This allows anyone eligible for GI Bill to use their benefits at an accredited independent study program at an area career and technical school, or a postsecondary vocational school providing postsecondary level education. A bit of background on this provision: before the passage of this law, most non-college degree programs weren't approvable if any portion of it was online. This change allows those programs to be considered for approval even if some or all of the instruction is online/not in a classroom.

There is no action for you to take here, as these programs will go through the normal course of approval by the appropriate State Approving Agency. Any new programs will be added to our GI Bill Comparison Tool.

**Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational**

**Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to sunset of the program will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program** - We are in the process of identifying the approximately 2,800 Reservists affected by this and will send them letters with instructions.

We will update you when the letters go out, and what to do if you did not receive a letter but feel you may be eligible for this restoration. We will also post more information on the GI Bill web and Facebook pages.

These changes will greatly benefit our nation's Veterans by providing expanded access and opportunity to access education benefits. We will continue to update you as we work out the details of this legislation.

For more information, please visit us in the Veteran Military & Family Resource Center in EC 0114 or visit: <https://www.va.gov/>



**Homeless Veteran Resource Fair**  
Franklin Park 200 West Franklin Street, Evansville Indiana  
Saturday November 11, 2017 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Indiana National Guard Family Assistance, VA Healthcare Eligibility, VA Vet Justice Outreach, VA Housing Program (Shaw Gonzalez), Volunteers of America (VOA), Red Cross, Tattler (American Red Cross), Employment (State of Ind., Job Ready State), Indiana-Lage (National), Red Cross, Clothing (clothing, shoes, socks), United Way (Homeless), VA State Fund Bank, Food (National Urban Network), Mental Health (VA Center and Department), Habitat for Humanity and others.

Sponsored by the Evansville Vet Center and the VA Health Care Center  
For more information, call:  
Eric McInnes 812-413-5993 or  
Dave Swanson 812-465-9600 EXT 73750

