



# VETERAN TALON



## SUPPORT OUR VETERANS



### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To the brave men & women in our nation's military, Wishing you a healthy & happy holiday season from all of us at the USI Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.

### USI Student Veterans Association Community Involvement Makes a Difference

As all good things come to an end, we wanted to recap 2017 with the USI Student Veteran Association participation throughout our campus and community.

It is very impressive to see what an impact a student organization comprised of veterans, current military, dependents and supporters provides to our community of near 20,000 veterans.

To mark this significant contribution, we mark a month-by-month recap. This does not capture everything, but marks some of the highlights:

#### January:

1. Star Behavioral Health
2. Veteran Appreciation Basketball Game
3. SVA National Conference

#### February:

1. Student Success Week Presentations
2. Chili Cookoff Challenge

#### March:

1. IDHE Presentation
2. Veteran Collaborative Workshop on Veterans Health

#### April:

1. Vet Center Fishing Event at Reflection Lake
2. Veteran Dental Clinic

#### May:

1. Veteran/ROTC Housing Initiative



#### June:

1. Army Birthday
2. Mental Health Summit
3. AVECO Conference

#### July:

1. ESGR Event Support
2. Indiana SAA Catalog Submission

#### August:

1. Coast Guard Birthday

#### September:

1. Posey County DAV Scholarship

2. Team RWB Initial Meeting
3. Tri-Care Reserve Retired Lobby Efforts
4. Indiana CVO Regional Meeting

#### October:

1. VFW Festival Support
2. Navy Birthday
3. Team RWB Family Day

#### November:

1. NFM Support and Food Collection
2. Veteran Dental Days
3. USMC Birthday
4. Sodexo Veteran Meals
5. Veterans Day Parade
6. V.O.I.C.E. Breakfast
7. NCAA Cross Country Veteran Tailgate

#### December:

1. Vets-Honoring-Vets Flag Presentation

Thank you for all of your help in brining these and other events to our campus and community veterans and families. We look forward to your continued support.

Please contact Chaze Patrick if you would like to be involved with the Student Veterans Association.

The Student Veteran Association is a good way to remain active with your comrades in arms. Our Student Veterans participate in many community activities and is one of two on a college campus in Indiana.

Contact Chaze Patrick, President, at 812-464-1878.

**Veteran, Military & Family Resource Center - Student Veteran Association - American Legion Post 324**  
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## AL Post 324 & SVA Offers FREE Tickets for Military Appreciation Basketball Game

On January 20st, 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 6th annual "Hoops for Troops - Military Appreciation Basketball Game".

The Screaming Eagles will take on Truman State in the PAC Arena. The game times are 1:00 p.m. for the women and 3:15 p.m. 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. Veterans will receive a concession stand voucher and gift.

"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.

## Student Veterans Represent USI on National Stage

The USI Student Veterans Association will once again take on veteran issues on a national level for the fourth year in a row.

Alfonso Aldana (Navy), Kikki Collins (USMC Dependent) and Chaze Patrick (USMC) will represent the University of Southern Indiana at the 2018 Student Veterans of America National Conference in San Antonio, Texas on January 4-6, 2018.

SVA's National Conference is the largest annual gathering of student veterans, advocates, thought-leaders, stakeholders, and supporters in higher education in the world.

Student veterans, higher education professionals, alumni, and advocates will have the opportunity to learn from

more than 2,000 of their peers at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa.

USI Student Veterans will learn about important topics and legislation such as changes to the GI Bill, cultural barriers, entering the workforce and campus advocacy.

"It is important that our students weigh in on topics that will effect them and future student veterans. This conference is how we ensure student veteran success on campuses and in the community" said Joel Matherly, Assistant Director of the VMFRC.

No doubt USI Student Veterans will continue to leave their mark on the national stage.



*National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators  
Proudly Serving Veterans Since 1975*

**APPLY TODAY FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

<http://www.navpa.org/scholarship-application>

## Six Sigma Green Belt Certificate

Participants can register online at <https://www.usi.edu/outreach/lifelong-learning/professional-development/six-sigma-green-belt-certificate/>

For more information on this course, contact Paula Nurrenbern, Resource Development Specialist at 812-461-5425 or [pjnurrenbe@usi.edu](mailto:pjnurrenbe@usi.edu).

### **SVA Announces Scholarship Opportunities** -Barrett Y. Bogue., Vice President - SVA Public Relations

Sure the GI Bill is a generous benefit but sometimes it doesn't cover everything. **That's why we've partnered with Google, Raytheon, and MUFG Union Bank, N.A. to provide nearly \$170,000 in scholarship support.**

If you or someone you know is interested in a scholarship please read below for more. Be sure to read the fine print and pay attention to those deadlines!

## Raytheon

This scholarship awards five student veterans with \$10,000. SVA and Raytheon recognize the tremendous potential that student veterans have to fill the critical skills gap in the United States and usher in a new generation of technological advancements. In order to fuel this growth SVA and Raytheon have partnered to provide five \$10,000 scholarships to student veterans pursuing engineering degrees or a degree in a closely-related field.



This scholarship awards eight student veterans with \$10,000. Scholarships will be awarded to student veterans pursuing a degree in the field of computer science (as noted below). Scholarship recipients will also be invited to attend Google's

2018 Summer Annual Scholars' Retreat. The Scholars' Retreat provides an important networking opportunity for top students from all over the United States and Canada to meet with each other and with Google engineers in a personable, fun environment.



This scholarship awards four student veterans with \$10,000. Scholarships will be awarded to student veterans pursuing any degree in any field. Special consideration will be given to those pursuing degrees in accounting, finance, human resources and/or information technology management.

Applications for these scholarships can be found at: <http://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships>.

Do not delay. Apply today as the deadlines are fast approaching.



**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 of 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

**VSOs Deliver Petition Urging Expanded Caregiver Benefits - VFW joins in delivering 182K-signature petition to Congress urging the passage of a bill that will expand caregiver benefits to severely disabled veterans of all generations - VFW National Magazine - <http://www.vfw.org/>**



WASHINGTON – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), the American Legion and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) today delivered a petition with more than 182,000 signatures calling upon Congress to expand the Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) comprehensive caregiver assistance benefits to disabled veterans of all eras. They were joined by Senate and House members also calling on their colleagues to pass caregiver extension legislation.

The bipartisan "Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017," passed by the Senate VA Committee last week, includes a critical provision modeled after a bill authored by Senator Patty Murray that would extend comprehensive VA caregiver benefits to veterans severely injured during and prior to the Vietnam War. Following a two-year period, the program would expand to include

post-9/11 veterans are eligible for comprehensive support to include a living stipend to alleviate the financial burden of being a full-time caregiver. Unfortunately, veterans of previous eras are unjustifiably denied eligibility simply based on the era in which they served. It's past time Congress end this inequity and expand comprehensive caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras."

"Enacting this legislation would be life-changing for countless veterans and caregivers across the country, affording them the opportunity to remain in their homes and enabling them to have the best possible quality of life," said DAV Past National Commander and quadruple amputee Dave Riley, whose spouse Yvonne sacrificed her career to become his full-time caregiver. "We urge continued bipartisan support to get this bill passed, as it stands to vastly improve the lives of the nation's veterans and America's unsung heroes—their

make sure that veterans will be able to seek care in their own communities while also making important investments in the VA," said Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson. "This bill contains an important provision to expand the VA's comprehensive caregiver benefits to all eras of veterans. I'm proud of what we have accomplished in the Caring for Our Veterans Act."

"Veterans' caregivers are unsung heroes who have committed their lives to helping veterans who have sacrificed so much in the line of duty," said Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Jon Tester. "Thanks to our friends at DAV, the American Legion, PVA and VFW for their support and input on our bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act, which will expand the VA's caregiver support program to veterans of all eras, giving crucial support to Vietnam, Korea and World War II-era veterans and their loved ones who put

***"Caregivers of military veterans, the overwhelming majority of whom are family members, put their lives and careers on hold, often accepting great emotional and financial burdens to ensure their veterans have a meaningful quality of life and stay in their homes instead of having to receive institutional nursing home care,"***

veterans of all eras.

The bill now awaits passage in the full Senate and would then require passage in the House.

"Caregivers of military veterans, the overwhelming majority of whom are family members, put their lives and careers on hold, often accepting great emotional and financial burdens to ensure their veterans have a meaningful quality of life and stay in their homes instead of having to receive institutional nursing home care," said Bob Wallace, VFW's Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office. "The family caregivers of

caregivers."

"Taking care of our veterans means taking care of the people who help make their recovery possible, but too often the sacrifice many caregivers make to provide vital day-to-day care for our wounded veterans goes unnoticed," said Senator Murray, a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "While our work to fulfill our promise to our veterans is far from over, I'm proud of our bipartisan efforts to strengthen and expand the proven caregivers program so that veterans of all eras have the resources and support they need live healthy, independent lives." "Through this legislation, we want to

their lives on hold to care for them. By working together, I believe that we can pass legislation to expand these critical support services for caregivers of veterans of all eras."

"We have a responsibility to support our veterans by providing assistance to the dedicated family members who care for them," said Representative Jim Langevin, a sponsor of caregiver legislation. "I'm proud to join my colleagues in bipartisan and bicameral support of the Caring for our Veterans Act, which will expand (cont from previous page) critical caregiver benefits to disabled veterans from all conflicts. I hope the Senate markup will be followed by



swift passage in both chambers to ensure that family caregivers get the resources they need to provide our brave service members with quality health care at home."

"The passage of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 was an important step in ensuring caregivers receive the resources they deserve so they can provide the best possible care to their loved ones. However, by limiting program eligibility to caregivers of post-9/11 veterans, an inequity was created between caregivers of the newest generation of veterans and countless caregivers who provide care to veterans of previous conflicts. It is past due for us to address and fix this unfairness," said House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tim Walz.

"The American Legion has long advocated for expanding eligibility and ending the obvious inequity among caregiver benefits. Simply put, a veteran is a veteran, and all veterans should receive the same level of benefits for equal service. We strongly support the Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017," said Ralph Bozella, Chairman, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, the American Legion.

"Representing the population of veterans with the most catastrophic injuries, who require some of the most intensive and expensive institutional care, Paralyzed Veterans of America understands better than most that caregivers are essential to our members' longevity and quality of life," said PVA Interim Executive

Director Carl Blake. "There is simply no justifiable reason that our government should not provide their caregivers with the means to care for them at home with family, and the opportunity to live more normal lives, while also delaying the costs of institutional care. This should not be a debate about the era of service, it's part of our country's responsibility to care for the injured men and women who wore the uniform."

Under current law, only veterans injured after September 11, 2001, are eligible for comprehensive caregiver benefits and supports through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and expansion would benefit hundreds of thousands of dedicated caregivers, many of whom have performed their role without support for decades.

## What are the Different Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) and How Do They Differ?



### About the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,500 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join,

Visit our website at [www.VFW.org](http://www.VFW.org).



### About DAV:

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the

men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; providing employment resources to veterans and their families and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a nonprofit organization with 1.3 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932.

Learn more at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).



### About American Legion:

The nation's largest wartime veterans organization, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans care and rehabilitation, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.

Learn More at <https://www.legion.org/>



### Paralyzed Veterans of America

### About Paralyzed Veterans of

### America (Paralyzed Veterans):

Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. For 70 years, Paralyzed Veterans has ensured that veterans have received the benefits earned through their service to our nation; monitored their care in VA spinal cord injury units; and funded research and education in the search for a cure and improved care for individuals with paralysis. With more than 70 offices and 34 chapters, Paralyzed Veterans serves veterans, their families and their caregivers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Learn more at [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org).

These are just a few. There are many different VSO's available who need your help. Volunteer today!

# WHAT'S THE WORD: EDUCATION BENEFITS

**Your Benefits Now - "Forever GI Bill" Latest Update** - *Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*

In this 99th year of commemorating Veterans Day on November 11, VA has broadened that observance and appreciation to designate the entire month of November as National Veterans and Military Families Month. At VA, we like to say that every day is Veterans Day, but this month and year it has been especially evident as we begin implementing several new provisions enacted by the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill."

We plan on sending out periodic communications trying to keep everyone up to date on the 34 provisions of the law. For example, just yesterday I did interviews with 23 radio and TV stations across the country talking about the wonderful new benefits of the Colmery Act. Earlier this month, we outlined several sections that went into effect immediately. Today we're underscoring the wide range of expanded educational benefit eligibility for Veterans and dependents that go into effect on August 1, 2018. While that may seem like a long ways off, we're putting things in place now to ensure our Veterans are informed and the process is as smooth as possible.

## **Expansion of qualifying time**

**for Post-9/11 GI Bill to certain Reserve and Guardmembers** - The law expands the definition of "active duty" to include Reservists and Guardmembers ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, or to be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study. The expansion applies to service on or after September 11, 2001. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

**Purple Heart recipient Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility** - Servicemembers and honorably discharged Veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001, will be entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months. This facet of the law closes a sort of "loophole" where Servicemembers who may not have otherwise had enough time in for full Post-9/11 eligibility are now fully entitled. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

**Yellow Ribbon extension to Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart recipients** - Recipients of the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart will be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program provides

assistance with tuition and fee charges not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill, such as charges over the annual cap for a private school or out-of-state charges. Institutions enter into an agreement with VA to pay uncovered charges (schools decide the amount), and VA matches the amount the school waives. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

**Expansion of qualifying Reserve service** - Those called to active duty under 12304, 12304(a), and 12304(b) orders on or after June 30, 2008 may have this service credited towards their Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

These amendments extend educational benefit eligibility to a greater population of Veterans and dependents who have responded to the call to serve - and sacrifice - for our country. This Veterans Month, and every day, we continue to thank you.

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

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

### **What is the Indiana Remission of Tuition and Fees for a Child of a Disabled Veteran?**

This program is referred to as the "CDV" program and is handled by our Financial Assistance Office in the Orr Center.

This state provided benefit applies to the natural or legally adopted child(ren) of a disabled veteran who may be eligible for remission of tuition and some fees at any state-supported, post-secondary school or university in the State of Indiana.

This applies as long as the child was adopted by the prescribed time

and a resident of Indiana. The CDV program is good for 124 semester hours and may be used for either undergraduate or graduate level courses.

Consult the USI Financial Assistance Office and <http://in.gov/dva/2378.htm> for more information.