



VETERAN TALON



Understanding Your 'Veterans Hold' - Administrative Action Set for Your Protection

If you have tried to drop or add a course, you may have been told that your account has a "Veterans Hold" and wondered what exactly is this?

Why is this important?

Part of your responsibility as a VA Education beneficiary is to keep our office informed of any changes to program or classes – either drop or add. In the past, we found a majority of our students were dropping, adding classes or changing their program (Major) without informing our office which causes an under payment or debt to the student.

Another issue is when students mobilize or feel they are getting ready to mobilize. This hold ensures they are coming through our office so they can out process from the University and offices

(such as Financial Assistance, Bursar, Registrar and Advisor) completely to ensure a smooth transition back when they decide to return.

To combat this, we have placed holds on our student Veteran accounts so that you come to us and inform our office of the changes you need to make.

It is not our intent to prevent any change; it is only a means to keep your account with the VA current and to advise you of any payment changes as a result.

We want you to be informed at all times. This is the same type of hold our University uses with its athletes.

Will this effect my Priority Registration?

This hold will not affect your priority registration. This hold will be placed each semester on the Monday after the 100% drop/add period (typically the first full week of class) and extend until the Friday before Priority Registration begins.

Can I have it removed if I don't want it?

In an effort to keep or your individual account and the university in compliance, this administrative hold must be in place if you are receiving educational benefits under the Department of Veteran Affairs.

If you need your hold temporarily removed to perform maintenance on your account, please contact our office during business hours and it will be lifted temporarily.

USI Veteran Dental Days Offer FREE Hygiene for Veterans of All Eras

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on November 5,7 and 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.

Student Veterans & Families needed to Ride Veterans Day Parade Float

The USI Student Veteran Association and American Legion Post 324 will participate in the Four Freedoms Veterans Day Parade again this year.

The parade will be on November 10th and will proceed down Franklin Street. The time of the parade has changed this year to 2:00 p.m. and line up will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Student Veteran riders and their families should plan to arrive by



1:00p.m. to find the float and avoid traffic.

We need Student Veterans to ride or walk behind the float. No candy is allowed this year. Seating is first come, first served and sign up sheets are located in the veteran lounge.

For more information, please contact Mr. Alfonso Aldana in the Veteran Office in the Education Center 0114.



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Priority Registration Opens to VA Beneficiaries November 5 at Noon

If you are a VA Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Spring and Summer 2019.

This will begin on **Monday, November 5th at noon** and is available to students based on the number of earned and attempted hours.

Students given permission to register early through group affiliation will be able to sign up for classes via myUSI beginning on at noon. This will not be available until that time. **Please do not submit inquiries until after the start of the PR time period.**

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the VMFRC.

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.

VA Healthcare Center Offers flu Shots for Vets - *Jared Goffinet, 14 News*

EVANSVILLE, IN (WFIE) - Some veterans in Evansville got their flu shots on Monday.

The VA Healthcare Center held a flu shot clinic at its east side facility. If you missed Monday's event, there will be more opportunities.

The clinic is also holding a "drive thru" flu shot on October 19 so that veterans who have trouble walking can drive up and get their shot. Veterans will just need to fill out a short questionnaire.

It's advised to get your flu shot yearly especially if you're elderly.

"Those are our higher risk people in the community, we wanna make sure those get vaccinated, last year was a bad flu season, this year we're trying to vaccinate soon as possible," explained Registered Nurse Cindy Dailey.

Here is a list of upcoming dates and times for flu shots at the VA Healthcare Center:

- October 1
- October 11
- October 19
- October 23
- November 2
- November 19



NOVEMBER 10, 2018
PARADE BEGINS AT 2:00PM
ON WEST FRANKLIN STREET

For More Information Visit:

www.usi.edu/ffvp



REGISTER TODAY

STARTING **SOON!**



REGISTER NOW AT: **REBOOTRECOVERY.COM**

MONDAYS

6:30-8:30 PM

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10800 Lincoln Ave
Newburgh, IN 47630

DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Contact for Info:

Marke Parsons
812-453-8493

markeparsons@yahoo.com

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

Golf Outing Raises Funds to Support Local Military Veterans

On Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., nearly 100 golfers will converged upon Helfrich Hills Golf Course to advance a great cause: the support of local military veterans and their families.

Now in its seventh year, the Shoe Carnival Point Man golf outing was started in 2012 by three young professionals and local attorneys, Ryan Schulz, Rhett Gonterman, and Sarah Dauer, and the Point Man board of directors. Gonterman, an attorney at Old National Bank, is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps who retired with the rank of Sergeant and served two tours of duty in Iraq. Dauer, an attorney at the Reckit Benckiser Group (which recently acquired Mead Johnson), retired with the rank of Captain from the United States Air Force.

To date, the outing has raised nearly \$150,000 in support of veterans in Southwest Indiana. "Raising money for our veterans, who have given so much to all of us, is the least we can do. Most veterans are humble and quiet about their service to our country.

On this day, we celebrate their service and support them as our friends and neighbors," said Schulz, a partner at local law firm Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP.

The benefactor of the outing, Point

Man, is a 501(c)(3) organization which directly serves local veterans and their families living and coping with the effects of combat service. Many of our brave neighbors return home from service and struggle daily with the effects of physical trauma and disability, PTSD, depression, divorce, homelessness, unemployment, and other less visible re-integration issues.

Point Man serves as a source of direct contact and comradery for our community's combat veterans and their families as it works with them to overcome these challenges. In addition to their own unique services, Point Man bridges the gaps in support where the VA and our government may come up short.

100% of the funds raised for Point Man go directly to serving our community's veterans and raising awareness for veterans' needs. No person at Point Man takes a salary.

The funds immediately support programs that include: weekly meetings in support of veterans in crisis; marriage builder and family support workshops; American flag outreach; Women Veterans Conference; Honor Flights to Washington D.C.; Visiting Warriors program; Reboot Combat Recovery; and many other outreach services.

'Operation Vanguard' Offers Challenge to Combat Homelessness - Martina Hull., Reach Veterans Services - mhull@reachservices.care

Reach Veterans Services is a community organization in the Wabash Valley who works year round to aid, house and provide assistance to needy, at-risk and homeless veterans.

In 2018, Reach housed or aided in excess of 400 veterans through our Homeless Veterans Shelter, our SSVF program, assistance filing for grants, direct financial aid, or our food and clothing distribution.

Each year for the past 5 years Reach has taken part in a homeless challenge called Operation Vanguard in which individuals in our community come out for a night and experience what it would be like to be homeless in November.

The event runs from November 8th at 4:30 PM until November 13th at 10 AM. Some participants come and stay for the entire event, some stay a night, and some join us for a few hours.

THE FACTS ABOUT HOMELESS VETERANS:

There are 553,742 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the United States. Just over 9 percent of homeless adults: 40,056 - are veterans. These numbers come from point-in-time counts, which are conducted, community by community, on a single night in January every other year.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Operation Vanguard is about raising awareness and funds for homeless and/or at-risk Veterans right here in the Wabash Valley. Your participation and/or donations directly impact our community greatly. We will be participating in a "Homelessness Challenge". This event is designed to emulate the struggles that homeless individuals experience daily. During this time participants, will be living in tents outside of our office building at 1400 Hulman Street.

This year, Reach is challenging the community to participate in the 5th annual Operation Vanguard to help in raising awareness and funds for homeless and at risk Veterans.

Participants are asked to reach out to friends and family members and let them know you will be participating in Operation Vanguard, and why it's important to you. We also ask for those that stay the night that you come to the

event with a minimum of \$200 in sponsorships.

Your efforts and contribution will allow us to expand our services in the community to further our mission of serving those whom so selflessly served us.

Flyer explaining the details and contact information can be found on the Reach Veterans Services Facebook page facebook.com/events/286693768401524.

HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

Share the word! During our challenge we will have barrels at the Operation Vanguard Site to take donations from the community we will be able to accept: Non-perishable food, Food gift cards, household, and hygiene items. Also monetary donations are always welcome; no gift is too small. We will take cash, coins, check, or card.

Alternatively, if you would like to give but live too far, or are unable to make the event, please feel free to mail a check or money order to the above address or you can donate online at ReachServices.care.

If you are interested in participating please contact Martina Hull at Reach Services (812) 232-6305 with the date(s) and/or times you would like to participate to ensure that you receive recognition for your efforts.



**OPERATION
VANGUARD**
A MISSION OF **Reach Services**

Hoosier Veterans Celebrate Service to Country, Urge Indiana Lawmakers to Act on Veterans

Legislation - By Dan Carden, Northwest Indiana Times



INDIANAPOLIS – Hundreds of Hoosier military veterans, including a busload from Northwest Indiana, filled the Statehouse on January 9 to celebrate their service and urge lawmakers to back policies that meet veterans' needs.

The Big Four veterans service organizations, the Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS, respectively, are seeking legislative action on several priorities ranging from a greater state tax exemption for military-connected income to improved efforts to end veteran homelessness, creating a scratchoff lottery ticket benefiting veteran causes and tax credits for businesses that hire veterans or National Guard members.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, a U.S. Navy veteran, did not speak to the specific proposals advocated by the veterans groups but declared his wholehearted support for Indiana veterans and veterans issues generally during the group's patriotic program.

"Each and every day, we owe it all — not a lot, not some — but we owe it

all to our veterans," Holcomb said. "The truth is there are millions around the world who have benefited, both directly and indirectly, from the service of the American veteran, because no one group in the history of human civilization has liberated more land and freed more people than the Americans."



The governor said he's pleased that no matter where he travels in the state, from the largest cities to the smallest towns, he always finds a veteran monument or memorial in a prominent place.

"Indiana is ... overflowing with pride for our veterans," Holcomb said. Dave Hinshaw, a U.S. Army and Indiana National Guard veteran, and Legion member of Hammond Post 168, who co-hosts the Veterans Views radio program on Hammond's WJOB-AM,

said he thinks it's good that Indiana's governor is a veteran because it gives Holcomb a better understanding of veterans issues.

"It also means that we have a better chance of getting legislation passed on our behalf," said Hinshaw, who stopped at the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette to drop off \$700 in donations on his way to the Statehouse.

Charles Bustamante, of Highland, who served 20 years in the Marine Corps and now is vice commander of Highland American Legion Post 180 and Highland VFW 1009, said every effort to aid, in particular, disabled veterans are needed. "I'm a disabled vet myself, and I see a lot of obstacles I had to get through just to get my benefits," Bustamante said. "Veterans shouldn't have to do that. I'm strong-willed, strongminded so I pushed through it. A lot of people just stop, because they think that nobody is going to help them."

Bustamante said everyone has an obligation to give back to veterans, since veterans, through their service, have given up years of their lives and time with their families to protect and defend their fellow citizens.

VFW Scholarship Ignites a Passion in Veteran

"I want to thank everyone at the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sport Clips for giving me the opportunity for a second chance at an education," said VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" recipient Nikolay Maltsev.

The first time Maltsev attended college, he quickly realized he wasn't prepared for this life change without real-world experience.

"I went to the Army recruiter and decided to get some hands-on training as a wheeled vehicle mechanic to get another view of the world. I spent time in South Korea, Fort Riley and Kuwait." While serving active duty in Kuwait,

Maltsev began planning ahead for future educational opportunities and searching for financial aid. He stumbled upon the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" and filled out an application.

Maltsev is thankful for the second opportunity to pursue a degree in economics at the State University of New York at Albany.

"My passion has been ignited to study economics ... in my opinion it is the best way to learn how the world works theoretically and practically. I truly want to know and think like the great minds in this field."

"I plan to contribute everything I can to the VFW's mission of serving veterans, the military and their communities."

"The VFW's investment in me will not be forgotten or wasted, which is why I work so hard to complete my college education," Maltsev concluded. "I urge all student veterans to try harder and aim higher. I wish them success in everything they undertake."

For more information on VFW, Sports Clips scholarships, visit: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>

WHAT'S THE WORD: EDUCATION BENEFITS

VA Education Benefit Spotlight - How Do I Get a Tutor to Assist Me?

Tutorial assistance is available to help you pay for tutoring necessary to advance your education.

Type of Assistance

This is a supplement to your regular education benefit. Tutorial assistance is available if you are receiving VA educational assistance at the half-time or greater rate and have a deficiency in a subject, making tutoring necessary.

Available Benefit and Eligibility

The monthly rate of tutorial assistance may not exceed the cost of tutoring or \$100. The maximum amount payable is \$1,200.

There is no entitlement charge for the first \$600 under the Montgomery GI Bill. There is no entitlement charge under the Post-9/11 GI Bill or DEA.

Eligibility

All of the following criteria must be met for a student to be eligible for tutorial assistance:

The student must be in a

postsecondary program half time or more. For the Post-9/11 GI Bill, rate of pursuit must be at least 50 percent.

The student must have a deficiency in a course that is part of his or her approved program.

The student must be enrolled in the course during the quarter, semester, or term in which the tutoring is received for the course. Tutoring may not occur between quarters or semesters.

Apply

The student, tutor, and certifying official must complete VA Form 22-1990t, Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance. The application may be submitted at the end of each month or combination of months. The application must be signed and dated on or after the date of the last tutoring session certified.

More Information for Schools

When a certifying official signs an Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized

Tutorial Assistance, he or she certifies the following:

Tutoring is essential to correct a deficiency. A letter from the course instructor should be put in the student's VA file stating that the student is deficient in the course and that individual tutoring is required to correct the deficiency.

The tutor meets the college's qualifications. Ideally, the school maintains a list of approved tutors. The list should indicate the subjects a tutor is qualified to tutor and the hourly charge. Students should be assigned a tutor from the approved list.

A tutor may not be a close relative of the student.

The charges do not exceed the usual charges for tutoring.

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

I took a course and was not satisfied with the grade I received. Can I take that course over and will the VA pay for it?

Classes that are successfully completed may not be certified again for VA purposes if they are repeated. Successful completion includes grades "A" through "D".

However, if a student fails a class, or if a program requires a higher grade than the one achieved in a particular class for successful completion, that class may be repeated and certified to VA

again.

A course that has been failed, can be repeated and billed to the VA for the second time. However, if an F letter grade is assigned after the second attempt, the student must refund monies paid to the VA if enrolled for a third attempt.

Examples of when courses can be submitted to the VA for re-evaluation:

Example 1: if a Nursing program requires a "B" or better in Biology, then that class may be repeated if a "B" or better was not earned. That requirement must be in the school catalog.

Example 2: If a course is required for graduation, a student may repeat the course and be certified for it until it is successfully completed. No further information needs to be provided to VA regarding those courses.

Example 3: If a student chooses to repeat a course that was successfully completed, just to improve their GPA, that course cannot be certified to VA.