



VETERAN TALON

University of Southern Indiana Student Veterans Association



USI DENTAL CLINIC SEEKING VETERANS FOR FREE CARE

AVAILABLE IN THE USI BOOKSTORE NOW

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on February 24-28, 2020.

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

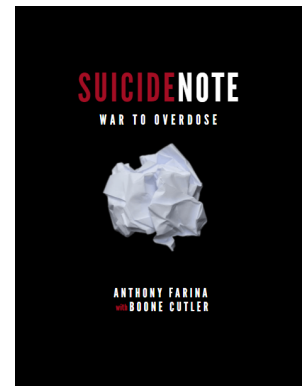
“In the past, these dental cleaning appointments have booked very quickly,” said Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center at USI. “The huge response points to the need in our community for veterans to have access to this type of care. We appreciate how the USI Dental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

At this time, there are still appointments available. If you are interested in supporting this program, please call and make an appointment today.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Remembering Our Fallen and POW Chair of Honor - 3

Annual Hoops for Troops - 4

Healing Reins Family Day - 5



How to Order Wall That Heals Shirts for 2020 Tour - 6

STUDENT VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Yeats Takes Language Skills to New Opportunities

Ricky Yeats has been selected as our February Student Veteran of the Month.

Ricky is a veteran of the United States Air Force and joined in 2013 where he was put on a wait list until a position opened up as a cryptographic language analyst / Spanish linguist, something he always wanted to do. **But that was not the initial reason he enlisted.**

He ultimately joined for the opportunity – something that was lacking in his small town. "I also joined to see the world. While the last part didn't exactly come to fruition, I didn't mind because I loved the Air Force as well as my career" said Yeats.

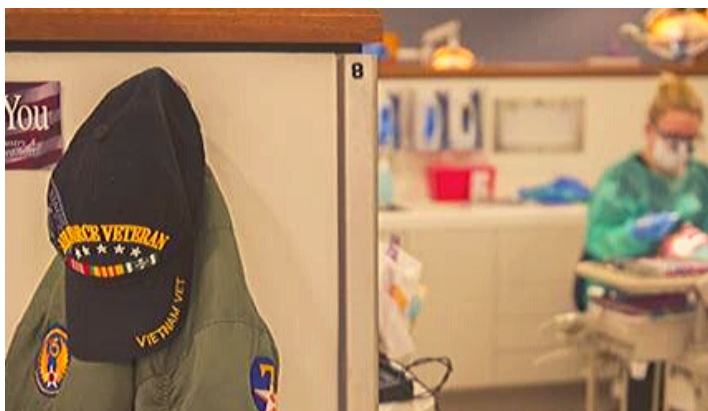


That love for his career developed into a major in Spanish Studies at the University of Southern Indiana. Soon after, Ricky realized he had another career goal to achieve where he could combine his experience from the Air Force and major in Spanish to develop a business.

"My new life goal of owning my own interpreting firm led to me taking on a second major in business administration. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my country in the capacity that I did. I'm also grateful that this passion lives on today."

Yeats has taken his skills and put them to work in the Student Veteran Association where he serves as an officer for the organization. He also works as a VA Work Study in the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center where he assists student veterans with benefit questions and mentors others in Spanish. Despite all these activities, Ricky retains a 4.0 GPA.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my country in the capacity that I did. I'm also grateful that this passion lives on today."



FREE DENTAL FOR VETERANS

February 24-28

morning, afternoon and evening sessions available



CALL FOR
DETAILS.
APPOINTMENTS
REQUIRED.

812-464-1706

University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic
Health Professions Center, Room 1040
8600 University Boulevard Evansville IN 47712



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN: TRAVELING MEMORIAL AT USI HONORS FALLEN MILITARY PERSONNEL

Written by Earl Hopkins, Evansville Courier and Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Military veterans and community members gathered at the University of Southern Indiana Friday to commemorate the lives of fallen military personnel. USI hosted the opening ceremony of the "Remembering Our Fallen" war memorial at the school's Screaming Eagles Arena. The nationally touring photo-display memorial, which got its start in November 2010, honors military who died from wounds suffered in a war zone since September 11, 2001. Indiana's traveling display is among 15 state-specific memorials and a national memorial.

The crowd was welcomed with a brief speech from USI President Ronald Rochon and a tribute video showcasing the importance of honoring those who served the country. Most of the event's spectators watched the video in stoic fashion, while others' emotions were on full display.

"This is what we live for," Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 President Jerry Blake said. "Anything we can do to honor our fallen heroes, that's what we're here for."

The memorial wall featured 171 listed veterans with photos and small notes from their families and friends.

Friday's ceremony also included the dedication of the POW/MIA Chair of Honor memorial, which will permanently remain in the arena year around. The piece, placed between the 204 and 203 sections of the venue, symbolizes the nation's concern for Americans still prisoner, missing or unaccounted from their military service.

"The significance for me is this is about human beings," Rochon said. "It's about men and women who decided to serve and lost their lives. We should never forget these individuals." Blake said Rolling Thunder members' aim is to push students to place their personal or political affiliations aside and show their appreciation for those who lost their lives serving the country.

"When you can come by and you look at that wall, you see those faces, and now it becomes personal," Blake said. "They realize we can do what we want today, right or wrong, because of the men and women who went before us to make the ultimate sacrifice." Blake said the organization is looking forward to future collaborations with USI and other institutions in the area.



"Last night as I walked the wall and I looked at these pictures and the eyes of these human beings that we have lost it became personal, it became intimate, it became extremely relevant and brought it home for me."

-President Ronald S. Rochon





ANNUAL HOOPS FOR TROOPS - MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL GAMES BREAKS RECORDS

On Saturday, January 25th, USI will hosted its seventh annual Hoops for Troops Military Appreciation to honor members of the United States Armed Forces.

The Screaming Eagles hosted Quincy University for a Great Lakes Valley Conference men's and women's basketball doubleheader.

Veterans, military personnel and their guests will received up to five free tickets per veteran to the games, a concession pass, lapel pin and 20% off at the fan store located inside of the arena.

The games are hosted by the USI Student Veteran Association and Veteran Military and Family Resource Center. This year's event featured a court-sized flag presented by members of the SVA, Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 6 and community veterans who came to enjoy the games.

To honor the first military appreciation game in the new arena, fans were treated to a special viewing of the Remembering Our Fallen exhibit and the new POW/MIA Chair of Honor which was dedicated by President Ronald S. Rochon and Provost Mohammed Khayum the day before.

This year, the attendance at the game brought in more than 120 local veterans and their families.

"We could not be more proud of our campus team for putting on another successful event. Doing something this large with this many moving parts takes a coordinated effort of many departments and individuals. Our staff members tackled this challenge in a fashion much like our military conducts its missions. I am proud to be part of our USI team" said Joel Matherly, Assistant Director of the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.

Though it will be hard to top this year's event, Matherly said he hopes to continue to grow the attendance of community veterans at the games for 2021.



Local Veteran Josh Jones and his son enjoy court-side seats donated by members of the community at the annual Hoops for Troops - Military Appreciation Basketball Games

2020 KICKS OFF WITH VETERAN'S FAMILY EVENT

On January 18, 2020, Healing Reins of Kentucky hosted a Veteran's Family Event at Rolling Hills Equestrian in Henderson, Kentucky.

The purpose of the event was to honor local veterans by providing a fun family centered event where families could strengthen bonds through horses and create a support network by meeting other local veterans and their families.

Sixteen Healing Reins volunteers participated in helping with equine centered activities; horse-back riding, miniature horse grooming, hay rides, BBQ dinner and children's activities like mini jumping, bean bag toss, coloring, and learning horse care basics.

Two local Veteran's centered organizations; The USI Student Veterans Organization and Basin Law Group (NATIONALVETHELP.COM) supported the event by providing resources for our Veterans. Healing Reins is honored to be able to host this event through the generous contribution and grant funding from the Sandy Lee Watkins Songfest Grant. More Veterans Family community events will be planned through-out 2020. Special thanks to Josh Jones for connecting our local Veterans and their families to this event and to Healing Reins



"Healing Reins is a phenomenal program for veterans. I'm so glad I had the chance to see what these great people are doing. It's amazing what people can do when they come together to be there for those who make sacrifices for a country"

-Jake Cater, Veteran

ROLLING THUNDER AND USI TO HOST THE WALL THAT HEALS THIS FALL

By Blaine Fentress, 44 News

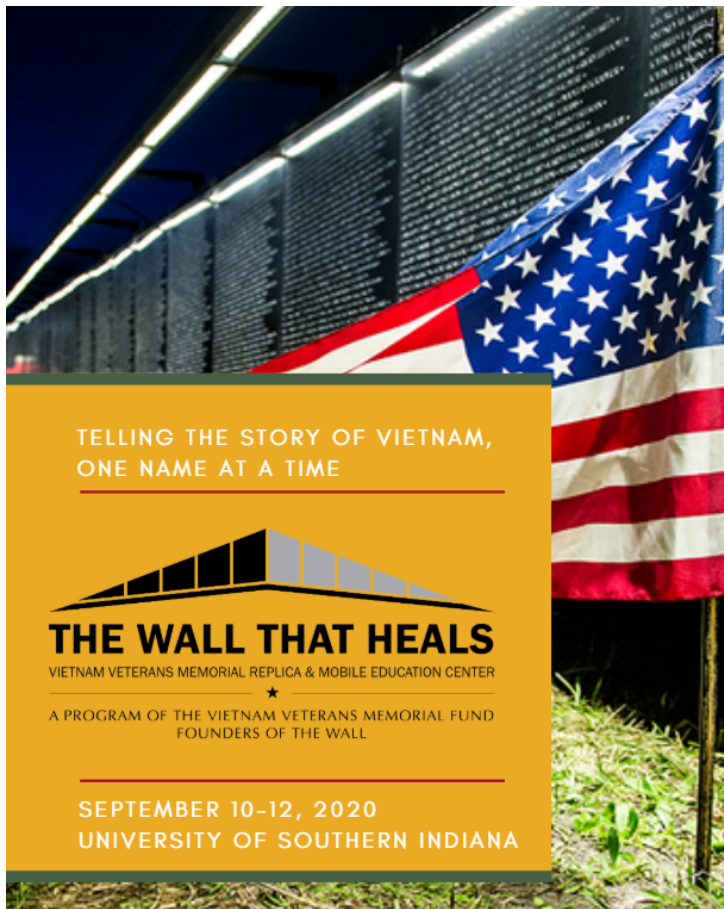
An important traveling memorial will be in the Evansville area next September.

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be displayed at the University of Southern Indiana on September 10-13, 2020. USI was selected one of 35 sites for next year to display the memorial. Rolling Thunder of Indiana, Chapter 6 is sponsoring the wall. The university will serve as the host.

The traveling memorial debut in 1996. It has been on display close to 600 communities throughout the United States. This year, more than 300,000 people have visited the Wall. An education center will also be next to the wall during it's three day visit on the campus.

"We are honored to have The Wall That Heals on campus next fall," said Joel Matherly, assistant director of the USI Veteran, Military, and Family Resource Center.

This will be the first time that the memorial has been displayed on a college campus.



HOW TO ORDER YOUR VVMF'S THE WALL THAT HEALS 2020 TOUR SHIRT

The VVMF is about to roll out the 2020 tour for The Wall That Heals. As part of each tour, they will issue an official tour shirt that lists each of the 2020 tour sites. Don't miss this chance to get your shirt now!

These shirts will help to promote to draw attention to your site and others throughout the 2020 tour.

Share the link below to purchase 2020 tour shirts. <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/Tour-Shirt/>

The sale runs from February 6th through March 3rd and includes a choice of a short and a long sleeve version. The process is run as a limited time frame sales campaign. Once the campaign ends Custom Ink will process our order and ship all the shirts.

What you need to know:

- Just go online, order a shirt and once the campaign is completed it will be shipped directly to you.
- **Sales end on March 3rd.**
- After the campaign closes, items print together to keep costs low. Delivery expected by March 20, 2020.
- **No shirts will be sold at The Wall That Heals sites.** You must purchase your shirt online as part of this fundraising campaign.
- All proceeds from the shirts benefit VVMF's programs like The Wall That Heals.
- Dates for additional limited shirt sales campaign's will be announced at a later date.