

# THE EAGLE TALON BULLETIN

*Official newsletter of the University of Southern Indiana Student Veteran Association*



## PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS ON OCTOBER 25

If you are a VA or ArmyIgnitED Tuition Assistance Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Spring 2021.

This will begin on Monday, October 25, 2021 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.

If you have other holds, please see those departments before priority registration so you have no issues at the time of your registration.

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.

Once you have your class schedule set, submit your Semester Benefit Request Form so your claim can be processed and your stipends can be processed by the VA without delay.

Remember, if you are using ArmyIgnitED Tuition Assistance and Chapter 1606, you must submit separate forms for each benefit.

## OTHER NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

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*"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."*

*- Colin Powell*

# VA LAUNCHES MONTHLY ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FOR ALL CHAPTER 33 (POST 9/11) STUDENTS

The Department of Veteran Affairs is launching a new verification program that it had recently pushed back for the Fall 2021 semester.

Beginning with terms starting after December 17, 2021, students using their Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) facility will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. Failure to verify for two consecutive months will impact their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments. This is part of a phased approach, and has already been rolled out to Post 9/11 GI Bill students attending Non-College Degree (NCD) facilities.

Here's what you need to know:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is encouraging students to sign up for text message verification. This will provide students a simple and convenient verification option and ensure they receive MHA and/or kicker payments uninterrupted.

After December 17, 2021, all impacted students with a US mobile phone number on file will receive an opt-in text as their next enrollment period approaches.

## **Note:**

Students who do not have a US mobile phone number on file with VA will not be able to use text verification. They will be automatically enrolled into email verification.

In tandem with these verification requirements for students, VA implemented a two-certification requirement effective August 1, 2021. This means you are now required to submit an additional certification of enrollment after the course drop/add period. VA delivered training on this process during July and August Office Hours.

This information will also be shared with potentially affected students directly. This fall, we will also provide you with a Communication Toolkit to help explain this to your IHL students.

## SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH? SVA TEAMS UP WITH SODEXO TO HONOR VETERANS

For the eighth year in a row, USI Student Veterans Association and Sodexo have teamed up to honor our veterans.

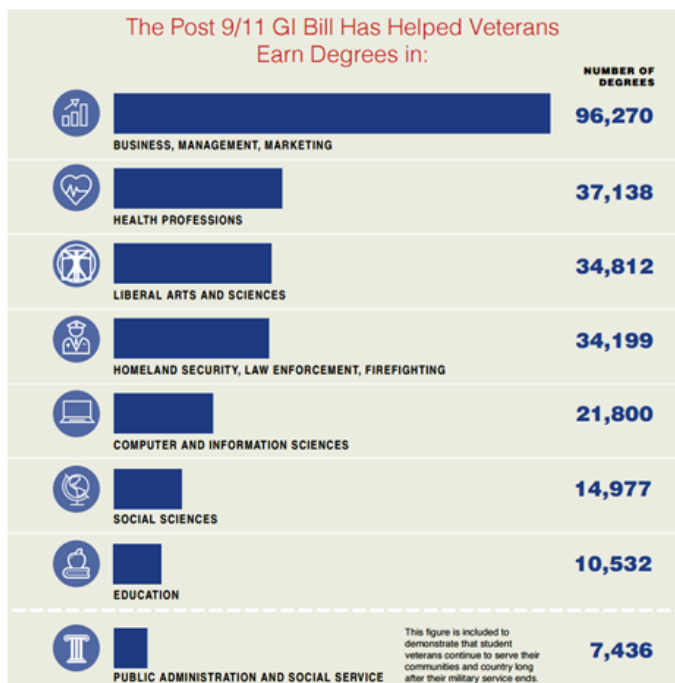
Sodexo will offer one FREE meal to all current and former military at one of their venues.

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 Thursday, November 11, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This is limited to one per student while supplies last. Offer is only good on November 11th.





### Did You Know?

Student veterans heavily favor “Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services majors,” with 27 percent of student veterans earning 96,270 degrees in these fields. According to the report, “It takes the next three [categories of] majors to equal the number of degrees in Business,” including “Health Professions (37,138), Liberal Arts and Sciences (34,812), and Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services (34,199).”

## STUDENT VETERAN ASSOCIATION IS YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS

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 Mr. Jay Sollman at [jsollman@eagles.usi.edu](mailto:jsollman@eagles.usi.edu) or stop by the Student Veterans Lounge in EC 0114.

## ASK VA REPLACES IRIS AND THE GI BILL HELP PORTAL

The VA launched its “Ask VA” web portal Monday at <https://ask.va.gov/>, offering a single online location for beneficiaries to ask questions and offer suggestions to the department.

VA beneficiaries who log in before accessing Ask VA can track answers to their previous questions, ask follow-up questions or provide additional details to earlier requests, and have some of their information filled in automatically for some types of questions. Beneficiaries can log in via their ID.me, Premium My HealtheVet, or Premium DS Logon accounts – click the links to learn more about setting up these accounts.

Users also will be able to submit documents through the portal as part of their inquiries. They will receive a reference number for their queries and can enter it into the Ask VA main page to receive any updates.

Ask VA will replace the GI Bill Help Portal and the Inquiry Routing and Information System (IRIS). The GI Bill portal will close “in a short period of time,” per the VA website, with users asked to print out or download any materials they may need for future reference. The IRIS website already has been redirected to the VA’s contact page.

Before asking a question at Ask VA, check [VA.gov/resources](https://va.gov/resources) for answers to frequently asked questions, including:

- Details on the department’s coronavirus response and resources.
- How to update your VA account, to include address changes and direct deposit information.
- Information on VA burial benefits.
- How to check on claims, including appeal options.





## POINT MAN MINISTRIES BRINGS MOH AND RESOURCES TO AREA VETS

Freedom Isn't Free is a free community event for the entire Tri-state area. Let's come together as a community to recharge our pride in our veterans and celebrate our freedoms.

This is a unique opportunity to meet a Medal of Honor recipient, only 69 of which are alive today. Every person, young and old, should hear SFC Sammy L. Davis speak to understand what it means to be willing to give your life for others and to dedicate your life to serving others.

Major Jeff Struecker, whose heroism and faith are featured in the book and film *Black Hawk Down*, will be the keynote speaker during the VIP brunch. This servant leader will describe how his faith, training, and leadership have served him in life or death situations over 21 years in the Army as well as during his time as a pastor at his church in Columbus, GA.

The 90-minute main program on Saturday will feature the 100+ person **Freedom Choir and Orchestra**.

In order to emphasize our veterans' sacrifice, there will be 1,700 flags flying on the Crossroads, Evansville Christian School, and Epworth UMC campuses starting on Friday afternoon, October 29th.

*For information on purchasing a table for the VIP brunch, email Dan Oates at [Dan@OatesFamily.net](mailto:Dan@OatesFamily.net).*

## ARMY PROMISES TO LEARN, IMPROVE OVERSIGHT AFTER RECENT TECH FAILURES - Davis Winkie, Army Times - Oct 11

WASHINGTON — The Army's top leadership weighed in on a recent series of high-profile failures plaguing its information technology efforts at an Oct. 11 press conference held amid the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting.

This summer, the service rushed the rollout of its new tuition assistance platform, called Army IgnitED. The botched rollout saw many soldiers unable to utilize their education benefits. It led to a desperate administrative scramble to ensure that tuition bills were paid after some soldiers had to cover their costs out-of-pocket.

The site, designed by Deloitte, still isn't 100 percent functional, and some soldiers are still awaiting reimbursements or payments.

The Army also recently announced it was delaying the launch of the much-hailed Integrated

**HEALING REINS VETERANS FAMILY DAY**  
DAY NOVEMBER 7, 12-3 PM



Family Day at the Farm  
Children's Activities

**PONY RIDES**

Free food  
Hay rides  
Veterans Resources



**BRING YOUR FAMILY**  
Rolling Hills Equestrian  
7088 Old Corydon Rd.  
Henderson, KY  
Please RSVP to  
[horsesheal1@gmail.com](mailto:horsesheal1@gmail.com)  
or 270.854.3150

# **FREEDOM** *isn't* **FREE**

October 30, 2021 | Crossroads Christian Church

Personnel and Pay System-Army, the service's long-awaited "21st century" human resources platform.

Army senior leaders have said for years that IPPS-A will take the service from an "industrial-era" HR and talent management system to a much more modern platform, aligned with the practices of large civilian corporations.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth acknowledged that the service has had "some challenges with the online tuition [assistance platform]" during the press conference.

"Frankly, in part because of that experience, as well as the lessons learned from that experience, when we looked at where IPPS-A was, we made the decision that it was better to delay the rollout of that so that we can make absolutely sure that the system was going to work when it actually does go live," Wormuth said.





# **FREEDOM** *isn't* **FREE**

October 30, 2021 | Crossroads Christian Church

## PROGRAM AGENDA

**RESOURCE FAIR WITH LOCAL  
VETERAN SUPPORT GROUPS**

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

**VIP BRUNCH\***

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

MEET AND GREET

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

MAJ. JEFF STRUECKER

**BREAK**

10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

**MAIN PROGRAM**

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

WITH SFC SAMMY L. DAVIS AND

FREEDOM CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

**SPEAKER BOOK SALES AND  
RESOURCE FAIR CONTINUES**

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

*Speak with these servant leaders and purchase  
personally autographed copies of their books:*

**SFC SAMMY L. DAVIS**

*You Don't Lose 'Til You Quit Trying  
Endless Love and Second Chances*

**MAJOR JEFF STRUECKER**

*The Road to Unafraid  
Fallen Angel  
Certain Jeopardy  
Blaze of Glory*

You're Invited to the

### **Annual Veteran Recognition and Vendor Resource Fair**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Doors open at 10 AM, Program begins at 11 AM

**National Guard Armory**

3300 E. Division St., Evansville Indiana

*This is a FREE event for all veterans and is open to the public.*

*Lunch, door prizes and gifts for each veteran!*

*A \$5 donation is requested from all non-veteran guests.*

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!**

**Call (812) 402-3170**



Vendor tables and sponsor opportunities available

