



VETERAN TAILON



USI Student Veterans Association Places Third on National Stage

Over the Winter Break while most USI students recuperated and prepared for the spring semester, the USI Student Veteran Association was busy preparing for the Student Veterans of America National Conference.

This conference, held in San Antonio, Texas from January 4-6, provided an opportunity for our students to present our program to the nation for review.

"In early November, our students submitted a business plan to SVA national where they scored 77 of 80 possible points and was invited to present on this national stage" said Joel Matherly, SVA Chapter Advisor.

Past Chapter President Chaze Patrick added, "The submission of the business plan granted them a \$2,000 award for our chapter. After their presentation we were



awarded an additional \$1,000 as the third place prize."

While the business plan was a collaborative effort between all USI SVA officers, the presenting team was made up of Alfonso

Aldana, Kikki Collins and Chaze Patrick who attended the conference.

"We are very excited by our students representation of both our program and university. The USI SVA officers through their time and commitment have placed the USI brand in the national spotlight. We look forward to the conference next year in Orlando" added Matherly.

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 Rebecca Durnell, President,

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 up to five (5) 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.

This years event will also host the Mobile Vet Center and a half court flag that will be presented by Rolling Thunder, Chapter 6.

"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.

TRIBUTE: Veteran Community Mourns Loss of Army Veteran and Daughter

Eli William Freeman, 44, of Evansville, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2018 as the result of a traffic accident along with his daughter, Erika Freeman, former USI student, near Winslow, Arizona.

Eli was a veteran of the United States Army and volunteered at many USI veteran events

including the annual "Hoops for Troops" appreciation game since it's inception in 2014.

Surviving Eli are his wife of 25 years, Wendy Love Freeman; a son, Ethen Freeman.

The Freeman's are dear to the veteran community and Eli's and Erika's passing has left the

community with heavy hearts. Our thoughts are with this family.

Friends may visit with the family from 2:00 until 8:00 P.M. on Thursday at Pierre Funeral Home.

More at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.





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USI Dental Clinic Sets Veteran Days for Spring 2018

The University of Southern Indiana Dental Hygiene Clinic will provide free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans from March 12-15, 2018. This is the first time this program has been offered for this many days. "There is an increasing demand for dental care in the veteran community and we have increased these dates in an effort to meet that demand" said Joel Matherly, Assistant Director of the USI Veteran Military and Family Resource Center.

This schedule includes morning, afternoon and evening hours to serve more veterans.

"In the past, these dental cleaning appointments have booked very quickly," said Matherly. "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 Association Spring Event Schedule

The USI Student Veterans Association is very active both on campus and in the community.

This list is published so you can be a part of the events as a volunteer or participant. Typically all events include family, so bring yours to these or inquire how you can participate or be a part of our growing team.

JANUARY:

15 - Martin Luther King Luncheon - SVA has a table with tickets. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis.

20 - Hoops for Troops Basketball Game. See front page of this newsletter for details.

24 - Student Involvement Fair - Information

table with giveaways and cookies. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

FEBRUARY:

16 - 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff - Ronald McDonald House. SVA will defend its title against ROTC and UE Vets in a community support event. This feeds the residents at the RMH and is a friendly competition between student veteran organizations. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - especially those who can cook!

MARCH:

10 - FASFA's Due. Computers and assistance available in the Veteran Lounge.

APRIL:

5 - Movie Night. SVA will sponsor "Father Figures" and provide food and beverage items along with an information table.



WELCOME BACK VETERANS





Six Sigma Green Belt Certificate

Participants can register on-line 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.

'Call of Duty' star Jamie Gray Hyder: 'It takes bravery' to be a student veteran

-Natalie Gross, *Military Times*

SAN ANTONIO — Actress Jamie Gray Hyder may be known for her work in front of the camera.

But it's what she does behind the scenes as an advocate for veterans and service members that drew her Saturday to the Student Veterans of America national conference to host the organization's awards ceremony for a second year in a row.

"When they asked me to come back I was so excited to be able to do that," she said in an interview with *Military Times*.

Hyder, a 32-year-old Washington, D.C., native, is known for playing Danielle in the HBO show "True Blood" and Lucia Solano on "Graceland." But her favorite role was as Lt. Nora Salter in the video game "Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare," released in 2016.

It was that character, she said, that led to unforgettable interactions with service members as she trained for the role, which in turn sparked a newfound passion as an advocate for the men and women who serve in the military. The role also carried a weight unlike any of her other roles, as she portrayed the first female lead of the "Call of Duty" franchise.

"While that came with a lot of excitement, it immediately became daunting because I knew that I had a responsibility to accurately represent the women who are in our Armed Forces," she said.

Hyder's eyes welled with tears as she told a story of meeting a room full of young women sailors in San Diego who thanked her and presented her with gifts. They told her that seeing her in the game had made it easier for people to accept them in their positions.

"I was floored by that," she said. "You think of what you're doing as entertainment. But the fact that these women were telling me that what I was doing was improving their quality of life was something that was extremely touching for me and that I took very seriously."

SVA spokesman Barrett Bogue said it was an easy decision to invite Hyder to host the awards ceremony in San Antonio because of her background and passion for the veteran community.

"Jamie was our master of ceremonies last year at NatCon17, and she did such a great job that the student veterans and attendees loved her so much that they asked for her to come back this year," he said.

Hyder's favorite part was after the ceremony, sharing drinks with veterans and getting a chance to hear their stories, she said.

"That's really the part of veteran outreach that I enjoy," she said. Hyder works closely with the Call of Duty Endowment Fund, which focuses on veteran employment, and supports the mission of organizations like it and SVA that are providing resources to veterans who may come back from the battlefield feeling isolated.

"While we all know it takes bravery to serve and to fight, it also takes bravery to come back and put yourself in a position to better yourself, knowing that you are potentially going to feel like an outsider," she said. "There might not be a whole lot of 33-year-olds trying to get their bachelor's, master's, whatever it is. I absolutely am inspired by the fact that coming off of one isolating experience, [student veterans] are walking into another."

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

Gen. George Casey's 6 keys to success for student veterans - Natalie Gross, Military Times

Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey knows what it's like to experience a difficult transition out of the military.

He describes it with a story about a crossword puzzle he did after leaving the Army's top post in 2011, in which a seven-letter word with the clue "Army head" was not "general," but, instead, "latrine."

"That's kind of what it's like," Casey joked with student veterans assembled for his keynote presentation at the Student Veterans of America national conference in San Antonio.

"Every time you transition, it's hard," he told Military Times in an interview. "It's like learning a new language."

But veterans, he said, are well poised to succeed. "A little perseverance, and they'll be fine."

Casey, now an SVA board member who describes himself as the "grumpy general" of the group who asks tough questions, shared his six keys for success with student veterans at the conference.



Retired Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey presents his six keys to success at the Student Veterans of America national conference in San Antonio on Jan. 6. (Photo by Student Veterans of America)

Don't sell yourself short

"This is probably the biggest challenge I see for people making the transition from military to civilian life," he said.

When Casey was a graduate student at the University of Denver, he remembers feeling like the "dumbest sucker on the face of the Earth." But, he came to realize, he already knew how to do the hard part. And the same is true for today's student veterans, he said, reminding them that they've been to war and accomplished things that, in many cases, exceed the life experience of their civilian peers.

"Power through," he said. "This is not the hardest thing you have done or will ever do."

Learn to ask for help

It may feel awkward to ask for help after growing accustomed to military life, but many people and organizations out there

want to help, Casey said. "Take advantage of it. It's not a sign of weakness."

Build and use your network

"Every place I go I think we're generally lousy networkers — people who come out of the military," Casey said, speculating that's because former service members are used to having their unit be their network.

Casey mentioned tools like LinkedIn, Rally Point and other networking sites as possible tools.

"Build that network," he said. "Use it to get help and then give back. Use it to help others. That's what vets are all about."

Stay fit

"I noticed the gym wasn't very crowded this morning," Casey joked with the audience, before stressing the importance of exercise for physical, mental and emotional health. Even when he was in a combat zone, Casey made a point to exercise four to five times a week, he said, and recommended that student veterans start establishing workout

habits now that will continue throughout their life.

Graduate

"Use your benefits and follow through," he said. "You owe it to the people coming behind you and you owe it to the country. So persevere and finish up."

Be bold

Casey said anyone who makes success sound easy isn't telling the truth.

"Nobody — nobody — if they're honest with you succeeds all the time," he said. He gave the example of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs who was pushed out of the company before he came back and changed the world.

"You don't hit home runs every time," Casey said. But the key is being bold enough to act.

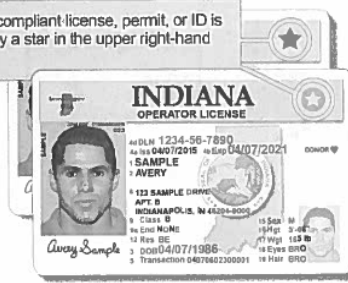


As of October 1, 2020, a Real ID-compliant driver's license, permit, or identification card will be required to fly commercially in the United States. Visit any BMV branch with the required documentation to upgrade to Real ID.

Visit REALID.IN.gov to learn more.

Do you have a star?

A Real ID-compliant license, permit, or ID is indicated by a star in the upper right-hand corner.



VA Opens Third Crisis Line Call Center - Department of Veteran Affairs

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is opening a Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) call center in Topeka, Kansas, the third such center nationwide, and expects to hire 100 employees to staff the center, located on the campus of VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

VCL currently operates two centers in Canandaigua, New York, and Atlanta, Georgia. The new call center, expected to open this fall, will give VCL the additional capacity as VA expands the “automatic transfer” function, Press 7, to its Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) and Vet Centers.

“When it comes to preventing Veteran suicide, we will do everything we can to make it as easy as possible for Veterans to reach us,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “The new center in Topeka gives us more feet on the ground and an easier way for Veterans to connect with us when they need us most.”

The Press 7 function is already available at VA Medical Centers and provides immediate access to the crisis line from a main phone tree. Currently, CBOC and Vet Center phone systems do not provide that option, forcing Veterans to take an added step by dialing 800-273-8255, and then pressing 1.

Since its launch in 2007, the VCL has answered more than 3 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis more than 84,000 times. Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered nearly 359,000 and nearly 78,000 requests for chat and text services, respectively.

Veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at 800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/ Chat or text to 838255

VFW-Sport Clips Scholarship Program Tops \$4 Million! - Program names 118 student veterans to share \$550,000 this spring semester - vfw.org



KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce that its VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” program has now awarded more than \$4.1 million in scholarships to 943 military and student veterans. The latest award of more than \$550,000 will now enable 118 student veterans to continue their higher education classes this spring semester.

“The VFW was instrumental in the passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the new Forever GI Bill, but those beefed-up educational assistance programs still can’t cover the full cost for certain curriculums,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. “Through the generosity of Sport Clips and its founder, VFW Life member

Gordon Logan, we were able to create the Help A Hero scholarship program in 2014 to help a new generation of patriots attain their educational goals.”

The VFW Help A Hero scholarship provides service members and veterans up to \$5,000 in post-secondary scholarships without any fear of increasing student debt.

“This grant will be a great opportunity ... I can now transition from the military into the private sector without the struggle of typical student debt,” said 2018 spring scholarship recipient and Western Governors University student Judus Bare. “For some veterans, this phase can be a nightmare, but companies and communities such as VFW and Sport Clips give support so we can accomplish our educational goals. I have always been interested in higher education, and now I have

that opportunity. Thank you very much.”

“This money is not just helping me afford my graduate program in marriage and family therapy, it is also an investment toward veterans mental health,” explained scholarship recipient Brooke Mills, a student at Northcentral University. “I am pleased to announce that, due to your scholarships, I have paid for my entire education. I am so pleased and grateful!”

Help A Hero scholarships are awarded twice a year exclusively to service members and veterans to help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for the 2018 fall semester. Apply for a Help A Hero scholarship today by visiting <https://www.vfw.org/scholarship>.

WHAT'S THE WORD: EDUCATION BENEFITS

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

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.

What is Chapter 36?

VA offers free Educational-Vocational Counseling services (also called Chapter 36 counseling) that are available to:

- Service Members within six months prior to discharge from active duty.
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty.
- Current beneficiaries of educational assistance under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607.
- Veterans and qualified dependents who are eligible for and have entitlement to education assistance under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607.

Services include:

- Counseling to facilitate career decision making for civilian or military occupations.
- Educational and vocational counseling to choose an appropriate civilian occupation and develop a training program.
- Academic and adjustment counseling to resolve barriers that impede success in training or employment. Detailed information regarding counseling and the entire program can be found on the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Service website.

I was told that I could get an accelerated payment. How do I qualify for that?

This option is available for Chapters 30 and 1606.

Complete information about accelerated payment is available for students and schools on our Education Benefits website at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/accelerated_payments.asp.

Acceleration Basics

Accelerated payment is a lump sum payment of 60% of Tuition and Fees for certain high cost, high tech programs. For Chapters 1606 and 1607 it applies to non-college degree programs that are less than two years, but does not specify that they must be "high tech programs." If there isn't enough entitlement to cover 60% of Tuition and Fees, VA will pay based on actual remaining entitlement. Accelerated payments are paid one semester, quarter, or term at a time. If a program isn't offered on a semester, quarter, or term basis, the accelerated payment is paid for the entire program.

High cost means tuition and fees must be more than double the benefit the student would otherwise receive. Example: A typical semester is 1/11/10–5/7/10 (17 weeks) and a typical quarter 3/22/10–6/4/10 (11 weeks). If Chapter 30 pays \$1,368.00 per month full-time, it pays \$5,335.20 for the semester or \$3,328.80 for the quarter. In order to meet the "high cost" requirement, tuition and fees must be more than \$10,640.70 for the semester or more than \$6,657.60 for the quarter before a student could receive an accelerated payment.

High technology means students must enroll in a high tech program and they must certify their intent to seek employment in a high tech industry as defined by VA. VA maintains a list of high tech programs and high tech industries on the Internet as noted in the second paragraph above.