



USI STUDENT

OCTOBER 2024
VETERAN

NEWSLETTER

EDITION #2025-2

STAY INFORMED - USI SVA ON FACEBOOK



Are you following us on FaceBook? Scan the QRC to learn about updates and events we have with our student veterans!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
NAVY
October 13, 1775

NEXT SVA MEETING: NOVEMBER 7 - STUDENT VETERAN LOUNGE (ED0114)

Meetings for the Student Veteran Association are held the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.. Veterans, current serving and dependents of veterans are all welcome!



Local veterans and their families braved the weather on September 29th for the Veteran Family Day held on campus. Families were treated to the climbing wall, swimming pool, fly fishing and food. This event was in coordination with Rolling Thunder, Indiana Chapter 6 and the USI Student Veteran Association.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS OCTOBER 21ST AT NOON

If you are a VA Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Spring and Summer 2025. This will begin on October 21st 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 inquires until after the start of the PR time period.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the VMFRC. If you have holds, please see those departments before priority registration so you have no issues when you register.

This is your time to register, please take advantage of it. This ensures that you do not need to make multiple changes. 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.

STUDENT DESIGNS FIRST SVA CHALLENGE COIN

A USI student has designed the first challenge coin for the USI Student Veteran Association.

Read more on the significance of this coin and how it will promote the SVA on campus.

Read More - Page 2



 USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

STUDENT DESIGNS FIRST SVA CHALLENGE COIN



When the University of Southern Indiana first developed its veteran program, the goal was to keep as many military traditions alive so student veterans had an environment that was both comfortable and familiar.

While there are a lot of traditions to choose from, the lack of a “challenge coin” was noticed by one student who set out to bring that to our student organization.

Liam League is the son of a U.S. Army veteran and Anthropology major. He is very active in the Student Veteran Association and serves as the Veteran Representative on the USI Student Government Association.

When he’s not studying for his courses or participating in veteran events on campus, Liam uses his talents as an artist in capturing his creative side. Fortunately for the SVA, this came to great use while designing the challenge coin.

If you’re not familiar with the significance of the challenge coin, it has many different origins depending on where you reference it at. Outside of the military, most people have never heard of it. However, these important coins are something you should be aware of, as they’re meant to honor someone who has shown great valor.

A challenge coin is a small coin, medallion, or token of some sort that helps to signify membership in an organization. They’re used most often by the military and armed forces. Challenge coins can help to boost morale by recognizing special achievements.

The earliest origin dates back to the Roman Empire. Supposedly, Romans presented notable soldiers with special coins as a reward for whatever they had achieved. Maybe they showed special bravery in battle or pulled off a heroic feat. Their action could be recognized with an honorary medal.

The more common thought is that challenge coins originated during World War I. The story goes that a high ranking and wealthy military official had special bronze medallions created to give to his men. He had the squadron’s symbol etched into the challenge coin and presented these tokens to his entire unit as a symbol of unity and strength.

Soon after receiving the medallion, one member of the troop got struck down by enemy fire. The Germans took all of his possessions except the challenge coin, which was hidden in a leather pouch strung around his neck. At that point, the importance of the coin took root. It became an almost sacred symbol of bravery and perseverance. It was a huge honor to receive such a coin, an item that represented such special importance.

Still another story claims that challenge coins date back not to World War I, but later in time, to World War II. This story claims that challenge coins were given to military members deployed in France during the time of the Nazi regime. They were used to help verify a person’s identity. The coin could be of a certain type, or it might contain specific information like a date. This system helped to prevent important meetings from spy infiltration. It would be much harder to send in a spy if they needed to first secure a custom made coin made to specific standards. This helps to explain why they’re called challenge coins. The question to see a person’s identifying coin came in the form of a challenge or test of their identity. Having a coin helped prove faithfulness and verified that a person was who he claimed to be.

It is also possible that challenge coins were not introduced until after the Vietnam War. Whatever the case, a man named Colonel Green embraced the concept in the 1960s. He had a special coin created with his unit’s crest and motto.

Though the origin of these special coins is unclear and there is no definite agreement about when exactly they originated, they have become a popular symbol in the military today.

Notable members of the military who are deserving of special honors can be rewarded with a challenge coin to represent what they have earned by their actions. Even non-military organizations like the United States Congress have participated in the tradition.

Whatever the origin, the USI SVA is now proud to be able to be a part of that history. Thanks to Liam, student veterans and dependents can now have a token of their affiliation.

STUDENT

VETERAN

ASSOCIATION

VETERAN

MEETINGS:

FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

1:30 PM (1330)

VETERANS LOUNGE - ED0114

CHAPTER 35 VA BENEFITS PAY SCALE 2024: FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU'LL GET DEPENDING ON YOUR ENROLLMENT

The high standards of education are often an obstacle for those who seek to improve themselves. For this reason, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) increases the amount of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) every year. Keep reading to find out how much is yours this year.

The monthly amount that each beneficiary receives depends on multiple factors. In principle, the VA determines the type of education or training you receive, the number of courses you take, and the time you spend in on-the-job training.

The rate you receive is based on a full-time schedule. Therefore, if you take fewer school courses or hours of training than the VA considers full-time, your payment will be less. The same goes if you receive on-the-job training or are in an internship program.

Another factor that the VA takes into account when determining your DEA is the time you have been enrolled in the program. If you have been enrolled for the entire month, you will receive up to \$1,488 monthly if you are in a high-learning institution or non-college degree program. If you are in on-the-job training or an apprenticeship program, you would receive up to \$945.

However, if you have not been enrolled for the entire month or spend less than full-time in the program, your payment will be reduced depending on the time you have been enrolled according to these rates.

If you study at a higher learning institution, your payment will depend on the courses you are taking:

- strong>Full-time enrollment: \$1,488 for each full month
- 3/4-time enrollment: \$1,176 for each full month
- 1/2-time enrollment: \$862 for each full month
- Less than 1/2-time and more than 1/4-time enrollment: \$862 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, which is always less)
- 1/4-time enrollment or less: \$372 for each full month (or the cost of your tuition and fees, whichever is less)



HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN INDIANA INVITES COMMUNITY TO ATTEND 'WELCOME HOME PARADE'

Officials with Honor Flight of Southern Indiana are getting ready for their annual trip to Washington D.C., and the community is being asked to make sure to provide a warm welcome home for veterans as they return.

Local residents are being asked to mark their calendars for Honor Flight's "welcome home parade."

You can take part in the parade and welcome veterans home as they return from their trip to Washington D.C. on Saturday, October 5th.

Honor Flight says planes will begin arriving home at the Evansville Regional Airport around 8 p.m. and that the parade will start around 8:40 p.m.



LOCAL GULF WAR VETERAN HELPS OTHERS GAIN BENEFITS



A local Gulf War veteran has re-directed his passion of serving from the U.S. Navy, to the veterans in the community. Brandon Renner served in the U.S. Navy and is now VA-accredited disability attorney representing Veteran clients nationwide.

His organization, National Vet Help, understands the unique challenges veterans face, especially while balancing studies and transitioning back into civilian life. We are here to ensure you receive the VA Disability Benefits you've earned, providing expert guidance from start to finish.

Are You Eligible for VA Disability Benefits?

Whether you're just starting your VA Disability claim, seeking an increase, or appealing a denied claim, our experienced team is here to guide you every step of the way. We understand the ins and outs of VA Disability Law, and we're here to make the process smoother for you.

Why National Vet Help?

- Veteran-Centered Expertise: Our team specializes in VA Disability Benefits. We have years of experience helping veterans successfully navigate the system.
- Personalized Service: We know that no two veterans are the same. We take time to understand your unique needs, service history, and goals. Every case receives personalized, compassionate support.
- Comprehensive Claim Assistance: From initial filings to appeals, we ensure your claim is accurately documented and supported with strong medical evidence. We work closely with you to avoid common mistakes that could delay your claim or reduce your benefits.
- Dedicated to Student Veterans: Balancing school and handling a VA Disability claim can be overwhelming. We're here to take the burden off your shoulders so you can focus on your studies while we manage your claim.

How We Can Help:

- Initial Claim Filing: Don't know where to begin? We'll walk you through every step of the process, ensuring all paperwork is filed correctly and on time.
- Appeals Assistance: Was your claim denied? We'll review your case and help build a strong appeal to get the results you deserve.
- Increase Requests: If your condition has worsened, we can help you request an increase in your disability rating, so your benefits match your current needs.
- Complete Support Throughout the Process: We're with you from the start to finish – until you get the benefits you deserve.

Your Benefits, Your Future

Balancing education, life, and a VA Disability claim can feel like a lot. Let us handle the complexities of the VA system, so you can focus on your goals and your future.

Take the First Step Today!

Call us at 812-461-0229 or visit nationalvethelp.com for a FREE consultation. Our team of dedicated professionals is ready to help you secure the benefits you're entitled to.

Your service has earned you these benefits – don't leave them on the table.

Who We Are:

At National Vet Help, we're more than just advocates – we're veterans serving veterans. We understand the challenges you face because many of us have been through it ourselves. With a strong track record of success and deep commitment to veterans, we are proud to stand by your side through the entire VA Disability process.

MAJOR VETERANS ORGANIZATION WEIGHS IN ON UPSIDE-DOWN AMERICAN FLAGS

The American Legion said flags should be flown upside down only if there is "extreme danger to life or property." - Megan Lebowitz, NBC News, June 2024

WASHINGTON — The veteran organization the American Legion weighed in on the upside-down American flag controversy on Thursday, noting that flags should only be flown this way if there is "extreme danger to life or property."

The potential implications of flying an American flag upside down have been the subject of debate since reports emerged that an upside-down flag flew outside Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's home in early 2021. The justice said the flag was raised by his wife, Martha-Ann.

Some supporters of former President Donald Trump have also reportedly flown upside-down flags in support of the former president falsely claiming that the 2020 election was stolen, leading it to be interpreted as a "stop the steal" symbol.



"The American flag is a symbol of courage, strength, freedom and democracy," said the American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer in a statement to NBC News. "American Legion members swore with their lives to protect all that the flag stands for."

Seehafer pointed to the Flag Code, a detailed set of guidelines laying out how the American flag should be displayed, as evidence the flag should not be inverted unless to signal distress.

"Our organization also led the creation of the U.S. Flag Code, which includes the following: 'The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property,'" Seehafer said.

Alito had told Fox News last month that his wife flew the upside-down flag after an argument with a neighbor. Martha-Ann Alito told The Washington Post in January 2021 that the upside-down flag was "an international signal of distress" and appeared to indicate it was raised in reference to a neighborhood argument.

But the Alitos' timeline was thrown into question by the neighbor

whose conduct was cited as the reason for the flag being hoisted upside down.

That neighbor, Emily Baden, said she did not personally see the upside-down flag, which The New York Times reported was displayed as early as Jan. 17, 2021. But Baden said that her argument with the Alitos took place nearly a month later, on Feb. 15.

The Alitos "seem to be implying that it happened directly before they put up the flag," Baden told NBC News, adding that it was a "lie."

The American Legion has weighed in on American flag-related controversies before. In 2016, Trump said in a post to X that "nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag." He added that "if they do, there must be consequences — perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!"

The American Legion praised Trump's comments, with the group's then-National Commander Charles E. Schmidt saying that "no one should tolerate desecration of the American flag." The group went on to push for a constitutional ban on flag-burning. The most recent attempt to implement a constitutional amendment banning flag-burning failed by one vote in 2006.

The American Legion has nearly 2 million members, making it the "largest wartime veterans service organization," according to their website.

People & Animal Learning Services and Creative Arts
For Vets Present

OKTOBERFEST: ART & HORSES (AND BRATS!)

For Veterans, Service Members, & Military-Connected Populations

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
7644 W. ELWREN ROAD,
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47403

In honor of your service to our nation, we invite you to a free wellness experience with art and horses. This event is open to veterans and those currently serving in active duty, the national guard, or the reserves.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with us and enjoy grilled brats served with sauerkraut, soft Bavarian pretzels, and non-alcoholic beer. Please bring a friend, your spouse, or an adult family member.

ADMISSION IS FREE // NON-RIDING EXPERIENCE
WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES // RAIN OR SHINE

REGISTER
BITLY/4E3XLVW

CONTACT US
ASHLEY@PALSTHERAPY.ORG

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE USI CAMPUS AND VETERAN COMMUNITY

SVA SETS DATE FOR THE ANNUAL HOOPS FOR TROOPS MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL GAME

The Student Veteran Association has worked with the USI Athletic Department to set the date for the annual Hoops for Troops Military Appreciation Basketball Game. This is our 11th annual game.

The Screaming Eagles will take on Eastern Illinois Panthers for the "Battle of the Birds" on January 25, 2024. The women's team will tip off at 1 p.m. followed by the men at 3:30 p.m.

The event is open to all veterans in the community. They will receive up to five (5) tickets to the game. There will be fan giveaways and a court-sized flag for the National Anthem that all veterans are encouraged to participate in.

This is also open for our dependents. We hope to see you there so we can continue to offer this great game.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HISPANIC?: CELEBRATING HISPANIC VOICES ON CAMPUS

- Tegan Ruhl, Lifestyle Editor, USI Shield

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. To celebrate, The Shield asked Hispanic students what it means to be a part of their culture and how they honor it during the months of September and October.

[Read more here](#)

HEROES LAWN CARE

Heroes Fertilizer Force Personalized Fertilizer and Weed Control Services	Heroes Irrigation Army Irrigation Services and Water Conservation Strategies	Heroes Doody Duty Eco-Conscious Lawn Conservation	Heroes Mosquito Squad Safely and Naturally Eliminate Mosquitoes

Jimmy Elder
General Manager
jelder@heroeslawn.com

812-499-4114
HeroesLawnCare.com
Independently Owned and Operated

2024 CINCINNATI BENGALS MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

the Cincinnati Bengals are once again partnering with Ohio CAT to host our annual Military Scholarship Essay Contest. This contest offers the opportunity for two (2) deserving military members to win a \$5,000 scholarship and four (4) tickets to the Salute to Service game on Sunday, November 3rd.

As of this morning, submissions are officially open! The contest will consist of submitting a 1,000-word (or less) essay on how their military service has prepared them to excel in academics. Essays will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Originality and communication (40%). Essay should be original, establish a main point, provide supporting detail and be easy for the reader to follow.
- Content (40%). Essay should include Entrant's service time, current goals and how Entrant is actively working to accomplish those goals.
- Writing Mechanics (20%). Essay should meet the word requirement with minimal spelling, capitalization, punctuation and grammar errors.

This contest is open to active, reserve, or retired military personnel (ROTC is the only group not eligible). The form to enter is available via the link here . please direct your students to submit via the link below:

<https://bengals.formstack.com/forms/militaryscholarship2024>

Submissions will close at 11:59pm on October 18th. Please let me know if you have any questions.

WHO DEY!