



USI STUDENT

VETERAN

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

EDITION #2025-7

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!

COMPLETE YOUR SBRF TODAY!

Remember to submit your Semester Benefit Request Form **EACH** semester you want to file a claim for educational benefits. You can do so online at usi.edu/veterans.

NEXT SVA MEETING: APRIL 3 @ 1 PM - STUDENT VETERAN LOUNGE (ED0114)

Meetings for the Student Veteran Association are held the first Friday of each month. Veterans, current serving and dependents of veterans are all welcome!



USI fans celebrates the Lady Eagles Basketball team in the NIT Tournament in the Liberty Arena. The excitement of hosting the game(s) and the success of the women's team brought a pride to campus. Picture by Preston Leinenbach, USI Athletic Communications, March 2025

USI TO HOST THE ANNUAL 'HONORING WOMEN VETERANS' CONFERENCE MAY 31ST IN THE CONFERENCE CENTER

USI in collaboration with the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center will host the Tri-State Women Veterans' annual 'Honoring Women Veteran Conference on May 31, 2025 in a new location. This year's conference will be held in the Conference Center in the University Center, East.

"We are honored to be selected to host this annual conference for our area women veterans:, said Joel Matherly, Director of the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center. "I can not think of a more dedicated organization than the Tri-State Women Veterans who serve to ensure that resources and service of our women service members and veterans are honored, not just on this day, but 365 days."

This FREE conference for service women of all eras will include Sheila Corcoran as the featured guest speaker

She is the first female Commander of the Department of Indiana, Veterans of Foreign Wars. She supported Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Civil Affairs Officer in charge of a Civil Military Operations Center.

Come join us using the QRC in the advertisement in this edition for a day of camaraderie, breakout sessions, pampering and free breakfast and lunch!

READY TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?

Boots to Business (B2B) provides participants with an overview of business ownership and is open to service members (including National Guard and Reserve) and military spouses.

Find out how to register for this FREE program

Read More - Page 3

VETERAN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Our community celebrates our military-connected servicemembers and families all-year!

Find what events are in your area to enjoy and support these organizations.

Special Events - Page 7

USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

STUDENTS BEGIN PREPARATION FOR SPRING FINALS AND FALL 2026

As the academic year begins to draw to a close and students prepare for ROTC Commissioning, Commencement, and/or the next chapter or semester it is easy to become engaged in the “now” that we do not take time to celebrate our accomplishments of the year. Below is a recap of the year for our Student Veteran Association:

Fall Semester:

- Member trip to the Current River in Eminence, MO
- Indiana Committee for Military Credit for Prior Learning
- Indiana SCO Committee Re-Launch
- POW/MIA Conference
- NAVPA Conference
- River City Veteran Resource Group
- Veteran's Day Program
- Student Veteran Association National Conference

Spring Semester:

- Hoops for Troops
- Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana Designation Application
- Department of Defense Compliance Review
- Honoring Women Veteran's Conference

Thank you to all of the SVA Member's that made this year successful. We especially thank Zack Holder, Andrew Rhoades, and Mackenzie Gamage for their hard work and time to lead the Student Veteran Association.

USI STUDENT VETERAN ASSOCIATION TO BRING SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON APRIL 10

The USI Student Veteran Association is adding a special presentation outside of the regular monthly meeting.

On April 10th in ED 1101 at 1 p.m., a special viewing of “Eva” by Hetman Designs will be shown to guests who want to have a unique experience of a returning World War II soldier and his struggles with PTSD as he navigates life after war.

This will be followed by Susan Colaricci Sauls, Director of University Art Collections who will offer veterans the opportunity to sign a panel of the “Lexington to Saigon: All Together Now” quilt that is on display in the Rice Library.

Then Chaze Patrick and Andrew Messmer from INVETS will explain how you can maximize your LinkedIn and networking tips to pursue your career.

Finally, you can use these new skills to talk about summer internships and career opportunities with BWXT Technologies, Inc. in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

“With so much information, it would have been hard to hold this in the veteran lounge and provide all this information during a regular SVA meeting” said Mackenzie Gamage, USI SVA President.

Gamage added, “we hope that the student veterans and dependents will come out and support this event so gain valuable information and gain career opportunities.”

ED 1101 is located the classroom in the lower level of the Education Building. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



2025 Honoring Women Veterans Conference

FREE FOR WOMEN VETERANS OF ALL ERAS

- Registration open at 8 a.m. followed by FREE breakfast!
- Includes Complimentary lunch and an afternoon of pampering (hair, nails, hand massages, painting and beading), prizes and more!
- Breakout Sessions for added informational purposes
- Meet fellow women veterans of all eras and branches of service!

SHEILA CORCORAN - PAST STATE COMMANDER

Sheila Corcoran served as the Indiana Department Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Sheila is proud to be the first female Commander of the Department of Indiana, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

She enlisted into the Army in 1984 and earned her eligibility for the VFW by serving in Baghdad, Iraq in 2006-2008. There she supported Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Civil Affairs Officer in charge of a Civil Military Operations Center. After returning home from war, she retired from the Army Reserve after 24 years of service.

5.31.25
8:00 a.m.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
CONFERENCE CENTER

REGISTER TODAY BY THE QR CODE OR BY VISITING EVENTBRITE

SEARCH: 2025 HONORING WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

For more information please call (812) 589-8992 or melissa_gill12@yahoo.com

STUDENT
VETERAN
ASSOCIATION
VETERAN

MEETINGS:

FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
1:30 PM (1330)
VETERANS LOUNGE - ED0114

 USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SVA PARTNERS WITH WESTSIDE HACIENDA FOR FOOD AND GIVEBACK

The USI Student Veteran Association has partnered with the westside Hacienda location for a fundraising opportunity with their “Give Back Fiesta” program.

The official date for the Give Back is April 29th and is only available at the Hacienda located at 5440 Pearl Drive in Evansville, Indiana.

The SVA has an opportunity to earn 20% of the total guest checks of our organization's supporters.

All your organization's supporters have to do is turn in the Gives Back Tokens (see below) when they pay. Tokens are also available in the Student Veteran Lounge in ED 0114. More details will follow as they are finalized.

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE IT ON THE DATE?

We will also sell gift cards as a part of the “Give Back Fiesta” program.

As above, the SVA will earn 20% of the total gift cards purchased by your organization’s supporters. All your organization’s supporters have to do is turn in the Gives Back Token when they pay, or your group representative can turn one in with your pre-sell sheet. Patrons can also order gift cards online at <https://haciendafiesta.com/gi-cards> with the organization's name typed in the message box.

Hacienda has a long standing tradition of being a local favorite. The Hacienda Gives Back Fiesta program is our way of thanking the local communities for their patronage.

BOOTS TO BUSINESS (B2B) TO OFFER TRAINING TO TRI-STATE VETERANS

Boots to Business (B2B) is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration SBA as part of the Department of Defense transition assistance program (TAP).

The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Active-Duty service members (including National Guard and Reserve), Veterans of all eras and spouses are eligible to participate.

The “Introduction to Entrepreneurship” course is a foundational piece of the Boots to Business (B2B). Participants are introduced to skills, knowledge, and resources needed to launch a business. This is a one-day program, facilitated by subject matter experts from the SBA and their extensive network of skilled business advisors.

The event will be held on July 24, 2025 at the Fifth-Third Bank Building - Welborn Community Room, 15th Floor at 20 NW 3rd Street in Evansville. Registration for this free event can be found at: [BOOTS2BUSINESS](#)



USI Student Veterans Association is pleased to invite the Student and Employee Veteran Community to share in this special day!

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

10 April 2025

ED, Room 1101
1p.m.



Resume Headshots
SVA Vice-President Matthew Leonberger will take headshots to update your resume!
E-mail: mleonberger@eagles.usi.edu



“EVA”
presented by Hetman Designs
A 20-minute film on World War II, PTSD and redemption

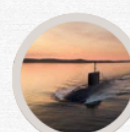
The Morton Collection Quilt: “Lexington to Saigon All Together Now”
Displayed in Rice Library, this is a unique opportunity to view and sign a special panel for veterans



How to maximize your LinkedIn and Networking Tips for opening opportunities



To discuss opportunities for careers and summer internships inside of their Posey County business



Topics will include:

- Introduction to Business Ownership
- Basics of Opportunity Recognition
- Understanding Markets and Your Competitive Space
- The Economics of Small Business Start-Up
- Legal Considerations for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
- Introduction to Business Planning
- Financing Your Venture
- Resources to Support Your Efforts

There is no charge for this event.

More information on this event and location can be found by clicking the registration link above.

USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION VA BENEFITS: WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED TO VETERANS? -ACTUALIZADO, MARCA, 27/03/2025

The VR&E program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31 for veterans with service-connected disabilities, transitioning to civilian life and finding meaningful employment can be challenging.

The Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program, also known as Chapter 31, exists to assist these veterans by providing the necessary support to overcome barriers to employment.

How Chapter 31 helps veterans

Whether a veteran needs additional training, job placement assistance, or even help with independent living, VR&E offers a range of services tailored to individual needs.

Veterans who meet eligibility requirements, including having at least a 10% service-connected disability rating, can apply for a comprehensive evaluation to determine their rehabilitation needs and career goals.

Once accepted into the program, veterans work with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to develop a personalized plan.

The services available through VR&E cover multiple areas, including vocational counseling, which helps veterans assess their skills and interests, as well as employment services, such as job-seeking skills, resume development, and interview preparation.

Veterans who require additional education or specialized training can access On-the-Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, or post-secondary education at vocational schools, technical institutes, or colleges.

For those who need extra support, the program provides case management, adjustment counseling, and medical or dental referrals through the Veterans Health Administration.

The basic eligibility period for these services is 12 years from either the veteran's separation from active duty or the date they received their service-connected disability rating.

For veterans considering VR&E, seeking guidance from a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) before applying can be beneficial.



Making the GRADE

Navigating and understanding service-connected education benefits can be extremely stressful when trying to determine how this aid interacts with regular financial assistance programs; what pays and what doesn't pay.

This special presentation by Jamie Bandy, USI Veteran Services will discuss how to understand and plan to use these programs to maximize a veteran's eligibility

April 24th, 10a.m. - 11p.m.
Griffin Center, USI Campus



See QR code for a listing of all community veteran events. Light snacks and beverages provided.




USI STUDENT VETERAN ASSOCIATION Giveback

Have a "win-win" for your family and support a Veteran Organization!

APRIL 29, 2025
 Hacienda Westside
 5440 Pearl Drive

*Mention this for carry out orders
 **Coupons available inside for dine-in

USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER 33 VA BENEFITS: WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BENEFITS ARE YOU ENTITLED TO IF YOU SERVED AT LEAST 90 DAYS? -LAPRESSE, MARCA, MAR 2025

THE ELIGIBILITY TIER DETERMINES HOW MUCH YOU CAN RECEIVE FROM CHAPTER 33 BENEFITS BASED ON YOUR TIME IN SERVICE.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill®, also known as Chapter 33, is an invaluable help for veterans who want to continue or supplement their education. The benefit covers tuition and fees for the school or training program you choose; however, the amount you will receive depends on your time in service, among other factors.

To access Chapter 33 benefits, you must meet one of the following requirements:

- You have served on active duty for at least 1,095 days (36 months), or
- You have served on active duty and received the Purple Heart on or before September 11, 2001, or
- You have served on active duty for at least 30 consecutive days and you were discharged due to a service-related disability.

Don't worry, though. If you don't meet the requested time, you can receive a percentage of the total benefits based on your time of service.

How much can I receive for 90 days of service?

For all veterans who do not meet the 1,095 days (36 months) of service, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented the "eligibility tier." Using this system, the department calculates the percentage to which you are entitled. If you served between 90 and 179 days (90 days to 5 months), you will receive 50% of the benefits.

Here is the rest of the eligibility tier:

- 910 to 1,094 days (30 to 35 months): 90% of the full benefit
- 730 to 909 days (24 to 29 months): 80% of the full benefit
- 545 to 729 days (18 to 23 months): 70% of the full benefit
- 180 to 544 days (6 to 17 months): 60% of the full benefit

What is the amount of Chapter 33 benefits?

The maximum amount you can receive under Chapter 33 in 2025 is \$28,937.90 annually if you are in a qualified higher education program. If you are receiving flight training, you will receive \$16,535.46 per year, and if you are in correspondence school, you will receive \$14,055.13 per year.

To calculate how much you will receive annually for 90 days of service, divide the above amounts in half. If you still have questions, contact or visit your nearest VA office in person.

ECHO HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
For Everyone in the Community

Casual for a Cause 2025
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
APRIL 25, 2025

✓ SCHOOLS!
✓ BUSINESSES!
✓ ORGANIZATIONS!
✓ INDIVIDUALS!

Support ECHO Housing & Comm. Dev. in helping Veterans secure stable housing & jobs

CHOOSE HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Be a Sponsor (details on the back)
2. Your company, organization, or school can purchase a number of bracelets (@\$2/each) for employees to wear and dress casually on 4/25
3. Anyone can purchase a T-shirt for \$18
4. We can give you a number of bracelets for you to sell to your employees, members, customers, or students (@\$2/each) so they can opt-in to dress casually on 4/25
5. If you already dress casually on Fridays, we encourage anyone to purchase a bracelet and/or a t-shirt to support this great cause

To register your organization to participate, or to purchase bracelets and/or t-shirts contact Kim at kim.armstrong@echohousing.org or 812-423-8422 ext 600.

MAY MENTAL HEALTH FUNDRAISER AT THE MUSTANG ADOPTION ACADEMY

BRAVERY BEYOND BATTLE
A CALL TO ACTION FOR MUSTANGS & VETERANS

IN SERVICE OF THE MUSTANGS OF SERVICE

AGE 12+ \$10
KIDS 5-12 \$5
VETERANS ENTER FREE!

FOOD TRUCK, LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, HORSE & VETERAN DEMO, & MORE!

MAY 3RD 1PM TO 7PM
12284 S 400 W HAUBSTADT, IN

VETERAN OUTPOST CAR SHOW
Supporting Tri-State Women Veterans

Saturday, May 17, 2025 9AM-3PM

Location: Christian Fellowship Church
4100 Millersburg Rd., Evansville, IN 47725

Registration: 9AM to 12PM • Awards at 2:00PM

- Car show entry fee: \$10 each vehicle
- All proceeds go to Tri-State Women Veterans Inc.
- Dash Plaques-Top 25 - 7 Best of Categories
- Club Participation Trophy • Best of Show Award
- Door prizes - Music - Food - Cake Walk
- Vintage Military Vehicles • Special Guests

Rain Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025, 2:00-6:00PM

Contacts: David B. Hale 812-319-7052 • Melissa West 812-589-8992
CFC Church Parking Lot • 225 Spots Available in the Main Show Lot

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
4100 Millersburg Rd. Evansville, IN 47725
812.867.6464 onlineCFC.com

USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

CHANGES COMING IN JUNE FOR RETIREES WHO PAY SBP MONTHLY PREMIUMS DIRECTLY -DFAS.COM, APRIL 2025

Some retirees need to pay monthly Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) premiums directly instead of having them deducted from pay because their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation pay offsets their retired pay. We call that direct remittance. Most of these payments are handled by the U.S. Department of Treasury Centralized Receivables Service (CRS). When CRS receives the payment from the retiree, they report it to DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay to ensure the retiree's account is credited.

What You Need to Know

In June of this year, R&A Pay will begin issuing all monthly direct remittance SBP premium billing statements and collecting all SBP premium direct remittance payments instead of using Treasury's CRS.

This means retirees will need to either: (1) make their payments to a different mailing address or (2) change their electronic payments if they have them set up to pay to CRS or (3) use Pay.gov to pay DFAS.

This month, DFAS mailed a letter explaining the changes to all retirees who will be affected. The letter will be followed by an emailed SmartDoc to the retirees who have a valid email address in myPay. Changes like this are one of the reasons it's important for retirees to keep their mailing address and email address updated with DFAS.

What You Need to Do

It's important that DFAS has your current mailing address so you receive the billing statement with new payment instructions. If your address has changed, DFAS has several convenient options for updating the mailing address on your retired pay account.

1. Use our askDFAS online tool to update your address: find out more on our Quick Tools webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>
2. Send a completed and signed DD Form 2866 to request we update your mailing address.
3. Change your address using myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>
4. Call our Customer Care Center during normal business hours to update your address: 800-321-1080

You can make the change to one of the new payment options below to pay DFAS directly right now. You don't have to wait for June. Automatic Payments

If you have an electronic/automatic payment set up with your bank, ensure that you make the change early enough to send your June payment to DFAS instead of CRS.

Questions?

Watch for additional information over the coming weeks or check our "Paying for SBP" webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp>.



USI STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MILITARY RETIRED PAY TAX SEASON TIPS:

The April 15, 2025 tax deadline is arriving soon and now is a good time to make sure you have all your tax documents ready. Here is a summary of retired pay tax season tips and the DFAS tools available if you are missing documents. For those who may not know, the 1099-R is the retiree tax statement, like the W-2 provided to wage earners. The 1099-R document shows the amount of taxable retired income earned and how much was withheld in taxes – and must be filed with your tax return. Retiree 1099-Rs are available in myPay. The best way to obtain your 1099-R is to use myPay, <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. With a myPay account, you can find the most important retired pay information, including your 1099-R. The advantage of using myPay is you have 24/7 access to your tax documents. You can print or download the current year tax statement and access previous 1099-Rs in myPay (up to four prior years for retirees) to compare, or if you need to file an amended return.

Requesting a Duplicate 1099-R

If you are not using myPay yet, we do offer other convenient options to request a replacement IRS Form 1099-R. As of February 10, 2025, you can get your 1099-Rs sent to the address on file with DFAS or to a one-time, temporary mailing address by submitting a request online. Our online request tool also accepts international addresses. It's easy to find on our Quick Tools webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>

DFAS also provides a self-service telephone option for retirees. Retirees can access the phone option at 1-800-321-1080. If you are a retiree using the phone option, please verify your current mailing address is correct. The telephone option is currently available for retirees and only for the current year tax statement.

The 1099-R should be in the mail within 7-10 business days to the address we have on record.

VETERAN COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	POC
4/19/25	Wizard of Oz on Ice	Owensboro, KY	Lance Yearby- Rally Point Events lance.d.yearby@gmail.com
4/19/25	Wizard of Oz on Ice	Owensboro, KY	Lance Yearby- Rally Point Events lance.d.yearby@gmail.com
4/25/25	2 nd Annual Casual for a Cause: Serving Those Who Served, to raise awareness and support for Veterans experiencing homelessness	See https://echohousing.org/housing/veteran_resources/rcvrg-2/#next	Savannah Whicker savannah.whicker@echohousing.org
4/29/25	USI VA Hacienda Giveback (Coupons Required)	Westside Hacienda Location 5440 Pearl Drive Evansville, IN 47712	Jamie Bandy jsbandy@usi.edu
5/9/25	USI Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony	University of Southern Indiana - Performance Center / 12 - 3 p.m.	Joel Matherly - USI jsmatherly@usi.edu
5/17/25	Tri-State Women Veterans Outpost Car Show	Christian Fellowship Church 9a.m. - 3p.m.	Barb Kortz - Tri-State Women Veterans 812-550-0552 tristatewomenvet@aol.com
5/24/25	Professional Bull Riders	Ford Center	Lance Yearby- Rally Point Events lance.d.yearby@gmail.com
5/31/25	Honoring Women Veterans Conference	University of Southern Indiana - Conference Center (NEW LOCATION)	Barb Kortz - Tri-State Women Veterans 812-550-0552 tristatewomenvet@aol.com
8/23/25	Red White and Brauen Music Festival	League Stadium, Huntingburg, IN	Lance Yearby- Rally Point Events lance.d.yearby@gmail.com
9/17/25	Veteran, First-Responder and Health Care Professional Mental Health Summit	University of Southern Indiana - Carter Hall	Joel Matherly - USI Veterans jsmatherly@usi.edu
TBD	Home of the Brave Military Ball	University of Southern Indiana - TBD	Lance Yearby- Rally Point Events lance.d.yearby@gmail.com
10/29/25	Battlemind to Home Summit: Military Families: The Heart of Service	Embassy Suites by Hilton Plainfield Indianapolis Airport	www.mfri.purdue.edu/battlemind/battlemind@purdue.edu
11/15/25	ECHO Housing Gala	TBD	Savannah Whicker savannah.whicker@echohousing.org