

# HAPPY VETERANS DAY



**GOT YOUR BACK**  
SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR PEACEKEEPERS

**NOVEMBER 28**  
*Celebrating our Veterans & Military!*

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY AT 4:30 P.M.



Drive-through celebration, starting at **Scanlon Hall** from **4:30–8 p.m.**, with music, warm drinks, and a prerecorded ceremony. There will be a special commemoration for guard and reserve members who have or will soon receive their veteran status, by federal definition, for the first time, and MA Guard and Reserves activated during COVID will be celebrated with luminaries around the campus to honor and thank them.

**CAN DRIVE:** We are collecting canned goods until **Nov. 26**. Please drop them off at the Military Community Excellence Center (Bates Hall).

[westfield.ma.edu/VeteransDay](http://westfield.ma.edu/VeteransDay)

Welcome to Westfield State University, if you would like to hear the kickoff ceremony, turn your radio station to **WSKB 89.5 FM** or <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/wskb>

For your safety, and the safety of the volunteers, **please stay in your car**, the information on all signs and luminaries are in this brochure.

**Hot Chocolate/Hot Cider/Water Station.** There is a drive-through hot chocolate station located near the beginning of the tour behind the Parenzo building.

Westfield State University commemorates Veterans Day this year to pay tribute to our nation's peacekeepers, with a special focus placed on Guard and Reserve members who are coming into their Veteran status during the global pandemic. Because many of our Guard and Reserve members around the world will receive their Veteran status (by federal definition) for the first time, they will celebrate their first Veterans Day. The more than 20,000 National Guard and Reserve members activated across the United States during this year for all reasons are to be recognized as well for their selfless commitment to our country. Today, we honor our military veterans who sacrifice their time to serve the United States in the hopes of maintaining peace and unity.

When coming up with a name for this Veterans Day Celebration, we thought long and hard. The decision was to call it "Got Your Six", because right now, in this moment in time, we need each other. Many civilians have not heard the term, with this in mind, we titled it, "Got Your Back" for civilians and added "Got Your Six" for our military and veterans. In the military, "Got Your Six" means "I've got your back." The saying originated with World War I fighter pilots referencing the rear of an airplane as the six o'clock position. If you picture yourself at the center of a clock face, the area directly in front of you is twelve o'clock. six o'clock is what lies behind you. So, when someone tells you that they've "Got Your Six," it means they're watching your back.

Lisa Ducharme is Westfield State's Veterans and Military Services Coordinator. A Veteran herself who was serving at The Pentagon on 9/11, she wants to raise awareness about the Guard and Reserve members who will come into their veteran status for the first time. Guard and reserve members do not automatically receive veteran status (federal definition), one that comes with benefits.

"When our Guard and Reserve get out of the military," said Ducharme, "they get their separation papers and most go into two years of inactive reserve status. They do not receive transition assistance when they complete their service, so they don't always know what is available to them."

Many are not aware that they qualify for the Veterans Administration Veterans Identification Card, which is a document to show they are a veteran. This Veterans Identification Card is for those who served on active duty and also those who served in the Guard and Reserves. It is a form of photo identification they can use to receive discounts offered to Veterans at participating restaurants, hotels, stores, theme parks, and more.

Congress.gov explains the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act. "It provides honorary veteran status to those members of the National Guard or Reserve who have served for 20 years and do not meet the full requirements for veteran status under title 38."

It is important to remember that many of our National Guard and Reserve members, when called to active duty, already have a job or may be enrolled in college, which they may have to leave so they can fulfill their military duties. This affects not only the service member and their families, but the entire community. Many Guard and Reserve members returned to school after they fulfilled their commitment, but to some it is too difficult, or other obligations were prioritized.

During this celebration of our nation's veterans, we remember Paul W. Dower who was with the Army Signal Corps. A veteran and strong supporter of Westfield's Veteran & Military Services, he was an aerial photographer in World War II, where he spent 33 months traveling across England, Africa, and Italy. Ducharme finds comfort in "knowing he can rest in peace leaving this

world in the hands of our future veterans.” Sadly, we lost Paul, one of our nation’s peacekeepers, this summer at the age of 100.

Celebrating our nation’s peacekeepers on Veterans Day will unite people during an unsettled time in our country. Military connectedness comes in many forms like active duty, National Guard, Reserves, veterans, and military family members, and the relationships are important to Ducharme. “Friends may come, friends may go,” she said, “but our military-connection is forever.”

We have many veterans who continue to serve after they get out of the military, whether they volunteer or start a business to help others. Here are a few resources we have here in MA:

- Veteran Service Officers (VSO), every veteran should reach out to their town VSO before they need them. They can help with everything a veteran need and if they don’t have the answer, they can find it.
- VetAir is an organization committed to ensuring that veterans have the necessary travel solutions to and from their medical care appointments free of charge.
- Project New Hope is an organization that offers targeted services and camaraderie to our military family, current or former Service Member and their Family, Gold Star Honoree, or Survivor who has felt the impact of military service.
- The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation opened the Empowerment Center in Agawam. It is a place where veterans and gold star families can go to get free products; everything from food, to clothing to baby supplies.
- Veterans Outreach Into Community Engagement (VOICE) A partnership of federal, state, local, private and non-profit organizations and concerned community members who network through meetings on an on-going basis to share information on resources, events and opportunities that serve the veteran community of Western MASS.

Veteran and Military Services is honored to be able to work with the Veterans Day Committee, who all felt that it was important to do something extra special this year to celebrate our veterans, active duty, guard, and reserve members. A special thank you to all of them:

Teresa Adams	Student, '21
Estelle Camacho	Assistant Registrar
Shelly Conrad	Graduate Records Coordinator
Jennifer Haskins	Graduate Records
Barbara Keim	Professor, Art
Kerri LaPlante	Office Support Assistant
Lisa McMahan	Director, Institutional Advancement
Addison Plante	Graphic Designer, WSU
Alex Simisky	Video and Television Operations
Karen Sladyk	Professor, Health Sciences
Mark St. Jean	Video Production Coordinator
Chuck Towse	WSU Alumni, '13, M '16

### **Kick off Ceremony:**

To ensure the safety of visitors and volunteers, the kick-off ceremony was pre-recorded. It will be on Westfield State University's webpage on November 11, 2020, [www.westfield.ma.edu/VeteransDay](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/VeteransDay). Attendees driving through campus will be able to turn the radio to **WSKB 89.5 FM**, WSU's student radio, and hear our student disc jockeys, or you can visit our website and listen to the ceremony and patriotic music <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/wskb>

- Justina Golden - Singing the National Anthem
- Father Warren Savage – Invocation
- Governor Charlie Baker
- Senator John Velis, Reservist and veteran
- Colonel William Bladen, Wing Commander, Barnes ANG Base
- Lieutenant Colonel Travis Board, Vice Wing Commander, Westover ARB
- President Roy Saigo, Interim President
- Secretary Cheryl Poppe, Massachusetts Secretary for the Department of Veterans' Services
- Reverend Barbara Hesse – Benediction, Pastor United Church of Christ, Second Congregational

### **Experience the Event**

Please enter through the Main WSU Entrance and bear right.

This brochure contains all of the information from the signs and luminaries- please stay in your car and enjoy the view! Also enjoy this bag of treats, courtesy of Lisa Ducharme/Military Community Excellence Center

### **Hot Chocolate/Hot Cider/Water Station:**

There is a drive-through hot chocolate station located near the beginning of the tour behind the Parenzo building.

### **Luminaries Drive-thru Tour**

- 2,500 Luminaries around the campus for the Guard and Reserves who were activated this past year.
  - 2,400 are hand-made and are red, white, and blue
    - 100 luminaries have words and phrases that describe our military and veterans.
  - Celebrating our Guard and Reserves coming into their veteran status this year
  - Celebrating our Guard and Reserve members who were activated during this year for all reasons
- We have received canned food donations, and we used them as weights for the luminaries, and then donate the canned food to our foodbanks.
- Volunteers for the event are maintaining safety and security
- Lawn signs (50+)
  - Recognizing all our students who are military-connected
  - Educational information about our Guard and Reserves, and Veterans
  - Resource organizations and Resource information
  - Local businesses with messages for our veterans

In front of Bates Hall, you will see a large triangle luminary. We wanted to find a way to honor our Veterans this Veterans Day, but it was also important to honor our active duty, as well as our guard, and reservists as many of them were activated for different reasons this past year. Below is a description of each side.

**Side 1: Thank you Veterans**

*This includes the Moto for each branch of service, including our newest military branch, Space Force.*

**THANK YOU VETERANS!  
OUR PROTECTORS AND PEACEKEEPERS**

**“THIS WE WILL DEFEND”**

**\*Army\***

**“SEMPER FIDELIS”**

**\*Marines\***

**“FORGED BY THE SEA”**

**\*Navy\***

**“AIM HIGH, FLY-FIGHT-WIN”**

**\*Air Force\***

**“SEMPER PARATUS”**

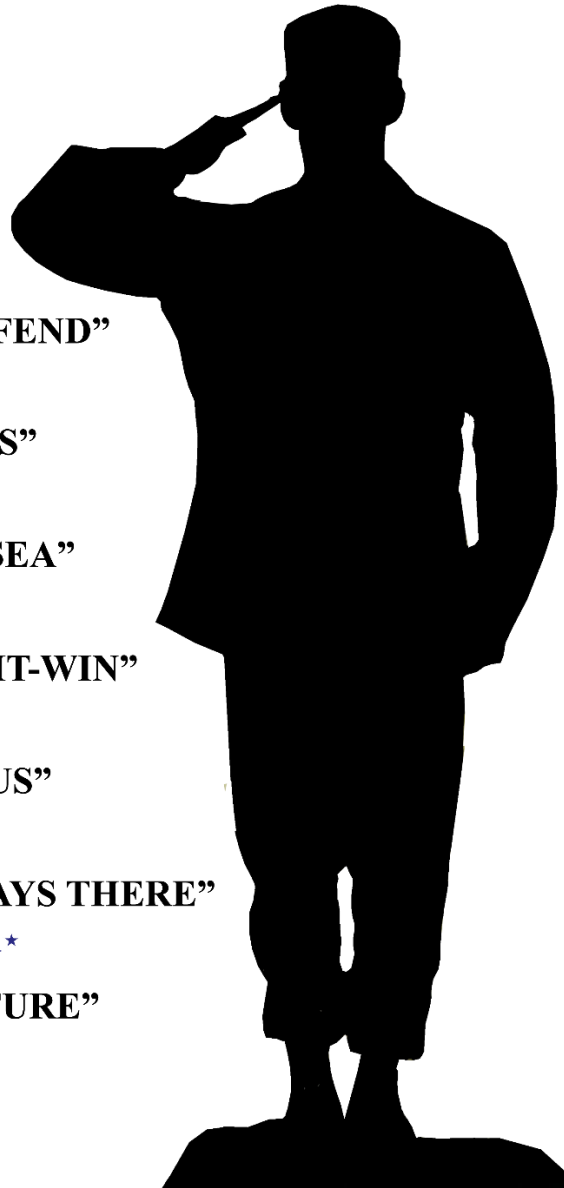
**\*Coast Guard\***

**“ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE”**

**\*National Guard\***

**“SEEING THE FUTURE”**

**\*Space Force\***



**Side 2: Honoring our and supporting Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserves:**  
*"A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount up to and including their life." – Unknown*

**HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED!  
HAPPY VETERANS DAY**



**As active military, guard, and reserves,  
we are protectors and peace keepers.**

**As veterans, we support those  
who are actively serving our country  
in so many roles.**



**To ensure the safety of attendees, individuals are not allowed to get out of their cars. We have put all the information from the lawn signs and luminaries in this brochure.**

### QUOTES/PHRASES

“Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they’ve suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us.” - *President Ronald Reagan, 1983, in a radio address to the nation.*

---

“A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount up to and including their life.”  
- *Unknown*

---

“The U.S. Military is us. There is no truer representation of a country than the people that it sends into the field to fight for it. The people who wear our uniform and carry our rifles into combat are our kids, and our job is to support them, because they’re protecting us.” - Tom Clancy

---

“If you are going to make a difference for these caregivers, you really need a national response to what I believe is a societal crisis because they are such hidden heroes. Most people are just not aware of what they are dealing with and the tremendous challenges. I found that every time I raise the issue, whether it is with a member of Congress or someone in the labor community or the business community or the State’s community or the non-profits, they will say, “What can I do to help?” It is refreshingly bipartisan, too.” - Elizabeth Dole, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation

---

“To those seniors, and especially elderly veterans like myself, I want to tell you this: You are not alone, and you having nothing to be ashamed of. If elder abuse happened to me, it can happen to anyone. I want you to know that you deserve better.”  
- Mickey Rooney

---

“And the government for which she stands. Is scandalized throughout the land  
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin. But she's in good shape for the shape  
she's in 'Cause she's been through the fire before and I believe she can take a whole lot  
more. So we raise her up every morning, we take her down every night, we don't let  
her touch the ground and we fold her up right. On second thought, I do like to brag,  
'cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag.” Ragged Old Flag - Johnny Cash

---



Not only should we thank our active military, guard, and reserve members this Veterans Day, but we should resolve to thank them *throughout* the year for the vital service they perform for our country.

---

Happy Veterans Day to our military and their families, who sacrifice so much to keep our country safe and strong.

---

“I was there. I saw your sons and your husbands, your brothers and your sweethearts. I saw how they worked, played, fought, and lived. I saw some of them die. I saw more courage, more good humor in the face of discomfort, more love in an era of hate and more devotion to duty than could exist under tyranny.” – Bob Hope

---

“We may not know them all, but we owe them all”

---

“Join Hands in the common purpose” Dwight D. Eisenhower

---

“Never was so much owed by so many to so few.” – Winston Churchill

---

“It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.” – Zell Miller

---

Veterans are Less than 9% of the US population!

---

Thank you for the risks you take!

---

Thank you for the sacrifices you make!

---

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

From: Civil Unrest, Natural Disasters, and Federal Activation. National Guard and Reservists have been answering the call since the 1600's

Since 2001, thousands of Airmen from Westover have deployed to support the Global War on Terror. At the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the base had more than 1,200 people deployed in the theater.

October 2011, in Massachusetts, the National Guard is assisting the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in general relief efforts across the commonwealth. More than 400 Guardsmen and Reservists are activated.

June 2020 - National Guard Civil Unrest: More than 17,000 troops in 23 states and DC are activated.

July 2020 - 31 states, territories want National Guard and Reservist to stay deployed on coronavirus missions into the fall, possibly Christmas.

In addition to coronavirus and protests missions, there are an additional 2,400 Guard troops along the U.S.-Mexico border and more than 28,000 deployed overseas

August 2020 Gov. Baker Has Deployed the National Guard in Massachusetts. National Guardsmen have been present in Massachusetts twice already in 2020. Once in March during the earliest stages of the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

---

### **NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTS RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Governors in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands have activated components of their Army and Air National Guard, the reserve component of the U.S. military. As many as 44,500 troops have been activated across the nation to assist efforts to respond to, mitigate and control the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recent Military Times count.

- Members of the National Guard aid in key efforts including:
- Supporting community-based testing sites.
- Creating enhanced medical capacity.
- Facilitating logistical support and transportation of key supplies.
- Assisting in state emergency operations centers.
- Providing labor for call centers.
- Packaging and distributing food and other supplies,
- Building facilities such as medical field hospitals.
- Cleaning and disinfecting common spaces.

The National Guard serves a dual state and federal role. The guards are state organizations and state laws give governors the authority to activate them to respond to domestic emergencies such as natural disasters, civil disturbances and the like. The forces are organized by units and members possess specific occupational specialties such as combat, medical, security, aviation and engineering, among others. The president can also call up the National Guard to support war efforts and national emergencies. In this case, state governors have first acted to mobilize their guards under state active duty status.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/military-and-veterans-affairs/national-guard-activation-in-every-state-assisting-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.aspx>

---

## RESOURCES

### **VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (VSO)**

The VSO should provide outreach services by providing referrals and assistance to, veterans and their dependents regarding available benefits and services, including G.I. Bill benefits; educational assistance; home purchases; tax exemptions; pensions; reemployment rights; civil service; burials and hospitalizations; and adjudication of claims against the government.

The VSO establish outreach programs that include working with federal, state and local governments and other agencies as needed, including accessing VA benefits and employment assistance through MA Career Centers and US Dept. of Labor workforce training programs.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/local-veterans-service-officers>

---

### **MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS' BONUS DIVISION**

The Veterans' Bonus Division is proud to provide bonus payments for veterans, servicemembers, and their families for qualified service in the United States Military. Massachusetts COVID-19 Bonus for Mass National Guard

You may be entitled to a COVID-19 bonus from the Commonwealth if you were in the Massachusetts National Guard and activated for active service in direct response to the state of emergency.

You may be entitled to a COVID-19 bonus from the Commonwealth if you were in the Massachusetts National Guard and activated for active service in direct response to the state of emergency.

Global War on Terrorism Welcome Home Bonus (post-9/11 Servicemembers)

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM)

Vietnam conflict (active service between July 1, 1958 and May 17, 1975)

Korean War (active service between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955)

World War II (active service between active service between September 16, 1940 and July 25, 1947)

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/veterans-bonus-division>

---

### **MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY SUPPORT FOUNDATION (MMSF)**

MMSF offers a variety of programs and services to improve the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their Families. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been focused on addressing food insecurity among those we serve and other vulnerable populations through our Food4Vets program.

Agawam MA: The Empowerment Center is a place where veterans and gold star families can go to get free products; everything from food, to clothing to baby supplies.

<https://mmsfi.org/>

---

## **PROJECT NEW HOPE**

Offers the chance for a full life, without judgement, for the veteran, spouse or partner, and their children. They welcome Veterans of all eras from across the United States. Project New Hope believes in the healing power of mutual support, targeted services, and the camaraderie of friends who understand the challenges you face.

1029 North Road, Suite #9, Westfield, MA 01085 and  
70 James Street, Suite 157, Worcester, MA 01603

<https://www.projectnewhopema.org/>

---

## **EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)**

ESGR has served our country for more than 45 years, fostering a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. These citizen warriors could not defend and protect us at home and abroad without the continued promise of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families.

<https://www.esgr.mil/>

---

## **HIDDEN HEROES** - *You don't have to do this alone.*

If you are a military caregiver, we encourage you to connect with a community of your peers via our secure Facebook group and Caregiver Q&A, to share experiences and advice with those who've been there. We also offer access to educational online courses to help you through the challenges of caregiving.

<https://hiddenheroes.org>

---

## **PIONEER VALLEY USO**

The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to our nation. Today's USO continuously adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families, so they can focus on their very important mission.

Pioneer Valley USO strives to provide the best programs and service to their service members and family.

<https://pioneervalley.uso.org/>

---

**VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM** - Family caregivers play an important role in caring for the Veteran at home and in the community.

**There are 2 programs:**

**Comprehensive program** is open to Post 9/11 Veterans and recently to our WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans. There are specific requirements.

**Program of General Caregiver Support Services** (PGCSS) for all other veterans.

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>

---

## AMERICAN CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING

Certified and professionally trained credit counseling team assists consumers by providing workable solutions to their financial problems.

A Debt Management Program Can Help You:

- Reduce interest rates & stop late and over the limit fees.
- Consolidate your unsecured debt into one easy monthly payment.
- Pay off your debt in most cases within 5 years.
- Develop a workable budget that you can live with.

<https://www.consumercredit.com/>

---

## VETERAN ID CARD (VIC)

VIC is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses.

Am I eligible for a Veteran ID Card?

You may be eligible if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true. You:

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), AND
- Received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>

---

## WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER (WVCC)



★ Call or Text: 1-855-829-6636 Chat Online: [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

Calling All Women Who Served in the United States Military!

Do you know your Veteran status? Do you have a Veteran ID card? Should you receive any benefits from VA, like the GI Bill? Do you know what health care benefits you have earned? If you do not know

the answer to even one of these questions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) just for you.

<https://www.womenshealth.va.gov>

---

## TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS (T\*A\*P\*S)

TAPS provides comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one. Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones.

TAPS provides a variety of programs to survivors nation and worldwide. Our National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp has been held annually in Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day weekend since 1994.

<https://www.taps.org/>

---

## VETERANS INC.

Resources to veterans and their families, by providing:

- Direct services or referral to all veterans and/or their families who request assistance
- Emergency assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- A tireless effort to find housing, both transitional and permanent, to homeless veterans and those at risk of being homeless
- Job enhancement skills, job search skills and individually advanced training for improved employment opportunities
- Advocacy on a local, state and national level to help address the needs of the veteran population
- Reminders to our country's civilian members of the sacrifices that veterans have made so that all could live free.

<https://www.veteransinc.org/>

---

## FREE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LIFETIME ACCESS PASS

Many Veterans, with a service-connected disability rating, are entering Federal recreation lands and national parks for free with an America the Beautiful the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands lifetime Access Pass through an interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

Good for entry into thousands of federally managed recreation sites across the country, the Lifetime Access Pass is another way a grateful nation says thank you for the service and sacrifices of U. S. Veterans with disabilities.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60590/disabled-veterans-eligible-free-national-park-service-lifetime-access-pass>

---

## VETERANS CRISIS LINE / MILITARY CRISIS LINE



If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

For immediate help in dealing with a personal crisis, please call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text 838255.

Veterans Crisis Line responders are trained to listen and offer support to Veterans in crisis and their loved ones.

---

## VET CENTERS

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of

whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

"Our mission is to welcome home our war veterans by providing quality readjustment services in a comfortable and safe environment. " For assistance after hours, weekends, and holidays call:

1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387) <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov>

---

## **THE EXCHANGE**

**AAFES** The Exchange – the Department of Defense's oldest and largest military retailer – is honored to serve all honorably discharged Veterans with a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit.

### **Your online shopping benefits include:**

- Tax-free shopping
- Military-exclusive pricing
- Members-only credit options
- Free shipping on orders over \$49 or more
- Free shipping on any amount when you use your MILITARY STAR™ Card

## **DISABLED VETERANS SHOPPING BENEFIT**

Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges as well as MWR resale facility use.

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>

---

## **POST 9/11 GI BILL®**

You may be able to get benefits through the Post-9/11 GI Bill® if you've served on active duty for at least 90 days, whether continuous (all at once) or interrupted (for shorter periods over time), after September 10, 2001.

For those who separated prior to January 2013, the Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits generally expire after 15 years, they are expiring every day.

For those who had Chapter 30, the MGIB-AD, their benefits expired after 10 years, but they may be eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill®.

<https://www.va.gov/education>

---

## **LINKEDIN PREMIUM**

**LinkedIn Premium** 1 year free premium subscription for Military and Veterans:

<https://linkedinforgood.linkedin.com/programs/veterans/premiumform>

1 year free premium link for military spouses:

<https://linkedinforgood.linkedin.com/programs/veterans/milspouses>

**Military/Veteran Caregivers and Fry Scholars**

- To request a LinkedIn Premium upgrade, **caregivers** should email their full name and the full name of the veteran for whom they are caring to [CaregiverLinkedIn.VBANYN@va.gov](mailto:CaregiverLinkedIn.VBANYN@va.gov)
  - **Fry Scholars** should email a request with their full name and contact information to [223D.VBAVACO@va.gov](mailto:223D.VBAVACO@va.gov)
- 

## **PATRIOTLINK**

PATRIOTlink – Guides you to vetted, direct, cost-free services right at your fingertips.

Through PATRIOTlink, users can search vetted, direct, cost-free services specific to their needs. PATRIOTlink was recently redesigned to make it even easier to use. Now, users can complete searches by entering less information and they can view events and job opportunities in their area through a news feed feature.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/71957/free-resources-code-support-partiotlink/>

---

## **VETERANS LAUNCHING VENTURES**

Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Rothman Veterans Program - Entrepreneur Certificate program. Free to veterans and their family members (spouse and children) all eras.

Veterans Launching Ventures is a certificate course for veterans and their families who are ready to meet their next challenge, and want to start or grow a business but in need of some guidance.

<https://www.fdu.edu/academics/centers-institutes/rothman/veterans-launching-ventures/>

---

## **VETERANS' JOB PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The MassHire Department of Career Services provides employment and training services to veterans and their families. Dedicated staff is available throughout the state to help veterans transition to civilian employment. Veterans and their eligible spouses receive Priority of Service throughout the full array of services provided through the Career Center system.

<https://www.mass.gov/veterans-job-programs-and-services>

---

## **CAPTEL CAPTIONED TELEPHONE PROGRAM**

CapTel captioned telephone program. Our selection of captioned hearing loss telephones can help vets stay in touch with family, friends and their former brothers and sisters in arms.

The connected live captioning service allows users to read along with their conversations on the phone's screen. There are a few resources for veterans with hearing loss to get a CapTel phone at no cost.

<https://www.oeius.org/profile/tinamariedavern?>

<https://www.captel.com/2020/07/resources-for-veterans-with-hearing-loss/>



---

## **VETERAN DESIGNATION ON DRIVER'S LICENSES**

All Massachusetts residents who are Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and were honorably discharged can choose to have a Veteran's Indicator on their Driver's License, Learner's Permit, Massachusetts ID card, or Liquor ID card.

The word "Veteran" will be printed on the lower right corner of their license or ID card, or in the bottom center of their learner's permit.

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/>

---

## **VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT**

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center collects and preserves the firsthand interviews and narratives of United States military veterans from World War I through the present.

In addition to audio- and video-recorded oral history interviews, VHP accepts memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from veterans who served in the US armed services from World War I through the present.

VHP also collects oral histories with Gold Star Family members, defined as a parent, spouse, sibling, or child of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

<https://www.loc.gov/vets/>

---

## **UNITED WAY OF PIONEER VALLEY - THRIVE**

Thrive, a program of United Way of Pioneer Valley, provides free, confidential, one-on-one financial coaching. Our highly trained coaches work with clients by appointment on a monthly basis and help them identify financial goals and take the necessary steps toward financial wellness.

<https://www.uwpv.org/thrive>

---

## **CAMBRIDGE CREDIT COUNSELING CORP**

Offers credit counseling, housing counseling, reverse mortgage counseling, and bankruptcy counseling services. We are a national organization providing assistance for a wide-range of financial issues, and chances are that you or someone you know could benefit from one of our many services.

All of our professional counselors are certified through an independent third party, and they have an average of around 14 years of experience helping people gain control of their finances.

<https://www.cambridge-credit.org/>

---

**VETERAN BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS (VBOC)** were established by the SBA to help our veteran owned businesses, and they are generally not located in the SBA office, so make sure you check them out.

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/headquarters-offices/office-veterans-business-development/office-veterans-business-development-resources>

---

## **WORDS AND PHRASES - REFLECTIVE OF OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS**

“Aim High, Fly-Flight-Win” - **Air Force** | “Always Ready, Always There” **National Guard** | “And the **Army** went rolling along!” | “Forged By The Sea” - **Navy** | “Nothing will stop the U.S. **Air Force!**” | “Seeing The Future” - **Space Force** | “Semper Fidelis” - **Marines** | “Semper Paratus” - **Coast Guard** | “Stand **Navy** out to sea, fight our battle cry” | “This We Will Defend” - **Army** | “To fight to save or fight and die! Aye! **Coast Guard** we are for you!” | “We are proud to claim the title of United States **Marine.**” | Active Duty | Actively Serving Our Country In So Many Roles | All gave some, Some gave all | Armed Services | Being all that I can be | Brave | Brave Men & Women | Brother | Cherished | Commitment | Country | Daughter | Dedicated | Duty | Elderly Veterans | Family | Father | Freedom | Freedom Fighter | Friend | Grandfather | Grandmother | Heroes | Honor | I love this land | I’ll be back again | Leadership | Loyalty | Military Caregiver | Military-Connection is Forever | Mother | National Guard | Noble | On the front line | Patriot | Patriotic | Patriotism | Peacekeepers | Protect | Proud to be an American | Reserve | Respect | Sacrifice | Selfless | Served their Country | Service | She-Roes | Sister | Son | Steadfast | Support | The land of the free | Unselfish | Valor | Veteran Caregiver | Voices that Care | Welcome Home | Welcome to our Newest Veterans! | Willingness |

**United States Air Force - We are called: “Airmen”**

**United States Army - We are called: “Soldiers”**

**United States Coast Guard - We are called: “Coast Guardsman”**

**United States Marines - We are called: “Marines”**

**United States Navy - We are called: “Sailors”**

**United States Space Force - We are called: “Airmen”**

## POEMS/SONGS

### VETERANS DAY BY CHERYL DYSON

On Veterans Day we honor all,  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,  
Fought for freedom, brave, and bold.  
Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We're proud of all the soldiers who,  
Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.  
They fought for us and all our rights,  
They fought through many days and nights.  
And though we may not know each name,  
We thank ALL veterans just the same.

### WELCOME HOME SOLDIER - KARL SAPP LYRICS

I watched a young soldier,  
Take his seat on the plane,  
The guy by the window said  
Son, what's your name?  
He said,  
Hi I'm Jimmy,  
Just back from overseas,  
And when these boots hit down in Texas,  
I'm gonna... drop to my knees,  
Because I ain't seen my wife,  
In 18 months and 14 days  
The man smiled at him and said,  
Well let me be the first to say,

Welcome home,  
Welcome home,  
It's good to have you back where you belong  
You fought hard for this land you love  
And I thank you for all of us  
We're proud to call you one of our own  
Welcome home

Then the man looked away and said,  
I know how you must feel  
I spent two long years in Vietnam  
And I got back to Jacksonville,  
There were protest signs and picket lines  
And some girl spit in my face,  
Hey I was just trying to make this world a  
safer place,  
Then his voice started trembling

In his eyes I saw a tear  
He said,  
I didn't need a hero's welcome  
But it'd sure been nice to hear

Welcome home  
Welcome home  
It's good to have you back where you belong  
You fought hard for this land you love  
And I thank you for all of us  
We're proud to call you one of our own,  
Welcome home

Well the band was playin,  
And the crowd was cheering,  
As we came walking through that gate,  
Then the soldier stopped and  
Turned to the man standing near him,  
He saluted him and said  
Sir, I know it's a little late but,

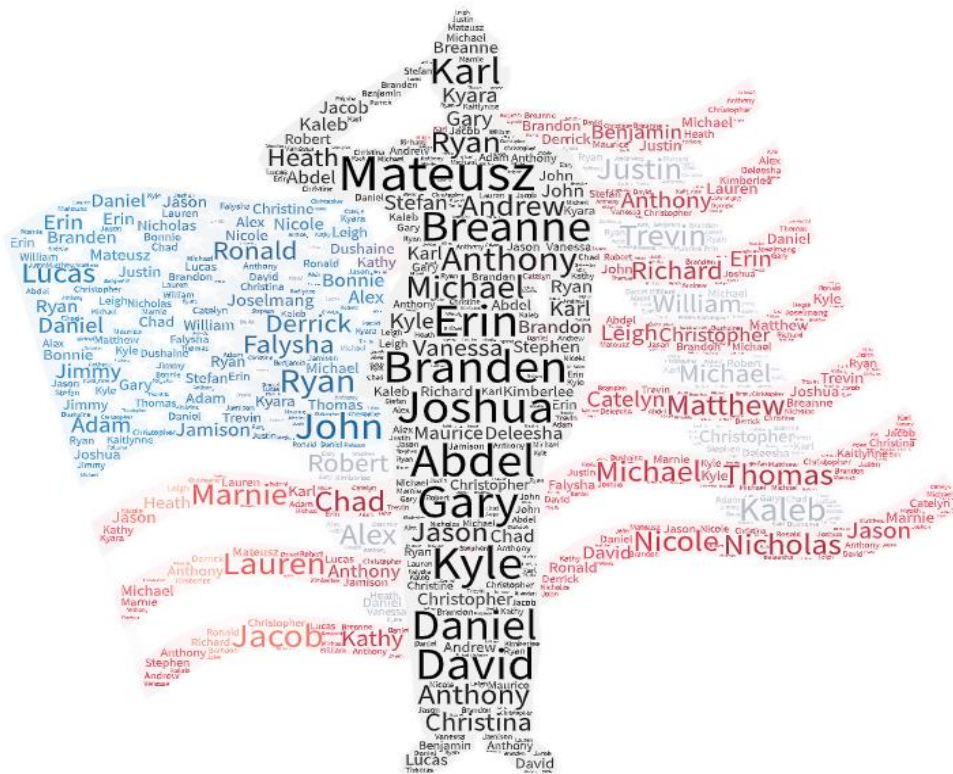
Welcome home,  
Welcome home,  
It's good to have you back where you belong  
You fought hard for this land you love  
And I thank you for all of us  
We're proud to call you one of our own,  
Welcome home  
Yeah we're so proud to call you one of our  
own,  
Welcome home.



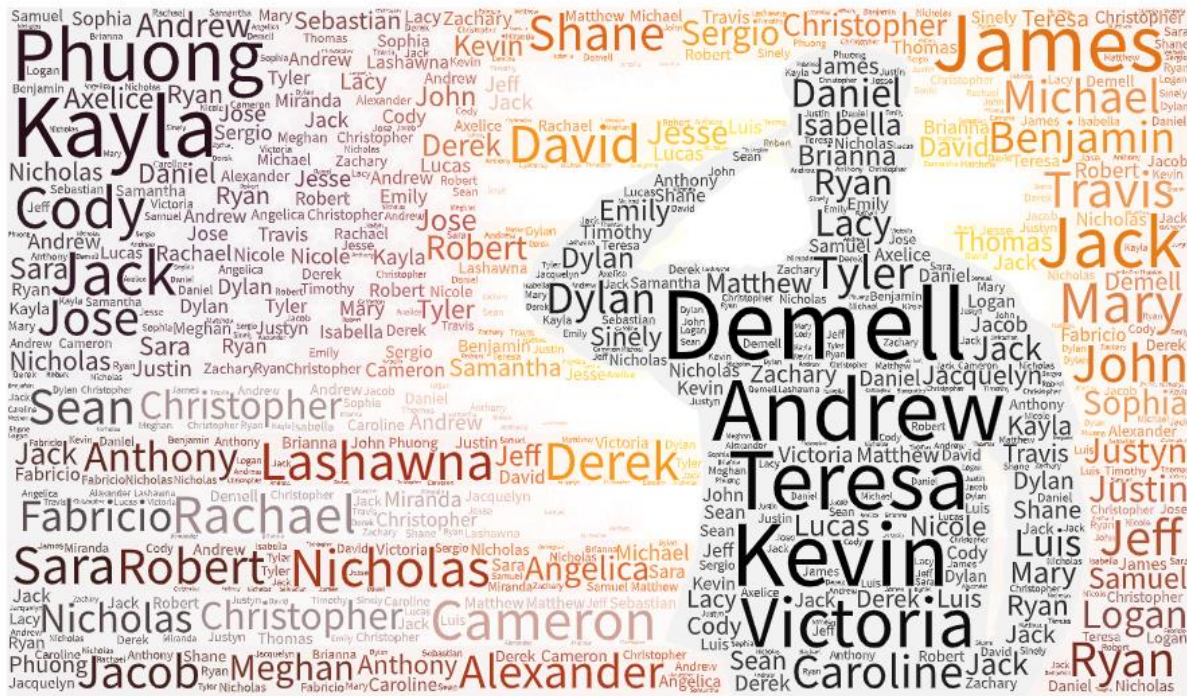
*A poem written by Shannon Fristik, an Army veteran,  
In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I.*

Let the resounding begin  
 And echo in our ears  
 Of wars once fought  
 Of lives lost through the years  
 Of men who came home  
 Who left pieces behind  
 Let their tears flood our hearts  
 Their silent cries remind  
**Remember! Our forgotten defender**  
 The coastguardsmen a sea  
**Look Up! The ace and his crew**  
 Our airmen fly true to victory  
**Behold! The mighty fleet**  
 Armed with the sailor great  
**Now here! A soldier holding a picture dear**  
 Of those left behind, who wait  
**Come see! Marines on the front line**  
 Head first, who have no fear  
 Let us hold them all near  
 For the battle rages on while they're here  
 So let the resounding begin  
 Our thanks echo in their ears  
 For us they once fought  
 Gave their lives through the years  
 Some men came home  
 Though they left pieces behind  
 Let your love fill their hearts  
 Their strife forever in our minds

## WSU STUDENT VETERANS



## WSU STUDENT RESERVE/NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS



# WSU STUDENT FAMILY MEMBERS (SPOUSE/CHILDREN)



*Thank you to all our Veterans and Veteran's families – your sacrifice is what keeps us free!*

Brig Gen Sean Collins  
And the employees of  
Governors America Corp / Hawkeye Innovation

---

*Thank you for your service!*

YMCA of Greater Westfield

---

*Westfield State University Salutes all our veterans! Thank you to our veterans, past, present and future!*

Westfield State University

Westfield State University is an education leader committed to providing students of every generation with a learning experience built on its founding principle as the first co-educational college in America to offer an education without barrier to race, gender or economic status. This spirit of innovative thinking and social responsibility is forged in a curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies that creates a vital community of engaged learners who become confident, capable individuals prepared for leadership and service to society.

Founded in 1839 by Horace Mann, WSU was the first public coeducational school for teacher education in the U.S. The school is opened in Barre, Mass. as Normal School for teacher training. “The most important ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with other people.” — Horace Mann

Under the direction of Interim President Roy H. Saigo, this year we are focused on three operational principles:

1. We honor the mission of our founder Horace Mann - regardless of wealth, gender, ethnicity, or religion, all are welcome.
2. We focus on educating our students as if they are our own family members.
3. The role of the administration is to support our faculty and staff as they teach and care for our students.

In 2013, Evelyn Dina '16, Emily Ellis '16, Paul Falcone '16 and Alaina Leary '15 created a project proposal to implement a “Veteran’s Sanctuary” here on campus as part of a civic engagement course taught by Catherine Savini (who was the Director of the Reading and Writing Center). In 2014, Lisa Ducharme, the newly appointed Veteran & Military Services coordinator was presented with the proposal to have a one-stop service center for those who are military connected. She worked closely with Charles “Chuck” Towse '13, 'M16 to bring the vision to fruition in 2017. After gaining the support of both of the interim University President (Elizabeth Preston) and the newly appointed University President (Ramon S. Torrecilha), by the end of 2015, the design process of creating the Military Community Excellence Center (MCEC) was ready to begin. The Center received a donation from the Holyoke Police Department before funding was approved by the State, conceptually foreshadowing the success that the center would have in the future. The University was fortunate to have the efforts of our legislators, who sponsored and supported the request for funding. Senator Donald Humason and Representative John Velis worked closely with the Westfield State Foundation.

The Veteran & Military Services Office was moved from the Horace Mann Building to Bates Hall in February 2017, creating the Military Community Excellence Center that exists today. The Center relies on collaboration with on-campus resources and offices and off-campus military and veteran resources such as the American Legion, VA Healthcare and Veterans Inc. The creative drive of our students who developed the initiative to plan out an interactive center for peers to utilize truly captures the Westfield student’s desire to better the world around them, a characteristic that this center not only promotes, but cultivates. MCEC takes pride in helping students learn how to utilize the resources they have around them, such as skills review, career exploration, and counseling/academic services. The Center also brings in representatives from the Disabled American Veterans, Consumer Credit Counseling, and more for one-on-one counseling and information sessions. The student truly becomes part of a larger community here, having the opportunities to take part in various workshops and events, while expanding their own networks as they engage!

<http://www.westfield.ma.edu/>