

# VALOR

VETERAN ★ ALLIANCE

November &  
December 2022

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Colleagues and friends,

In a handful of days we will gather to recognize and honor the service of veterans. As the mother of a disabled veteran, I appreciate the time and efforts others invest in thanking those who serve and those who have served. Military service is no small thing.

There is a cost to service, duties and burdens that so many will never understand. I think often of how challenging such service must be. The bravery and commitment that the men and women of the military show by virtue of their service requires a special person, a person who cares more about the ideals and sovereignty of their nation, than themselves.

I am very grateful to those that serve and those who have served. Their service has allowed me the liberties and freedoms I enjoy. I think saying thank you is the least I can do.

As we roll into the holiday season, I will be mindful of all the currently serving members of the military who are away from friends and family. I will also be mindful of the weight that their families carry. I know that weight, a pride mixed with worry. May we all be gracious enough to consider the extent of the contribution that comes with military service and say thank you often.

I hope you have a joyful and magical holiday season celebrating the traditions and people that matter to you. It won't be too long until we find ourselves in 2023 and a new semester. But don't rush, enjoy every delightful moment the remainder of 2022 holds.

If you have any student veteran matters that you need assistance with, do not hesitate to reach out to me or Jim Stoddard. As always, thank you for your commitment to VALOR and our student veterans at NDSU. I appreciate you.

Carol Cwiak, J.D., Ph.D.  
VALOR Faculty Liaison



CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!



**VCO Update**  
Jim Stoddard

You can visit Jim on campus at the Veterans Educational Training Office in Ceres 329; or by phone at 701-231-9706; or by email at james.stoddard@nds.edu.

### On Veterans Day

While we were here at home

They traveled land and sea

To make sure we stayed safe

To protect and keep us free.

Words are not enough

To give them what they're due

On Veterans' Day, please thank them

For their service, to me and you.

~ Joanna Fuchs

It is hard to believe we're already into the last few weeks of the semester, but here we are! November is obviously a big month for veterans, and I hope you'll be able to participate in many of the special veteran-related events coming up this month:

We're pleased to be able to conduct an in-person Veterans Day ceremony on campus for the first time since the pandemic hit. Join us in the Memorial Union at 08:30 AM on Thursday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> for a short ceremony. If you can't attend, please watch for a special Veterans Day video message from President Cook that we'll be sharing through NDSU's, VALOR's, and the Bison Student Veterans' social media pages.

Later in November—Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM - you're invited to attend (via Zoom <https://nds.zoom.us/j/97428576932?pwd=aEJ6K1Y4NINDUm1BQXJiY04yR21EZz09>) a panel discussion on "Veteran Perspectives on Campus", as part of NDSU's "Including U" series.

Renovations in Ceres Hall are still ongoing, so I will still be working remotely until about mid-November when the work on the 3rd floor is supposed to be complete. It's possible that continued work on the 2nd floor will be noisy enough that I have to work remotely at other times throughout

the fall and spring, but just contact me as you normally would by e-mail or phone, and it should get through to me. The veterans' study/meeting space on the 3rd floor of Ceres Hall will be open as normal from 8 AM – 5 PM Monday – Friday, although you may find it noisy at times, so just a heads-up about that. If anything in the study space needs attention, please let me know, and I will get it taken care of.



My office has been following up the last few weeks on progress reports coming in from faculty on "veteran" students in their class that may be at risk of failing their course. This is similar to feedback requested on student athletes and other populations. Thank you to all the faculty that have taken time to complete these feedback reports! We do review and assess every one of them, and then reach out to those students who may require some kind of assistance.

After the 6-week point of the semester, we did receive about 120 "at risk" progress reports covering about 74 individual veteran students. That's definitely troubling, but the good news is: that's less than 20% of our 387 fall term veterans, meaning over 80% were not marked "at risk for failing" any of their courses! And that's an improvement from fall of 2021, when almost 25% of our enrolled student veterans (95/382) had at least 1 "at risk" progress report.

We know that not all instructors provide this feedback, but it seems to show that the large majority of our veteran students are doing well in their studies. And most of the "at risk" reports we did receive indicated only minor or isolated problems. We'll do another round of progress checks as of the 12-week point to address any problems popping up later in the semester, and we'll follow up with any non-graduating students that haven't registered for spring to see if we can help resolve any barriers.

Best of luck to all of you as the semester winds down. Have a great break once it gets here, and please let me know if there's anything I can try to help straighten out for you!

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear."

~Mark Twain



## Veteran's Voice

*Craig Schwinden*  
VALOR Student Veteran Representative

Hello fellow student vets.

I hope everyone is having a positive semester thus far and is buckling down for the wintry weather that is soon to come. With that weather comes the time to start thinking about classes for the spring semester. As a reminder, you are authorized early registration as a current or past military member registered at North Dakota State. When you go on Campus Connection, it should say on your home page, "You may begin enrolling for the 2023 Spring Regular Academic Session on October 27, 2022." You will find this in the right-hand column of your home page. If you do not have this on your home page, you need to go to One Stop of Registration & Records on campus and make sure your student status says, "military member" or "veteran."

If it doesn't say this, you are not getting one of the benefits this university offers you as a current or former member of the military. Sign up and take advantage now.

As it is now November, please remember to participate in our Veterans Day ceremony on campus. It will be held from 8:30 – 9:00 AM in the Memorial Union on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. It is a short ceremony to honor those who have served. Please make the effort to come out and stand with your fellow veterans and those that support them. Let's make a great showing.

This is also a good time to remind you of available links for information regarding educational, medical and other benefits from the Veterans Administration. Make sure you are up to date regarding your benefits, especially the educational ones, as you can be. We all need to be aware of changes and be ready to share our knowledge with our sisters and brothers who may not have heard.

On that note, I'd like to thank one of our fellow student vets, Beatrice Kaszczak, for getting information out to the rest of us on the PACT Act. PACT is an acronym for "Promise to Address Comprehen-

sive Toxics" act passed by Congress and signed into law on August 10<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The quick explanation of this is the law expands services to veterans who have served in Gulf War combat zones and may have been exposed to hazardous chemicals in that theater. You may have heard it referred to as the "burn pit" law. Regardless, if you served in that theater, you should get registered. You may have compensation coming to you about which you did not know. Thanks Beatrice! You can register at [here](#).

As is normal procedure, I will end with reminding everybody that if you are having any issues, struggles or other problems that you feel you need help with, please ask someone here at VALOR or one of our Bison Student Veterans. You are not alone and both the V.A. and NDSU have people and organizations ready and willing to help you with whatever you need. Please look out for your fellow veteran.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for an article, please contact me at: [craig.schwinden@ndsu.edu](mailto:craig.schwinden@ndsu.edu).

Thank you.

Craig Schwinden, MSgt/E7 (ret), USAFR



There are many things you can do to support and honor these men and women during the holidays, to include everything from sending a card or letter to donating to organizations that provide specific care packages.

To learn more about sending holiday cards or other greetings, see this [article](#). But hurry, cards need to be sent out before December 1<sup>st</sup>. To donate money for specific gifts, see the [USO Wishbook](#) or this [list](#) of other vetted organizations.



"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism."

~Alexander Hamilton



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# VETERANS DAY

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 8:30-9:00 AM AT NDSU'S MEMORIAL UNION (NEAR THE COFFEE SHOP) FOR A SHORT CEREMONY THAT HONORS THE SERVICE OF VETERANS.



### A Holiday Mission: Fargo VA Health Care System

The Fargo VA Health Care System is always in need of volunteers and donations. They keep a link to a running list of available volunteer positions on their [Volunteer and Donations page](#). Also on that page, you can find ways in which you make monetary donations and a list of items that are actively being sought to assist veterans. The items being sought include clothing (to include winter clothing), personal care items, and specific food items. Please call 701-239-3700, ext. 3395, if you would like more information about the ways in which you could share some holiday cheer with a veteran.



### CALL TO ACTION: HONOR THEIR SERVICE



Military service is a commitment beyond oneself to the ideals and principles of our nation. Every member of the military is prepared to defend our freedom and democracy with their life. This commitment is only made by a small percentage of U.S. citizens - 1% of the population is currently serving and veterans comprise 7% of the population. This Veterans Day make a point of thanking those who have served and those who are currently serving for putting country before self.



**Fire Watch***Brennan Lemar and Devon Patton, BSV*

Greetings NDSU veterans, faculty, staff, and allies; we hope that your fall is going well. Going forward our meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM, and the social hour will take place on the third Thursday at the same time. We are looking for presenters for our February, March, and April meetings. If you or someone you know may be interested in speaking at one of our upcoming meetings, we encourage you to contact us.

We are still working with NDSU administration to have overseas military experience accredited to fulfill the global perspectives, and cultural diversity requirement. It may be worth your time to check back in with us before registering for a course in this category.



We are partnering with CrossFit Fargo on November 9<sup>th</sup> to hold a free-will donation workout. The event itself only lasts 30-45 minutes depending on how fast you want to do the workout. There are a lot of workout times ranging from 5:15 AM to 7:30 PM. We are looking for people who want to participate in the event itself and "host" the event. Hosting the event would only be talking a little about Veterans Day, explaining the workout, and then just staying around to help monitor it. We should try to max out our participation in this since it's an event we are hosting. The proceeds will be split between the Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation and our organization for National Conference attendance. You can both host and run the event. This

event is open to the public. If you know anyone inside or outside of NDSU, send us an email at [ndsu.bisonveterans@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.bisonveterans@ndsu.edu). If you would like to host an event time slot, please let us know so we can mark you down.

Second, a reminder that our November meeting is scheduled for this Thursday November 3rd at 5:30 PM in the Meadow Lark room (upper floor of the Memorial Union). Our speaker this month is Jake from CrossFit Fargo, he will be talking about their "Got your Six" Program where you can get a discounted CrossFit membership. We will also be passing out information about the Veterans Day Event here on campus. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

We have welcomed a number of new members to BSV this semester, it is great to see continued interest from NDSU's student veteran population. We thank you for your support and look forward to the remaining year ahead.

**A Brief History of Veterans Day**

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the Uniforms Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11 (excerpted from military.com - <https://www.military.com/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day.html>).



# Career Corner

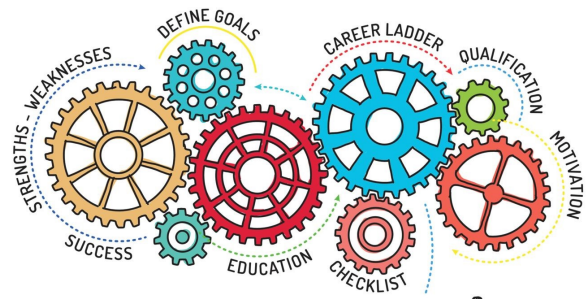
Jerry South, Assistant Director, Career Coaching, NDSU Career and Advising Center



With the holidays fast approaching it is time to start your planning: Planning for what gifts to buy, where will you spend your holiday vacation, what will you wear and who will you bring to any holiday parties, planning for finals, etc. With all these important events looming, don't forget another critical part of your life that needs some planning attention...your next semester's classes.

As a veteran student you qualify for priority registration, meaning you can select your classes earlier than others. This benefit is offered to you to help ensure you get into those classes that may fill up fast so you meet the program needs while staying on track to graduate as projected. I highly encourage you to take advantage of his benefit and your advisor will appreciate it as well. It can reduce the stress and workload for all parties involved.

Of course, if you are second guessing your major and looking to change it, our Academic Advisors are more than happy to help you explore other majors and make the desired change as well as help you get registered for courses that will get you on track for your new major. Also, if you are looking to take a semester off to do an internship or something, you can always come over to our Career Studio or make an appointment with one a Career Coach. We can assist you with all your career exploration and preparation needs. Whether it is looking for an internship or a full-time job, we can help you explore your options. Maybe you found the position you want to apply for and are seeking help tailoring your application materials for that opportunity, we got you covered. Or maybe you landed an interview but are nervous and feel slightly unprepared, we can do a mock interview to help you hone those skills as well.



## Career Planning

Finally, always remember that we are here to support you in any way you need. If you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a piece of advice, or just a question that needs answering, always feel welcome to reach out to us. We may not be able to answer every question, but we won't give up finding you the right resource that can. So take care and be proactive on all the planning you need to get done so you can truly enjoy the coming holiday season!



The Career and Advising Center have a number of upcoming employer events that you may be interested in, check them out [here](https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/events/) (career-advising.ndsu.edu/events/).



VALOR would like to wish you and your family a holiday season filled with gratitude, joy, and peace.

Welcome Back!

Military and Veteran Certification Office



Todd Yackley

There are two hot items on my desk right now that affect our veterans. One is Early Registration. All military members whether military, veteran or dependents, are authorized to register early with the seniors. Registration for them and you opened on October 28<sup>th</sup>. You still have time to register and get priority registration but you must act now.



The second thing that I have and is important to my MN and ND National Guard and Reserve is FTA sign up for the spring. If you want and expect to get FTA you must sign up prior to 7 days before the semester starts. I sent out a sign up for you to register for a time slot for FTA for November 15-16. They changed the way it is done and it is now on the soldier to sign up for which classes they want to be paid. We are having personnel from the ND NG Dept of Education here to assist in signing up for your classes. If I do not get enough people signing up I will have to cancel the assist from the Education department and leave it up to the soldier to fill out their own Army ignited account. To register for a time slot, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fa5aa22aaffc07-chapter>.



If you have any questions, I can be reached at [todd.yackley@ndsu.edu](mailto:todd.yackley@ndsu.edu) or [ndsu.veterans@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.veterans@ndsu.edu).

COMING UP

**November**

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| National Family Caregivers Month      | Month of Nov. |
| Warrior Care Month                    |               |
| National Veterans & Mil. Family Month |               |
| National Veterans Small Bus. Week     | November 1-5  |
| Marine Corps Birthday                 | November 10   |
| Veterans Day                          | November 11   |
| Armistice/Remembrance Day             | November 11   |

**December**

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Civil Air Patrol Birthday       | December 1  |
| Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day    | December 7  |
| U.S. National Guard Day         | December 13 |
| National Wreaths Across America | December 17 |

**Local Events**

On **Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** from **8:30-9 AM** at **NDSU's Memorial Union**, VALOR will host a short **Veterans Day Ceremony**. You can read more about this event [here](#).



On the **second Wednesday of every month** from **10 AM—12 PM** you can visit the **Fargo Air Museum** located at 1609 19th Ave N in Fargo) for **Veterans' Coffee Hour**. Complimentary coffee and donuts are available.

On **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>** from **Noon to 1 PM** (CST on Zoom there will be a panel discussion titled **"Veteran Perspectives on Campus"** - this is part of NDSU's "Including U" series. This series is open to all of the NDSU community. Access it here: <https://ndsu.zoom.us/j/97428576932?pwd=aEJ6K1Y4NINDUm1BQXJiY04yR21EZz09>



On **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at **11:00 AM**, **Wreaths Across America** will be at the **Fargo National Cemetery** to remember and honor our veterans. Remembrance wreaths are laid on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and every veterans' name is said aloud.

On the **third Monday of every month** from **1-4 PM**, there is a **free walk-in legal clinic** to help low-income veterans with civil legal matters. 1 – 4 pm at the **Fargo VA's Community Resource and Referral Center (CRCC)**. Note: this service is not at the VA hospital; the CRCC is on 1st Ave N in downtown Fargo, next to the Federal Court-house.



*"Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." ~Douglas MacArthur*