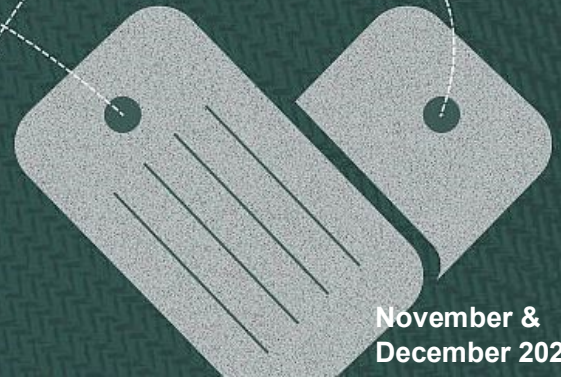


VALOR

VETERAN ★ ALLIANCE



November &
December 2023

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Colleagues and friends,

As we head toward the end of the semester and 2023, I want to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to our VALOR Board Members, Allies, and partners (across the campus and in our community). You are the ones who are making a difference in the lives of the students we serve day-in and day-out. Please know that your contributions - big and small - are the secret sauce in VALOR's ability to ensure student veteran success.

In particular, I want to thank Jim Stoddard who focuses his every effort at NDSU on advancing the recruitment, retention, and successful degree completion of student veterans. Jim is at the center of VALOR's efforts and has been involved in so many positive changes on NDSU's campus. Thank you Jim for all you have done and continue to do!



I wish you all an enjoyable rest of the semester and a holiday season filled with all the people, pets, and traditions you hold dear. May 2024 be all the wonderful things you hope it will be and more.

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



Board Members

Heather Aanderud
Brad Aune
Carol Cwiak
Steve Giddens
Chris Hanson
Brennan Lemar
Calie Lindseth
Shelby Moen
Devon Patton
Jonathan Ross
Andrea Smith
Jerry South
Jim Stoddard
Amy Tichy
James Torkildson
Lonnie Wangen
Thomas Webb
Todd Yackley

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 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.



VCO Update
Jim Stoddard

You can visit Jim on campus at the Veterans Educational Training Office in Morrill 112; or by phone at 701-231-9706; or by email at james.stoddard@ndsu.edu.



You can support and honor military personnel during the holidays in many ways—from sending greeting cards to donating to vetted organizations that provide specific items.

To send holiday greetings, see this [site](#). But hurry, cards need to be delivered to the sponsoring organization by **11/15/23**. To donate money for specific gifts, see the [USO Wishbook](#) or this [list](#) of organizations.

I hope you're all feeling good about being in the home-stretch of the semester! I grew up near Saratoga Springs, New York, so I had to throw in a horse racing reference! Where are you from? Or do you have multiple places you feel at home and connected to?

As we head into the holiday time of year, maybe it brings back memories of your first holidays away from home, and how you created new celebrations with your newfound military family members. I know I'll never forget the Christmas I spent in Basic Training, or my Christmas in Afghanistan where I got to meet Jordin Sparks and Minka Kelly on their USO tour! Have you ever tried to explain our Thanksgiving holiday to a neighbor in Korea, or to a local national in Afghanistan or Iraq? Maybe you have fond memories of exploring German Christkindl markets before Christmas, or wondering if it ever snows in Kuwait. Good memories and some sad memories, I'm sure. Let's keep sharing these stories with each other and the other special people in our lives!



Of course, the next important date that comes up is Veterans Day. I hope you'll have a chance to join us for the campus ceremony on the morning of November 9th (8:30-9 AM at the Memorial Union). For all of you who served in the military, thank you for all the times you gave up or delayed pleasant things, and for all the times you put up with some really unpleasant things in order to keep your communities secure and safe. We all hope you will have gained more than you lost during your service, and that you never underestimate the importance of the work you have done.

Thank you to all the instructors who have taken the time to provide feedback on their military students through the Progress Report process throughout this semester! I can tell you that we review and assess every single report that comes in, and I know that we've made many successful interventions thanks to those alerts. This population comes with unique challenges to keeping up their grades and juggling all their responsibilities to complete their degrees, but the fantastic teamwork we have between the faculty and Student Affairs is really making a difference in overcoming those complications!



As of today, we have 36 military students with a planned graduation this December. Congratulations to all of you, and although we'll miss you around here, we wish you all the best and much success in your future!

For students remaining: If you haven't registered for spring courses yet, do it! The future is definitely uncertain, but you can always change your schedule later if you need to, even if you need to drop all your courses. But by registering now, you have a better chance of getting into the courses you need before they fill up. You're also less likely to get stuck with a section that conflicts with your other responsibilities, and you're more likely to be successful and less stressed overall. If there are holds on your account preventing you from registering, go onto Campus Connection to find out how to clear them, or talk to Student Health Services or the One Stop desk.

All student veterans are invited to complete the Student Veterans of America (SVA) Fall 2023 Census. By participating in this national survey, you provide critical demographic data to support SVA's advocacy with policy makers on behalf of student veterans. Find the link here: <https://studentveterans.org/research/sva-census/>.

Let me know if there's anything I can do to help end this semester successfully, or get the next one off to a good start! Keep chugging for a few more weeks, then be sure to do some good relaxing and recovering over the break!

The Salty Times

Beatrice Newman (Jaszczak) and Andrew Hatori, BSV

We have been busy with Bison Student Veterans! September, we had Jerry South as our monthly speaker, he spoke to our group about resume writing and cover letter etiquette; and, we had our first social hour at King Pinz Social. Our October speaker was Gabriel Gust, from the Veteran’s Center, who spoke about their new eligibility requirements and what services they provide.

Events looking ahead:

- **November 2, Morrill 111, at 5 PM:** County Veteran Services and benefits and eligibility of joining the VFW and American Legion.
- **November 9, NDSU, at 8:30 AM:** Veteran’s Day Service November 16, VFW Post 762 base ment at 5 p.m. Social Hour.
- **December 7, Morrill 111, at 5 PM:** VOC Rehab Services, wear your ugly sweater.
- **January 11, Morrill 111, at 5 PM:** Welcome Back BSV Meeting.
- **January 18, TBD, at 5 PM:** Social Hour.



**D-Delta
Keep Clear**

Connect with
BSV via [email](#)
or [Facebook](#).



Vet Center Updates - Along with our monthly meetings we have been working on fitting our new Vet Center on campus with military décor and appliances. Bradley Aune, from the Veteran’s Employment Office, has been our point of contact with several organizations that have donated either money or items to the Vet Center. We have received generous donations from the Fargo Legion Post 2, Fargo VFW Post 762, and the Cass County Veteran Service office. We are working on purchasing a fridge and a moveable bar area to create a coffee bar and area for students to leave their lunches. There will also be some changes in the room configuration once items have been purchased.

Honor Cords - We will be handing out honor cords on December 6th and 7th for winter graduates. Those who are eligible are classified as military students: veterans, active duty, reserves, or National Guard.

MU Rededication - The proposed design for the MU rededication has been approved by the facility management. We are still working on putting together a timeline for the major conflicts that have affected NDSU since their opening in 1890’s. We also have decided to present the new wall during Memorial Day of 2024 to have a finished product for the event.

Constitution - Updates to our constitution. We have revised our mission statement to reflect the views of the student veterans of today. Along with a few changes to our appointed positions to have a clear definition of the criteria to be elected to a presidential role.

- NDDVA**
facebook.com/NDDVA/
- DAV North Dakota**
facebook.com/davnorthdakota/
- American Legion Post 2**
facebook.com/americanlegionpost2/
- American Legion Post 21**
facebook.com/legionpost21/
- North Dakota American Legion**
facebook.com/NDAmericanLegion/



- Fargo VFW Post 762**
facebook.com/fargovfwclub/
- West Fargo VFW Post 7564**
facebook.com/VFW7564.org/
- Dilworth VFW Post 1223**
facebook.com/VFW-Post-1223-106022496155155/
- NDSU Bison Student Veterans**
facebook.com/BisonVeterans/



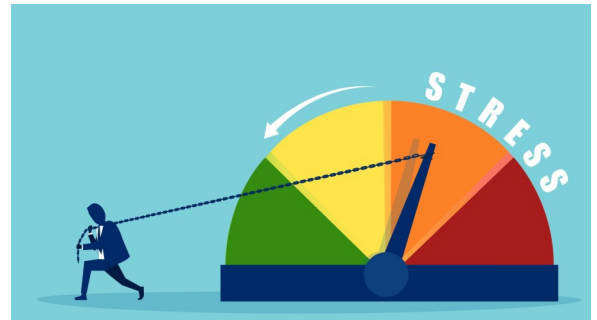
Career Corner

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



With the holidays right around the corner there can be a lot of distractions such as: what gifts to buy, where will you spend your holiday vacation, and what to wear and who to bring to any holiday parties. Oh yeah....and don't forget to start planning for finals, next semester's classes, or maybe graduation. Being prepared is an integral part of military life. It helps us stay ready, focused on the task at hand, and reduces stress and anxiety. But it can easily fall by the wayside when not so intentionally 'in your face' as a student. So here are a few tips that can really reduce your stress level around this time of year.

As Veteran students you qualify for priority registration which allows you to 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 this benefit and your advisor will appreciate it as well. It can reduce the stress and workload for all parties involved. Advisors have families and like to take vacation time to enjoy the holidays too. A lack of preparation on your end does not constitute an emergency on their end. So don't wait until the last minute to get things done.



If classes are taken care of, you can always come over to our Career Studio or make an appointment with a Career Coach to 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. You might be one of the many who has found the position you want to apply for and are seeking help tailoring your application materials for that opportunity. Or maybe you are one of the lucky ones who landed an interview but are nervous and feel slightly unprepared. Whatever your career needs are, we are here to help.



Finally, I want to let you know that our office is part of the Veteran Alliance and here to support you in any way possible. 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!

A Holiday Mission of Gratitude: Donate Time, Money, or Items to the 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 where to 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.

"Peace has victories, but it takes brave man and women to win them." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Todd Yackley

Greetings from the Military and Veterans Certification Office. Another semester is under way and we are prepping for next semester. By now you should be aware that military affiliated students receive early registration. I submitted everyone in for this. Your campus connection should have the date changed to the week of October 27th.

We are also getting ready for registration in Army ignited for FTA. The window for this opens 60 days before the semester starts and closes 7 days prior to the start of the semester. If you don't get it in, there is no way to apply late. The Army gives a hard deadline. I will send out multiple emails and texts telling everyone about the deadline and requirements. You can still request STR if you are a MN Guard member up to 90 days after the semester ends. ND Guard is a bit different and you must sign up for STA within the same window as FTA. There is also a requirement to sign up for FTA as well. Check with Chief Bohl at the ND Education Office for the Guard at 701-333-3064.



Remember, you need to call in monthly to verify your enrollment for your GI Bill benefits or your payments can be held until you do. Call 888-442-4551 to verify your enrollment. As always, if you have any questions I can be reached at 701-231-9782 or by email at todd.yackley@ndsu.edu.



NDSU's annual ceremony honoring veterans will be held on **Thursday, November 9th, at 8:30 AM at the Memorial Union**. The ceremony is open to NDSU faculty, staff, students, and members of the public.

The ceremony will begin inside the Memorial Union near the coffee shop on the main floor, with welcoming remarks by Dr. Laura Oster-Aaland, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Institutional Equity. U.S. Army veteran Rev. Steven Giddens, a doctoral candidate, teacher, and supervisor in NDSU's Counselor Education and Supervision program, will give the event's keynote address. U.S. Air Force veteran Jim Stoddard, Assistant Director for Veterans Educational Training and VALOR Board member, will serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

To conclude the event, attendees will be invited (weather permitting) to reassemble at the flag plaza outside the Memorial Union's south entrance for a brief flag raising ceremony conducted by cadets from NDSU's Army and Air Force ROTC detachments. NDSU student Hannah Baum, an instrumental music major from Farmington, Minnesota, will play Taps.

"ON THIS VETERANS DAY, LET US REMEMBER THE SERVICE OF OUR VETERANS, AND LET US RENEW OUR NATIONAL PROMISE TO FULFILL OUR SACRED OBLIGATIONS TO OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH SO THAT WE CAN LIVE FREE." ~DAN LIPINSKI

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 18

Local Events



On **Monday, November 6th from 4:30-6 PM**, MSUM will officially kick off its **Veterans Week** with an opening event titled: **“Honoring Our Military Heroes”** in the **Roland Dille Center for the Arts, Gaede Stage**. The MSUM campus will feature a number of other activities during the week to include the **unveiling of the Felix Battles monument** on **Saturday, November 4th at 11 AM**, and a **Veterans Day Ceremony** on **Saturday, November 11th at 11 AM** in the **Roland Dille Center for the Arts, Hansen Theatre**. For more information on these and other events click [here](#).



On **Thursday, November 9th from 8:30-9 AM** at **NDSU’s Memorial Union**, VALOR will host the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on campus. See more details about this event on page 5 of this newsletter.



The Fargo VA Health Care System has both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations available for veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. For questions about **eligibility for the flu vaccine**, call **1-800-410-9723, extension 3428**. To set up an **appointment for the Covid-19 vaccine** call **1-855-846-8154** and select **option 2**.

Veterans Coffee Hour (a free event) is held regularly at the **Fargo Air Museum** (located at 1609 19th Ave N.) on the **second Wednesday of every month from 10 AM - 12 PM**. Join your fellow veterans for coffee, conversation, and Sandy's Donuts.



On **Wednesday, November 16th from Noon to 1 PM**, **“Veteran Perspectives”** will be featured on NDSU’s **“Including U”** series. This series is open to the NDSU community. Access the Zoom link on the **Including U** page (ndsu.edu/facultyaffairs/inclusion/including_u).



On **Saturday, December 16th 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.

