The Veteran Military & Family Resource Center wants to welcome Mrs. Wendy Freeman to our campus as a VA Counselor in the USI Counseling Center.

USI recognized the growing need for behavioral health services to our student veterans and partnered with the VA, USI Counseling Center and the USI Dean of Students (DOSO) to bring this opportunity to our campus veteran community.

“There are many military, Veteran Affairs and community resources in the community that veterans can use when they need it. The idea is to bring the service to them, rather than sending them across town. It’s important though to realize if you are at the point where you’re on the edge that you seek immediate help. The source does not have to be a veteran one. Just because they may or may not have served does not mean they can not understand and guide you” said Joel Matherly, Manager of the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center on our campus.

The Vet Center is an extension of the VA and provides a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a veteran returns from combat.

You can schedule an appointment with Wendy by calling 812-473-5993 or by going to the Counseling Center on the first floor of the Orr Center.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - Election Day</td>
<td>3 - Veterans Counsil Meeting - 6 pm - Evansville Coliseum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 11 - Veteran Dental Days - 8:00 am - 11:00 am Dental Hygiene Clinic, Health Professions Bldg</td>
<td>10-16 FINAL EXAMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - United States Marine Corps Birthday</td>
<td>12 - Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - Veterans Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - Veterans Day Parade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - Combat to Careers - 8:30 am - 5 pm - Old National Bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SVA Seeks Student Veterans for Four Freedoms Veterans Parade

Once again this year, the Veteran, Military & Family Resource Center, Student Veterans Association and American Legion Post 324 will participate in the Four Freedoms Veterans Day Parade

The parade will be held at 2:30 pm November 14th, on Riverside Drive to honor all veterans and is presented by River City Thunderbolt MVCC.

Last year’s parade doubled in size and is expected to grow in both participants and spectators this year. “Our community is rich with both veterans and a long history with the war effort,” Mayor Lloyd Winnecke said. “I think it’s important to remember our past.”

This event is open to families on a first come, first served basis for space on the float. Sign up sheets are located in the VMFRC. Please let us know how many will be attending so we can plan for chairs and space on the float.

Staging area is located behind Ri-Ra’s at 12:30 p.m., then the float will stage at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Riverside Drive.

The USI Student Veterans Association was able to get the USI float again this year, but still needs student veterans to ride or walk behind the float and hand out candy to the spectators.

For more information, please contact Mr. Mike Benner at 812 461-5302 or visit at EC 0114.
Today’s veterans face numerous obstacles in their path of attaining a college degree. These challenges range from a missing sense of camaraderie to feeling like an outsider amongst 18 year old traditional students to a lack of understanding by university faculty. When coupled with the visible and invisible wounds of war, a college degree can be an elusive goal for men and women returning from military service. The on-campus Student Veterans Association is a local chapter of the national Student Veterans of America (SVA) and is designed to help make your goals a reality.

Membership is FREE and provides a means for you to have a voice on campus and make a difference for current and future student Veterans.

We have worked hard to bring different events to campus for you, but we must maintain our membership to keep this torch burning. If you have questions or would like to participate in our SVA, please contact me at gmbenner@eagles.usi.edu or stop by the Student Veterans Lounge in EC 0114.

The American Legion Post 324, SGT Brock Babb was founded in 2013 and is one of the few on-campus American Legion Posts in the nation. We are very proud of that and of the nation-wide impact this small post has contributed to assisting veterans to obtain their goals.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving – you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Join today by contacting me at rpsnowden@eagles.usi.edu or call our office at 812-464-1878

I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself. I am Wendy Freeman and I am an Army veteran and graduate of USI’s Social Work Department. I was formerly located at the Evansville National Guard Armory, but left in 2014 to take a position at the Evansville VetCenter.

Many people ask me what the Vet Center and how is it different from the VA?

The Vet Center is in fact part of the VA, but offers counseling services without the option of having a prescription. Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to combat veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a veteran returns from combat. Services for a veteran may include individual and group counseling in areas such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free of cost and are strictly confidential.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact me at 812-473-5993 or see me at the USI Counseling Center in the Orr Center.
Priority Registration Opens to VA Beneficiaries November 2nd

If you are a VA Education Benefit recipient, you qualify for priority registration for Spring and Summer 2016. This will begin on Monday November 02, 2015 and is available to students based on the number of earned and attempted hours.

Students given permission to register early through group affiliation will be able to sign up for classes via myUSI beginning on Monday November 2 at noon.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact the VMFRC. This is still considered a new program and we are aware that not all advisors are informed that students on VA Benefits receive priority registration. If you have any problems, please let us know as soon as possible so we can assist you in getting this completed.

YOUR VETERAN HOLD WILL COME OFF FOR REGISTRATION FOR SPRING AND SUMMER ONLY! You will not be able to change your current semester. This is your time to register, please take advantage of it. The VA hold will not be a factor during this time period.

This option of priority registration puts you in the front of the line for your classes. Please do not let this pass.

Because your time with VA benefits is limited, this ensures you get your classes unless you have additional holds at that time.

Please check your account and make sure the only hold you see is the "Veterans Administrative Hold". If you have other holds, please see those departments before priority registration so you have no issues at the time of your registration.

5/3 Bank Provides Job Coaching Scholarships for Veterans

Cincinnati – As part of its annual fall programming to support and honor veterans, active duty U.S. military, reservists and their family members, Fifth Third Bank today announced that it will fund $100,000 worth of full job coaching scholarships for veterans seeking help transitioning into a civilian career.

The scholarships provide eight weeks of personalized job coaching with a military job specialist at NextJob, a national reemployment solutions company. The scholarships, worth $1,000 each, will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to the first 100 U.S. military members, veterans and their spouses, who visit www.53.com/veterans to access the Job Seeker’s Toolkit and complete enrollment. Fifth Third and NextJob are pleased to once again open access to the Toolkit, NextJob’s proprietary online job search modules, for free to all former and current military this year. The scholarship contest and Toolkit access are available from October 15, 2015 – December 31, 2015. Once registered, access to the Job Seeker’s Toolkit continues for up to 39 weeks.

“Members of the military face unique challenges making the change from the military into civilian life,” said Kathy Malone, a 26-year Navy veteran and career coach, who leads the military job coach team at NextJob. “Personalized job coaching is proven to be highly-effective in helping bridge the gaps that exist for military members during the transition, including identifying transferable skills, crafting a marketable resume and aligning expectations about a civilian career. Our team has years of experience in helping servicemen and women and we consider it a privilege to continue serving them in the next phase of their lives.”

To access the Job Seeker’s Toolkit and be eligible for one of the 100 scholarships, all current and former military members and their spouses should visit www.53.com/veterans and click on the "Veterans Job Training and Coaching Scholarships" box.

In addition to its focus on employment, Fifth Third’s support of veterans includes the delivery of military- and veteran-focused financial products and services. Around the occasion of Veteran’s Day, Fifth Third’s regions also:

• Honor Veterans: Fifth Third organizes fundraising and commemorative events that recognize service of veterans and active-duty military;
• Provides Community-Based Housing Support: Employees help rebuild veterans’ homes and the Bank provides resources for the establishment of those homes;
• Education: Fifth Third assists with educational needs, including job training, scholarship assistance and financial empowerment.

An overview of Fifth Third’s efforts to support veterans is available at www.53.com/veterans, including access to the Job Seeker’s Toolkit and links to be qualified for the 100 available job coaching scholarships. The Company’s veterans’ initiatives are part of Fifth Third’s long-standing commitment to supporting the communities we serve. More about our community commitment can be found in the Bank’s Corporate Social Responsibility Report.
‘I Basically Lost My Life and My Family...’ VFW grant serves as lifeline for struggling veteran

Gabriel Martin of Pryor, Oklahoma, personifies bravery and selflessness. At just 39, he has already served in the Navy, Army and Marine Corps—totaling more than 20 years of honorable service that began back in ’93.

“I’m from a small country town that is very patriotic, and I believe America is the greatest country in the world,” said Martin. “My father was in the military, so it was an easy choice.”

Today, things are anything but easy for Martin ... Life as he knew it ended in Baghdad, when he was severely injured by a suicide bomber. Martin was treated at the Wounded Warrior Center at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii before being medically retired in January 2015.

Now Martin, who would’ve spent his life serving his country, has had the rug pulled out from under him ... and he lost his wife in the process.

“I’ve basically lost my life and my family,” said Martin, referring to his two children Rainey, 13, and Romeo, 5.

Martin was rated 100% disabled by the VA based on his extensive injuries— the same injuries that prevented him from landing a civilian job. But his benefits were delayed, forcing him to endure months with no income at all.

Martin’s life was unraveling. With each day, he became more financially strained.

Spread thin, Martin applied for a VFW Unmet Needs grant. If he were to make it, he would need some help.

“I filled out this very basic application and, within a week, I was selected. By the week after, the grant paid out,” said Martin.

The grant allowed Martin to find a place to live while he pieces his life back together.

“I was sleeping on friends’ couches prior to this,” said Martin. “This grant really helped. It gave me hope and changed my life.”

The VFW Unmet Needs program assists service members and veterans who have been deployed in the last six years and have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity. To learn more about VFW Unmet Needs program or to apply, go to http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds/

National Commander: “Veterans have waited long enough.” - By John Raughter . The American Legion

Already deeply concerned about a recent Inspector General’s report that found senior VA officials misused relocation funds, American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett expressed disappointment that VA witnesses declined to appear before a congressional committee this morning to explain their actions.

“This is not some partisan issue between Congress and the Veterans Benefits Administration,” Barnett said. “It is about providing answers to the serious charges of the IG that the directors of the Philadelphia and St. Paul, Minn., VA Regional Offices (VAROs) inappropriately used their positions of authority for personal and financial benefit. Veterans deserve answers. The witnesses could have taken the easy route and explain their actions or they could have taken the evasive route. They chose the latter.

“Chairman Jeff Miller and the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs are to be commended for unanimously voting this morning to issue subpoenas which will require the witnesses to appear next month so that they can explain their actions. Veterans have waited long enough.”

VA Deputy Inspector General Linda Halliday was the only witness to show up at the hearing, which was attended by Barnett and other Legionnaires. Her report determined that Philadelphia VARO Director Diana Rubens and St. Paul VARO Director Kimberly Graves used their prior positions to coerce the previous directors to accept reassignment and create openings that they themselves would fill, while retaining their higher salaries for their new lower-level positions.

Moreover, Rubens and Graves collected $274,019 and $129,467, respectively, in relocation costs. According to the IG, when Rubens informed then-VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey that she wanted “to take advantage of the Philly Director opening,” Hickey responded that she would “be all in to help and make it happen.”

Although Hickey resigned on Oct. 16, Barnett pointed out that VA is still seriously lacking in transparency and accountability. “It is not about one person resigning..”, he said. “It is about a culture at VA that allows people to think that they can get away with waste, fraud and abuse, while veterans continue to wait for their health care and disability claims to be delivered in a timely manner. The American Legion will be at the next hearing. And the next one and the next one after that.

“We support the need for a strong VA health care system but we are not going to tolerate a department that puts the careers of government workers ahead of the needs of veterans. Not only should bad actors at VA be fired, in some cases they should be prosecuted.”
Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly released the following statement in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month.

Donnelly said, “We still have a lot of work to do to address the scourge of military suicide, and we must continue to work nonstop to ensure our servicemembers receive the care and support they deserve. Suicide Prevention Month is a reminder that while some progress has been made, it’s not enough. I will continue to make it a top priority to see that the bipartisan ‘Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package’ gets signed into law this year.”

Recently the Air Force acknowledged the pressing need to confront the scourge of military suicide as it saw a record number of suicides in 2014. When asked about the service’s efforts to bring down the suicide rate, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody said, in a recently Military.com story, “Obviously not enough to be honest with you. We’re struggling with it.” The Air Force reported 59 servicemembers were lost to suicide in 2014, “the most in a single year for the service since the military began tracking suicides closely in the early 2000s.”

Donnelly has continued to advance legislation that would improve mental health care for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. In March, Donnelly introduced the “Servicemember and Veteran Mental Health Care Package” (“Care Package”), three bipartisan bills to help expand access to quality mental health care for servicemembers and veterans through both Department of Defense (DoD) and VA facilities, as well as local community providers. Military mental health provisions from the “Care Package” passed the Senate in June as part of the national defense bill and would help ensure that there are a sufficient number of the best trained mental health providers for servicemembers and veterans.

The Senate and House have passed different versions of the national defense bill. Donnelly is on the conference committee ironing out differences between the Senate and House passed national defense bills, and working to help reach an agreement on a final National Defense Authorization Act. The annual defense bill has been signed into law for 53 consecutive years.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has committed to considering veterans related provisions of Donnelly’s “Care Package” in the coming weeks and months. The “Care Package” would build on the progress made by Donnelly’s Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act, which was signed into law late last year and for the first time requires an annual mental health assessment for all servicemembers—Active, Guard, and Reserve.

A July 2015 report released by DoD on military suicides in the first quarter of 2015 found that 99 servicemembers took their own lives from January through March, including 57 active component servicemembers, 15 reserve servicemembers, and 27 National Guard Members. Last year, according to the Pentagon, 442 servicemembers took their own lives, including 273 active component servicemembers, 79 reserve servicemembers, and 90 National Guard members. In 2014, for the third straight year, more servicemembers were lost to suicide than in combat.

There are many resources available to servicemembers who struggle with suicidal thoughts. For servicemembers and their families, trained mental health specialists are available 24 hours a day through the Military & Veterans crisis line. There are three ways to get help from the Military Crisis Line:
- Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1;
- Chat online at www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net;
- Send a text message to 838255.

Old National Bank to Host Combat to Careers on November 16th

Your military service has made you a leader, disciplined team member, and a strategic thinker. At Old National, we recognize and value your strengths which make you an outstanding addition to our family of associates.

On November 16, 2015 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM CST Old National Bank will be conducting a Combat to Career workshop at the corporate headquarters located at 1 Main Street in Evansville, IN.

We would like to invite all military personnel, both individuals who currently serve in the United States Military, as well as Veterans to the Combat to Career Workshop.

If you have an interest in the financial industry, Combat to Career will give you the opportunity to learn about Retail/Commercial Banking, Risk Management, Marketing, Insurance, and much more. Departmental tours, mock interviews, resume reviewing, and great networking opportunities will be available.

If you are interested in joining us for this exciting opportunity, please “Apply On-Line” by visiting http://oldnational.hodesiq.com/job_detail.asp?jobid=5143930&emid=3639.

Be sure to include a cover letter telling us what you hope to achieve by participating in this workshop.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact Keith Loving at Keith.Loving@oldnational.com.
ANNOUNCEMENTS & FAMILY EVENTS

FREE DENTAL CLEANING FOR VETERANS
October 5 & 7 and November 9 & 11, 2015
Dental Hygiene Clinic
University of Southern Indiana Campus
Health Professions Center • Room 1040
8000 University Boulevard • Evansville, Indiana

SERVICES LIMITED TO:
Cleaning • X-Rays • Fluoride

Appointments required! Call now for a spot: 812-464-1706

- Proof of military affiliation required at the time of your appointment. Picture identification may be required if the source is a membership card.
- A medical history form will need to be completed prior to your appointment.
- If you have a medical condition that requires consultation with a physician, dental hygiene treatment may be delayed until written approval for treatment is received from your physician.
- All services will be performed by students and supervised by USB Dental Hygiene faculty.

EAGLE CAREER LAUNCH

Law Enforcement &
Investigative Careers Panel Presentation
2015

Monday November 16
4 p.m.—5 p.m.
Carter Hall

Interested in a career in Law Enforcement or Investigation? Join us for our annual Law Enforcement and Investigative Careers Panel. Listen and ask questions of local law enforcement and investigative professionals about careers in this industry. Resource sharing information about their respective agencies.

MURAT SHRINE TEMPLE

Thursday, December 10, 2015
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
510 North New Jersey Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

a FREE Hiring Event
FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL, NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES
COMPANIES ARE HIRING!
Job Opportunities • Continuing Education Opportunities • Business Ownership Opportunities

Register Now!
- Follow us on Twitter @RecruitMilitary
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For more details, visit RecruitMilitary.com/Indianapolis

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