

# Front Lines

## December 2018 Edition



Greetings and welcome to this the December 2018 edition of *Front Lines*, the unofficial newsletter of Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Initiative Program. Here is a very full look at what is happening...

**Congratulations December 2018 Graduates:** A hearty BRAVO ZULU to the 47 of your fellow student veterans who are graduating this month. Congratulations on a job well done and the best all in your future endeavors



### **Post 9-11 GI Bill – Book Stipend Delays Still Continue**

We have been updated by the Veterans Administration that delays in the issuance of the book stipend for all of those using the Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) for Fall 2018 semester still continue. The delay is the result of upgrades being made to the VA-ONCE software system. Please note that this is an issue outside of our control. The College has been communicating with Federal legislators from Northeast Ohio (Senate and Congressional) about this issue and pushing them for assistance in resolution.

That being said, you should begin setting aside dollars for books now to ensure you have the necessary books you need when the Spring 2019 semester starts. We have not been given a time window as to when the book stipend dollars will be released. Prepare accordingly. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

### **Spring 2019 Registration Open**

The following are important steps for all to follow:

- **Make sure to see your GI Bill Certifying Officer at your respective campus Admissions & Registration Office ASAP.** Now there is no guarantee that Post 9-11/CH 33 benefits (BAH and book stipend) will arrive immediately after the start of the semester.
- **Note also that anytime you adjust your schedule (i.e., add classes, drop classes, etc.) YOU MUST SEE THE GI BILL CERTIFIER.** Simply going to the Registration Office does not complete the process for student veterans using the GI Bill. The Certifiers are the link with the VA. They handle the submission of paperwork to insure you are getting the proper benefit payment and conversely to insure you are not caught in an overpayment situation.

**Get ahead of the game** and submit your 2018-19 FAFSA!: Call us at [216-987-4938](tel:216-987-4938) to schedule an appointment or to have your financial aid questions answered. Filing near or after the deadline may impact your access to Financial Aid.

## Veteran Services & Programs Updates

- [2019 Veterans Enrollment Guidelines](#)
- **View new information** on our [website](#) for career fairs, job postings through Ohio Means Jobs, web and community resources.
- RTA U-Pass Program: provides FREE unlimited RTA ridership to Tri-C credit students.
- Graduation Calculator to ensure your personal and academic goals
- Don't want to take classes in summer, but still want to earn rewards? Check out our 15+ Perks Program!

## This month's feature spotlight is on your Veteran Services Team!

### **Metro Veterans Center: Meet your NEW Veteran Representative: Joan Sweeny Dent**

We are pleased to announce the addition of Joan Sweeny Dent as the NEW Metro Campus Veterans Program Administrator. Joan is a recently retired Army officer and former police officer. She has also been a Tri-C student veteran having taken a number of classes here at the College. Joan has a vast array of experience with Veterans Affairs. She encourages ALL veterans to visit the Metro Campus Veterans Center (5<sup>th</sup> Floor – Student Services Building) which offers tutoring opportunities, transfer assistance, education benefit enrollment, Veterans Administration access and above all a private study area for veterans only! Joan will be on board December 10 with the following office hours: MON, 9 am – 4 pm; WED, 9 am – 3:30 pm; and THU, 9 am – 3:30 pm. **Phone:** 216-987-6137



## Additionally check out:

### The Alfred Learner Veterans Center at Eastern Campus - Representative Mrs. Alaina Foster

Location: ESS LER CTR second floor Phone: 216-987-2013

### Brunswick University Center / Westshore / Corporate College West - Representative Mr. Mick Munoz

Locations: BUC 122 WSHCS 101 CCW 108 Phone: 216-987-3536

### Crile Veterans Center /West Campus - Representative Matt Miller

Location: WSS G1112 Phone: (216) 987-5204

### Cleveland Louis Stokes VA Medical Center Wade Park: Veteran Education Connection Center - Representative Angela Hobbs

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium-146B Phone: 216-791-3800 ext. 6830

**Veteran Campus Support Teams at the Ready:** An important reminder to all that the Cuyahoga Community College Veteran's Initiative has been organized in an effort to provide a broader range of services to you. Part of that re-organization has been the development of Veteran Campus Support Teams. The Veteran Campus Support Teams are comprised of specialists from key departments which data tracking has shown are those departments in which veterans require services.

Those departments include:

- GI Bill Certification
- Counseling
- Financial Aid
- Recruiting
- ACCESS (disability Enrollment Services)
- Key Career Transition Centers
- Veterans Education Access Program

As noted, the documented experience of the Veterans Initiative has shown that these are the major areas of inquiry from our student veterans. A complete list of your respective Campus Veteran Support Team members is found on the Veterans' website at: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans)

**Veterans Education Access Program – At the Ready:** The Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) at Tri-C provides FREE comprehensive support services to eligible veterans who need additional help in Math, English and Science to complete their first degree. If you are enrolled or have been placed in a remedial Math or English course and are in need of additional help in these areas, please call the VEAP main office at 216-987-4938 to schedule an appointment with our Student Advisor. Classes are already underway, so do not delay!

Here's the tentative schedule for 2019 VEAP classes.

Spring I	Wkday Jan 22-Mar 7	Sat Jan 26 – Mar 9
Spring II	Wkday Mar 19-May 9	Sat Mar 23-May 11
Summer I	Wkday May 28-July 18	Sat Jun 1-July 20

**VEAP Tutoring Information:** All should also note that VEAP provides tutoring services.

**Monday:** Metro Open Tutoring 10-2

**Tuesday:** East Tutoring by appointment 10-3 (Call 216-987-4938 for appointment time)

**Wednesday:** Metro Open Tutoring 11-3 *except* days of Education Workshops (workshops are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Weds of each month), West Tutoring 2:00-6:30

Metro Computer Lab hours 9-4 M-Th. Fridays by apt.

**Support Resource – Veterans’ Success Tool Kit:** The Tri-C Veterans Initiative has partnered with HealthJourneys, to bring to you free of charge a series of self-guided streaming meditations known as the *Veterans’ Success Tool Kit*. Listening to guided imagery and meditation yields a wide variety of benefits. Research shows it helps with stress, sleep, pain, confidence, focus, emotional resilience and inner peace. That’s why we’ve brought together some of the best streaming meditations we could find, by some of the foremost masters in the mind-body. These are available free, 24/7, for website: [www.tri-c.edu/veterans](http://www.tri-c.edu/veterans). The link is the upper right, teal-colored tab labeled: NEW RESOURCES FOR STUDENT VETERANS.

**Smartphone feature provides immediate access to Veterans Crisis Line:** The VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. **Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.**

## **Employment Opportunities / Links**

[Department of Veterans Affairs Link with the VA on Facebook](#)

[City of Cleveland](#)

**Veteran Job Search Assistance:** If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit [www.gunnyret.com](http://www.gunnyret.com) to schedule a “First Call”.

[Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement Support:](#)

[VA JOBS Home](#)

[Ohio.gov](#)

[USAJobs](#)

[Veterans MilitaryJobs.com](#)

[Ohio Federal Government Jobs](#)

**Unsure of a career path? [Check out Career Coach](#)**

Create an Account, discover your interests, potential career stats, and career scopes in your local area that are adjacent degree paths with Tri-C programs. Make sure to check out the MOS option to see what your military skills transfer to in our programs.

**Additional Resources:** More links to resources of which you can take advantage...

[Scholarships for Military Spouses & Children](#)

[Student Loan Forgiveness: Joining the Military](#)

[VA Home Loan Calculator](#)

[The Ultimate Military Moving Guide for Your Next PCS](#)

[How to Help Your Child Cope When Your Spouse Has a Military Deployment](#)

[Jobs for Veterans: How to Find a Civilian Career](#)

[Resources for Military Families: A Path to Advocacy for Your Child](#)

[The Funeral Planning Guide for Veterans](#)

[Women Veteran Resources](#)

## Applying for Benefits

First-time users of educational benefits must complete the 22-1990 form at [www.vets.gov/education/apply/](http://www.vets.gov/education/apply/).

The VONAPP system (old 22-1990 site) still contains other important forms such as compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation, employment, burial benefits, change in place/training and dependent application for VA benefits.

Do not use forms 22-1990N or 22-1990E to apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill, CH30 or CH1606. The 22-1990N is for National Call to Service only. The 22-1990E is for family members to use transferred benefits.

### CONTACTS:

VA Regional Office  
(St. Louis, MO)  
1-888-GIBILL-1  
(1-888-442-4551)

Direct Deposit Center  
1-877-838-2778

Enrollment Certification  
1-877-823-2378

## Military Transcripts

Be sure to have your transcripts evaluated to determine if you can receive academic credit for your military training. The process can take up to four weeks, so keep an eye on your Tri-C email for notification that your transcripts have been evaluated. A counselor and program manager will advise you on how credits can be applied to your specific degree. The primary contact for military transcripts is Chris Dorsten at 216-987-3664 or [chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu](mailto:chris.dorsten@tri-c.edu).

### Joint Services Transcript (JST):

Order your free official transcripts and review unofficial transcripts and summaries of equivalent credits. Register at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

### Air Force veteran?

Check out Air University at [www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF/) to review various options for ordering your transcripts.



## Which Veterans Education Benefit Should I Use?

### DEPENDENT

- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Chapter 35: Dependents Educational Assistance

### VETERAN

- Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- Chapter 31: Voc Rehab (Service-Connected Rehability)
- Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for veterans education benefits.

## STILL SERVING?

### ACTIVE DUTY

- Tuition Assistance

### RESERVIST OR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (exhaust, then switch to Chapter 33)
- **Chapter 33:** Post 9/11 GI Bill (cannot switch after applying)
- **Chapter 1607:** REAP\*
- **Tuition Assistance**

#### No Deployment

- **ONGSP:** NG only (Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves)
- **Chapter 1606**
- **Tuition Assistance**

\*REAP has been terminated for all applicants, with complete termination expected in November 2019.

Disclaimer: This is a visual aid and not an exhaustive explanation of benefits; nor does it include every possible scenario of benefits eligibility.



# Education Benefits Deadlines & Reminders

## Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Application Deadlines:

November 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester

April 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer Semester

July 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall Semester

CAC ONLY Access

Scholarship letter changes to another school?

NOBE issue? [see link](#) for NG contacts

## GI Bill Semester Certification Form Submission

**Dates:** Need to be submitted in advance to the academic start date of intent (typically 30 prior window).

### [GI Bill Semester Certification Form](#)

### Transferring benefits to another school?

#### [VA Form 22-1995](#)

#### But I am a dependent?

#### [VA Form 22-5495](#)

Make sure you turn these in to your certifier to report changes in class schedule, major, transferring from one school to another so you are certified correctly.

## VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Pearl Harbor Day Wreath Casting Aboard USS Cod Submarine Memorial**

Veterans groups and the public are invited to attend the commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor to be held at 11:30 a.m. aboard the USS Cod Submarine Memorial on Dec. 7, 2018.

Visitors should arrive by 11:15 for the event. A coffee reception will be held at Burke Lakefront Airport Concourse (Gate 5) for the public after the wreath ceremony.

USS Cod is docked on 1202 North Marginal Rd., between East 9th St and Burke Lakefront Airport.

**For more information contact:** Paul Farace, President, USS Cod Submarine Memorial *Where Cleveland Honors Veterans!* at 216-408-6991 or [www.usscod.org](http://www.usscod.org).

- **The Friendship Foundation of Vietnamese-Americans is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, December 16th.**

On Sunday, Dec. 16, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. the foundation will sponsor a celebration. This event will take place at the Saigon restaurant on east 4th--Cleveland's downtown restaurant avenue. All sorts of Vietnamese foods will be available. Director Ryan is the hostess for this event. She and her staff welcome everyone. More information is available [here](#).

Please RSVP to: [meissnerjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:meissnerjoseph@yahoo.com) or [giahaoaryan@yahoo.com](mailto:giahaoaryan@yahoo.com)

**Wreaths Across America:** If anyone is interested in sponsoring a wreath for a family member, friend or our US Military in general:

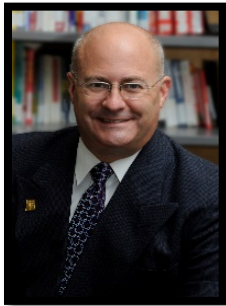
[https://donate.wreathscrossamerica.org/?pageId=19520&relatedIds=0&utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=February&utm\\_term=Donate&utm\\_content=Button](https://donate.wreathscrossamerica.org/?pageId=19520&relatedIds=0&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=February&utm_term=Donate&utm_content=Button)

**Finally... Happy Holidays to All:** I think we all would agree we have a lot to be grateful for this Holiday Season. First and foremost if you're reading this you're home and not deployed. For all who have "been there and done that" we know there are no "bad days" here at home. That being said as we head into the Holidays let us also not forget that some of our fellow veterans who although they are home are still struggling with multiple issues. Keep an eye out for them and let's do what we can to help.

Also – as you join your family and friends in Holiday cheer and celebration – take a moment to remember all of our service men and women around the world who will spend Christmas and New Year's manning a post, patrolling a perimeter, or standing a watch. May they all be safe.

And finally... remember too all who have served in ALL conflicts and never returned home to enjoy another Holiday Season with their families. May they and their families be at peace...

That's all for now...



Signing off.... Sincerely,

*CDR Rick DeChant, (USCG, ret)*  
*Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame – 2017 Inductee*  
*Executive Director*  
*Veterans Initiative*  
*Cuyahoga Community College*