As many of you may know, President Trump signed the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act - “Forever G.I. Bill”, into law on August 17, 2017. What some may not know are the full implications of what that entails. The following provides a brief overview of a few key topics that are important for us to know here at The Citadel.

- The Forever G.I. Bill removes the time limitation for use of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill for those discharged on or after January 1, 2013.
- The Survivor and Dependent Educational Assistance Program decreased from 45 months to 36 months for those who enrolled on or after August 1, 2018. The monthly allowance for DEA went up: Full time - $1,224, 3/4 time - $967, 1/2 time - $710 month.
- Another benefit added as of August 16, 2017 is Priority Enrollment, which allows veterans to register earlier than other students.
- Finally, a major change for the Forever G.I. Bill is the addition of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarships. This is for veterans who have or will soon exhaust their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Some requirements for this scholarship is to have completed at least 60 credit hours or have earned a post-secondary degree AND in a program of education leading to a teaching certificate. Priority acceptance for the Rogers STEM Scholarship goes to those veterans entitled to 100% educational benefits and those who need to complete the most credits. This scholarship provides and additional 9 months of Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits, not to exceed $30,000 of benefits.

Link to list of VA-approved Programs: https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/gibib/STEM_Program_List.pdf.

Leadership Day 2019

On October 23, we are teaming up with Fresh Start Visions to support their cause. Fresh Start works in prisons, preparing inmates for successful reintegration into society. They work in the community making a place for ex-offenders to transition successfully into productive lives. If you are interested in volunteering with other veterans at The Citadel and providing a service to the community please come to the Veteran Center on 204 Richardson Ave. behind Bond Hall and sign up on the bulletin board in the Veteran Lounge. While you are here, connect with the other veterans, meet the staff of the Veteran Center, the work studies, and members of the Student Veterans Association.
Get to know your Veteran Staff

As we begin to get settled into the Fall Semester here at The Citadel, please take the time to get to know those who are delighted to help make your experience here a more enjoyable one.

Let me begin with the one who makes all of our lives easier as she tirelessly works to ensure that we are taken care of, Ms. Sally Levitt.

Ms. Sally is the Assistant Director for Veteran Services and Financial Aid and she goes above and beyond to process and certify all students using VA Educational Benefits. Day in and day out she works to meet the demanding, and let’s be honest, unnecessary amount, of VA requirements, all while doing her best to get to know the students that she serves.

Alongside Ms. Sally, Ms. Lauren Bentley assists in tackling the influx of students using VA Benefits. Ms. Bentley helps by processing CH.1606 and CH.35 recipients, along with updating profiles, verifying benefits of students, and several other administrative tasks.

To alleviate the stresses that they face, four work studies are employed and assist in administrative work, answering questions for those using benefits, and creating literature to help benefit future veterans who plan on attending The Citadel. Please, get to know those who serve you and engage with them.

Citadel Student Veterans Association

President
AJ Pasco
Major: Criminal Justice
Technical Sergeant Air Force Reserves
Has traveled to over 25 countries

Vice President/Work Study
Phillip Martin
Major: Exercise Science
Navy Veteran: Aviation Structure Mechanic
Volunteers at MUSC in Inpatient and Outpatient Physical Therapy

Treasurer
Nicholas Ranko
Major: MBA
USMC Veteran

Secretary
Joshua Drakos
Major: English
Air Force Veteran

President
AJ Pasco
Major: Criminal Justice
Technical Sergeant Air Force Reserves
Has traveled to over 25 countries

Treasurer
Nicholas Ranko
Major: MBA
USMC Veteran

Secretary
Joshua Drakos
Major: English
Air Force Veteran

Veteran Center Work Studies

Lyndsay Brister
Major: M.Ed. Counseling Education (Elementary)
Military Spouse
Enjoys spending time with her husband and children

Samuel Martin
Major: Business Administration (Entrepreneurship)
Navy Veteran: Hospital Corpsman (Psychiatric)
Expert in Charleston Food and Beverage locations

Jesse Brooks
Major: Psychology
Navy Veteran: Nuclear Machinist Mate
Enjoys time with his daughters and traveling

“When doing a job — any job — one must feel that he owns it, and act as though he will remain in that job forever.”
— Hyman G. Rickover
Think Boxing

When anxiety and depression hit...hit back. Think Boxing, a non-contact training curriculum, utilizes specific movements and patterns of movement and cognition traditionally found within Boxing Training to foster balanced brain regulation. The goal of Think Boxing is to help the client find their Innerpoint. Innerpoint is the area within each individual that contains critical elements for sustainable mental and physical wellness. Founded by Beth Materaer, LPC and James Scalzo, their pursuit to help others find their innovative wellness and the many avenues that can be taken to achieve that goal. They believe that to reach your Innerpoint, it is not a “one-size-fits-all” process. When it comes to mental health and wellbeing, everyone has different needs to achieve their goals. By developing personal growth and mental wellness programs that draw on a variety of disciplines, activities and interests, Think Boxing aims to assist others in finding opportunities to not just survive their challenges but to thrive from them as well.

Contact:
Beth.thinkboxing@gmail.com
jason.thinkboxing@gmail.com

“...a world-class healthcare and improve the overall mental health of Veterans, while supporting their successful integration into college and university campuses through:

Promotion of positive cohesion between Veterans and the entire learning community through campus and community clinical education and training

Seamless access to VA healthcare services and on-campus clinical counseling

Providing efficient care coordination of all available services.

V.I.T.A.L Coordinator
David Charles West, LISW-CP
Mental Health Social Worker
Room 101 in Veteran Center
Thursdays 10AM—2PM

Veterans Integration To Academic Leadership

The Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) Initiative’s mission is to provide world-class healthcare and improve the overall mental health of Veterans, while supporting their successful integration into college and university campuses through:

Veteran Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)
838-255 (SMS/Texting)

Crisis Text Line:
741-741 (24/7)

Tri-county Veteran Support Network:
843-410-3616

Veteran Assistance Programs

Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
109 Bee St. Charleston, SC
(843)577-5011

If you have a DBID card
Goose Creek VA Health Clinic
2418 NNPTC Cir.
Goose Creek, SC
(843)-577-5011 ext. 3100

Veteran Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)
838-255 (SMS/Texting)

Crisis Text Line:
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Tri-county Veteran Support Network:
843-410-3616

“The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn’t work, don’t buy it.”
**Military Humor**

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?" The tower responded, "Who is calling?"

The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?"

The tower replied, "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon."

"Religious services. Maintain silence about the decks. Discontinue all unnecessary work."

An hour later, the opinion many of us held regarding our daily routine, was confirmed with this announcement:

"Resume all unnecessary work."

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*A good laugh is a mighty good thing, a rather too scarce a good thing. — Herman Melville*
The Veterans Center

204 Richardson Avenue
Charleston, SC
29409

Phone: (843)953-9824/8405
Fax: (843)953-7578
Email: va_benefits@citadel.edu

The Veterans Center is a place for veterans to study, relax, and socialize with one another. With a computer lab, lounge, TV, kitchen, and more, it allows for us to interact in an environment that we have all grown to be attached to. Feel free to stop in, do your school work, ask about benefits, or see what events are planned through the CSVA. Hope to see you soon!!!