

SERVICE TO

SKYHAWK

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES

2024 NEWSLETTER

UT MARTIN

VETERAN NEWS

For years, Veterans have returned home with invisible scars — illnesses and conditions caused by exposure to toxic substances. The passage of the PACT Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) marked a transformative step in addressing care gaps Veterans were facing after returning home from combat. The PACT Act ensures that Veterans receive the comprehensive, tailored care they have earned. Since August 2022, 5.6 million Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures, and more than 740,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care.

SAVE THE DATE: CAPTAIN'S CHALLENGE APRIL 2, 2025

STUDENT NEWS

DEFERMENT FORMS

In addition to the early Veteran registration, it is always important for all military affiliated students utilizing GI Bill benefits to complete their deferment forms. This form is utilized to defer payment of fees until benefits are received. It is also utilized to inform Veteran Services to complete certifications.

FIND DEFERMENT FORMS **HERE!**

Deferment forms link for Spring 2025 now due once registration is complete.

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE



ROTC 5K run on Nov. 4, cadets visiting Humbolt Veterans Home on Nov. 6 and the Veterans bowl on Nov. 7.

UPCOMING VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

- **11 November, 3 p.m.:** Veteran Walk
- **16 November:** Military Appreciation Game

STUDENT POEMS

Since the first edition of the newsletter in fall 2019, we provided a poem as a symbol of a younger generation taking time to articulate their understanding of those who serve/served this great country. A special thanks to Mrs. Danielle VanCleave and her students at Sharon Elementary for sharing these words as we continue to share another group of students' artistic abilities while paying homage to the military.

HONOR OUR VETERANS

We honor our parents, teachers and peers
For many things, such as being here all these years
And consoling all of my tears
And for every time they appeared.

But most of all, we should honor our veterans.
Daily, they save a family and friends.
They fight for our country again and again
For all of American citizens.

You fight to make a difference
With a lot of confidence.
Some days, your bravery misses our lance,
But today, we're here to show you our remembrance.

By: Ryniah Dickerson

BRAVE SOLDIERS

To the blood shed
Of our flag,
We the people
Are so strong and glad.

The strong soldiers
Have no fright
When they fight
At day and night.

The way soldiers fight with no fright
But they never stop fighting for the freedom of our lives.

By: Silas Hazelwood

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

HELPING HEROES GRANT

The grant will be available each year to as many as 375 eligible Veterans on a first-come, first-served basis and will award \$1,000 to students completing at least twelve (12) semester hours each term. Applicants need to have been awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Global War on Terrorism expeditionary Medal. Helping Heroes Grant (tn.gov)

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for open scholarships from SVA's Partners. These are distributed to top student Veterans in a manner that doesn't interfere with the G.I. Bill or other financial aid and total over \$100,000 annually. Scholarships - Student Veterans of America®

NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS



PGA HOPE PROGRAM

The PGA Hope program is a flagship military program and charitable foundation that introduces golf to Veterans and Active-Duty Military to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. It introduces the game through a developmental six to eight-week curriculum led by PGA professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency. All programs are funded by PGA REACH and are free to all Veterans.

SEE MORE INFO [HERE!](#)

HISTORY



Most everyone either remembers where they were at or heard stories of September 11, 2001. This year marks 23 years since one of the most horrendous attacks on the United States. America changed following this event, and many servicemembers and their families would be called upon to adjust their daily routines so servicemembers could deploy in support of finding those responsible. Let us remember the people, families and survivors that are still dealing with the lasting loss of lives due to this somber day.

TENNESSEE VETERANS LEGISLATION

DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE ENTITLEMENT POLICY

Under the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-75, Nov. 5, 2015), an employee hired on or after Nov. 5, 2016, who is a Veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs is entitled to up to 104 hours of disabled veteran leave for the purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability.

An eligible employee will receive the appropriate amount of disabled veteran leave as of the employee's "first day of employment," as defined below. Disabled veteran leave is a one-time benefit provided to an eligible employee. The employee will have a single, continuous 12-month eligibility period, beginning on the "first day of employment" in which to use the leave or it will be forfeited with no opportunity to carry over the leave into subsequent years. An employee may not receive a lump-sum payment for any unused or forfeited leave under any circumstance.

2024 GRADUATES

BACHELORETTE PROGRAMS

Adams, Zakaria F.

Bachelor of Science, Geoscience

Berry, Lucas J.

Bachelor of Arts, Spanish
Magna Cum Laude

Burke, Savannah M.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Magna Cum Laude

Calhoun, David L.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Cum Laude

Campbell, Jaycee M.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Cunningham, William T.

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

Gibson, Hollie

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business
Cum Laude

Janes, Amy R.

Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice

Goodman, Ezekiel P.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Lynn, Matthew W.

Bachelor of Science, Agriculture Business

Ponce Castillo, Eduardo

Bachelor of Science, Agriculture

Runions, Josephine

Bachelor of Science Agriculture Business
Magna Cum Laude

"The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow."

- General Colin Powell

LINKS FOR STUDENT VETERANS

<http://www.utm.edu/departments/veteranaffairs/committee.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/UTMVeteranServices/>

<https://www.instagram.com/utmvetteranservices/>

<https://twitter.com/UtmVeteran>

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 303 Administration Building, Martin, TN 38238, (731) 881-3505 Office, (731) 881-4889 TTY, Hearing Impaired, (731) 881-3507 Fax, equityanddiversity@utm.edu, <http://www.utm.edu/departments/equalopp/>. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/finadmin/publicsafety/annualreport.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777. Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elam Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660. E05-0120-00-003-25



MASTER PROGRAMS

Avery, Patricia L.

Master of Science Education

Earley, Jason L.

Master of Sport Coaching and Performance

Greenlee, Brian Z.

Master of Science, Criminal Justice

Sakarapanee, Broderick

Master of Business Administration

MORE GRADUATION INFO **HERE!**

