

# Veterans and Military Affairs

## A Letter from Patrick, Military and Veteran Services Coordinator

Welcome back Ladies and Gentlemen!

For those of you who attended the Winterim Semester, we hope you were productive and successful. To those of you who took a break, we hope you had a safe and relaxing time off! As we dive back into the daily grind...

Please remember if you need anything from us or just want to stop by and chat, come by the Student Success Center where our office is located!

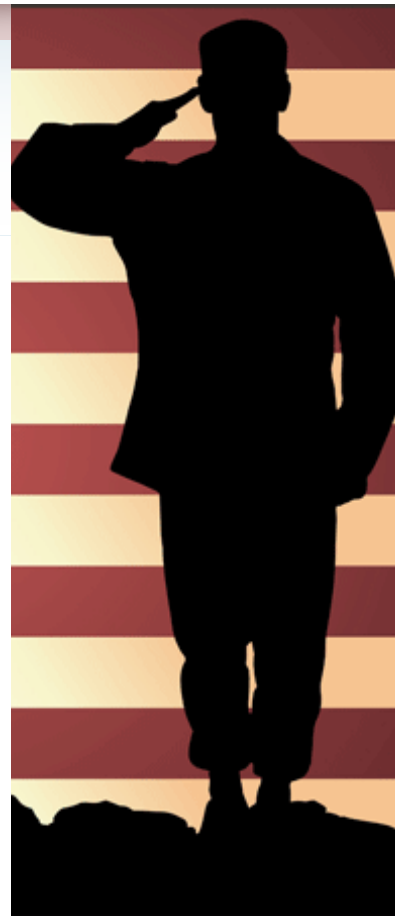
We wish you all success and hard work this semester.

## Hockey Team Hosted Military Appreciation Night



Photo by: Emilee Hazelden

The SUNY Potsdam Men’s Hockey Team hosted a Military Appreciation Night, Friday, January 24th, where they played SUNY Plattsburgh’s Cardinals. The game offered free admission to all Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard Military Members and Veterans. SUNY Potsdam’s Associate Professor of Business Administration, Dr. Gregory Gardner, who is also a Colonel in the National Guard, ceremonially dropped the puck to kick the game off. Gardner nominated SUNY Potsdam and Business Administration Department Chair Joe Timmerman for the Department of Defense Patriot Award. They received the award January 10, in recognition of their strong support for members of the National Guard and Reserves.



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### Did you know...

- On Feb. 22, 1980, the U.S. hockey team caused one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic history.
- On Feb. 23, 1945 the U.S. flag was raised on Iwo Jima.
- To read more about these historical events, check out [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

## Tutoring Information:

Apply for a **GROUP TUTOR** online!

- [www.potsdam.edu/Support/Advisingsupport/support/tutor](http://www.potsdam.edu/Support/Advisingsupport/support/tutor)
- Click on "Request a Tutor"
- NOTE: Minimum of THREE students to apply.

**One-on-One Tutoring is available through certain programs:**

**-<http://www.potsdam.edu/support/tutoring/index.cfm>**

# VA Announces Rollout of Secure Veteran Health Identification Cards

~source: VA Public Affairs Press Release~

February 20, 2014

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards. The new cards are distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel.

In addition to being more secure, the card has been transformed into a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran's Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran's enrollment in VA health care.

"VA is committed to providing high quality health care while ensuring the personal security of Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "These new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation's heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes."

The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the Veteran's branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use, such as the addition of "VA" in Braille to help visually impaired Veterans, and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions on the cards.

The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. While not required to receive VA health care, all enrolled Veterans are encouraged to get a VHIC.

Enrolled Veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator or the website [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic), calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply for enrollment at any time by visiting [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll), Calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

## American flags made in China now banned in U.S. military

~source: cbsnews.com~

ROHNERT PARK, Calif. -- Soldiers carry them into battle, fly them high over foreign bases, and triumphantly carry them in processions, but those stars and stripes, until now, have often been made in China.

That irony spurred North Bay Congressman Mike Thompson to write legislation requiring flags purchased by the Department of Defense be 100 percent "Made in America," reports CBS San Francisco.

That legislation is now law, signed as part of the 2014 omnibus appropriations bill.

"I thought it was appalling our Department of Defense would have flags made in other countries," Thompson said. "But it's also important because we need to be making more in America."

While the military flag rule passed, a similar bill requiring all government-purchased flags be made in the U.S. has repeatedly failed. The change isn't cheap. Chinese-made flags cost significantly less than all-American ones.

The new requirements apply the existing Berry Amendment passed in 1941 to flags. That amendment bans the Defense Department from buying food, clothing, military uniforms, fabrics, stainless steel, and hand or measuring tools that are not grown or produced in the United States, except in rare exceptions.

"I am proud to have worked to pass this law so that our men and women in uniform never have to fight under a U.S. flag made overseas, and so that our Defense Department never again spends American tax dollars on a U.S. flag made overseas," said the Vietnam War veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

Thompson toured North Bay Industries on Tuesday. The Rohnert Park company makes thousands of flags each year, mainly for the Department of Veteran Affairs, which was already required to source memorial flags made in the United States with American-only materials.

North Bay Industries is a vocational rehabilitation center dedicated to assisting mentally, physically, and developmentally disabled adults through participation in agency-sponsored training, housing, and employment programs.

Thompson had visited the Rohnert Park facility last year and found out that not all flags purchased by the military were being made in the U.S., which he said prompted the need for the legislation.

### Spring 2014 Important Dates

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**Early Alerts Due:**

Friday, Feb. 28

**Last Day to Withdraw:**

Tuesday, Mar. 18

**Last Day to Elect S/U:**

Tuesday, Mar. 18

**Spring Recess Begins:**

Friday, Mar. 21 (10pm)

**Classes Resume:**

Monday, Mar. 31 (8am)

**Last Day of Classes:**

Friday, May 9

**Academic Preparation:**

Sat. & Sun., May 10&11

**Final Examinations:**

Mon.-Fri., May 12-16

**Undergraduate Honors  
Convocation:**

Saturday, May 17

**SUNY Potsdam Master's  
Commencement:**

Saturday, May 17

**SUNY Potsdam Bachelor's  
Commencement:**

Sunday, May 18

**Final Grades Due:**

Wed., May 21 (10 a.m.)

## USA Olympic Medal Standings

**Freestyle Skiing: 3 gold, 2 silver,  
2 bronze**

**Snowboard: 3 gold, 2 bronze**

**Alpine Skiing: 1 gold, 1 silver, 2  
bronze**

**Figure Skating: 1 gold, 1 bronze**

**Bobsleigh: 1 silver, 2 bronze**

**Skeleton: 1 silver, 1 bronze**

**Ice Hockey: 1 silver**

**Luge: 1 bronze**

**Be sure to see the results of  
today's USA events later this  
evening:**

**Men's hockey: USA vs CAN**

**Ladies' Slalom: USA– Mikaela  
Shiffrin, Resi Stiegler, Julia Ford**

**Women's Biathlon Relay**

**Men's Short Track 500m: USA–  
John Celski**

**Ladies' Short Track 1000m: USA  
-Jessica Smith, Emily Scott**

## House Votes to Strengthen G.I. Bill, Ban Bonuses for VA Senior Execs

~source: veterans.house.gov~

Feb. 3, 2014

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 357, as amended, the G.I. Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013, a bipartisan bill introduced by Chairman Miller and cosponsored by Ranking Member Mike Michaud. The bill would enable G.I. Bill recipients to receive in-state tuition rates at any public college or university in the country, not just those in a veteran's state of residence. The bill also contains a number of other provisions designed to enhance veterans benefits and bring more accountability and efficiency to the Department of Veterans Affairs, including:

- A five year ban on performance bonuses for VA Senior Executive Service employees
- An extension of Veterans Retraining and Assistance Program job training benefits through May 31, 2014. The program is currently set to expire March 31, 2014
- Stronger infectious disease reporting requirements for VA hospitals
- A requirement for VA health officials to obtain the consent of patients before electronically monitoring them in private patient areas
- More comprehensive reporting requirements for VA employees traveling abroad

Following House passage of H.R. 357, Chairman Miller issued the following statement:

"The men and women who served this nation did not just defend the citizens of their home states, but the citizens of all 50 states. This bill will ensure our veterans' educational benefits reflect that important principle. And because H.R. 357 saves the government money, it's a win for taxpayers as well as veterans.

"House passage of this bill is also a big step forward for all who are fighting to instill some much-needed accountability at VA. In response to a rash of media reports documenting how numerous VA senior executives have received sizeable 'performance' bonuses despite presiding over significant increases in benefits claim backlogs and even preventable veteran deaths, we've been asking VA for months to conduct a top-to-bottom review of its performance appraisal system. So far, VA leaders have refused, and until we have complete confidence that VA is holding executives accountable – rather than rewarding them – for mistakes, no one should get a performance bonus. Period. This bill will ensure that is the case." – Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To read the Bill or to view Chairman Miller's floor remarks, see original story the following website and click on appropriate links.

**<http://veterans.house.gov/press-release/house-votes-to-strengthen-gi-bill-ban-bonuses-for-va-senior-execs>**

## VETERANS GET FREE PARKING!

And other benefits too!

As a veteran, you are entitled to a variety of benefits that will help facilitate your pursuit of higher education at SUNY Potsdam... but you need to take action!

**Parking Fee Waivers:** Student must be a Veteran who has received an honorable discharge from their respective branch of military service. In order to receive a parking fee waiver, present a copy of your DD-214 to the University Police Office showing your honorable discharge.

**Recreational Facilities Fee Waiver:** Submit a copy of your DD-214 to Patrick Massaro, Military & Veterans Student Services Coordinator, Sisson 128C.

**Possible credit for military training and experience:** In order to have your military transcripts evaluated, please utilize the Joint Service Transcript website (<https://jst.doded.mil/>) and have your military transcript sent to SUNY Potsdam Admissions office.



## Student Success Center Academic Advising Services

- Academic advising for undeclared students not assigned elsewhere
- Advising for non-matriculated and transfer students
- Unofficial academic audits – especially for juniors and seniors
- Guidance on and explanation of General Education and graduation requirements
- Exploration of academic majors, minors, and programs

See the Student Success Center page on the SUNY Potsdam website for more information:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/index.cfm>

## Veterans Crisis Line:

Confidential help for Veterans and their families.

Call: 1-800-273-8255

Press 1

Or go to:

VeteransCrisisLine.net

## Regional Veteran's Clinic Info.

### Do you know about the two clinics in the Potsdam area?

**Veteran's Clinic in Canton:** 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the Department for Social Services building.

**Veteran's Clinic in Potsdam:** Every Tuesday at 9:30 am to 3pm in the basement of the Potsdam Public Library, room #2.

- They accept walk-ins or call for an appointment. They are available to see any Army Veteran or Combat Veterans. Other services being offered are health services, counseling and bereavement.
- Counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is also available.
- Veterans receive lifetime benefits.
- They participate in the following programs: Homeless Veteran's program, Emergency Loans program, and a Voucher for Rent program.

### Contact:

David LoRusso MS, LMHC

Watertown Vet Center, 210 Court Street Suite 20, Watertown, NY 13601  
Readjustment Counselor (315)782-5479 / David.Lorusso@va.gov

## SALUTE Veteran Honor Society Requirements

The SALUTE Veteran Honor Society is meant to provide Veterans of the US Armed Forces with support, bridges from undergraduate education to graduate school or veteran-friendly professional life, and as means of academic recognition.

### To qualify for SALUTE, students must meet the following requirements:



- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for Undergraduates (3.5 for Graduate Students)
- Minimum 12 credits earned at SUNY Potsdam
- Must have served, or are currently serving in the US Military, National Guard or Reserves
- Submission of DD-214 (reflecting honorable discharge), Discharge from Active Duty or a copy of Military Orders Completed Application to SALUTE

- \$20 application fee

If you are interested in applying to SALUTE, please contact: Patrick Massaro (contact info on the last page of this newsletter)

## Late/Emergency Withdrawals & Late S/U options

Given **extenuating circumstances**, requests for late withdrawals, late S/U options and emergency withdrawals can be submitted to the following:

Crane Students: David D. Heuser, Associate Dean, Bishop Hall C220

Non-Crane Students: Tammy Durant, Student Success Center, Academic Services, Sisson Hall 128

Graduate Students: Contact the Graduate Studies Office, Satterlee Hall 115

## Points of Contact on Campus

Financial Aid:  
Susan Godreau  
Scholarship Coordinator  
E-mail:  
finaid@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-2162  
Office: Raymond Hall, 3rd Floor

Accommodative Services:  
Sharon House  
E-mail:  
housese@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-3267  
TTY: (315) 267-2071  
Office: 111 Sisson Hall

Counseling Center:  
Gena Nelson  
E-mail: counsel-  
ing@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315)-267-2330  
Office: 131 Van Housen Hall

Registrar's Office  
Ellie Hayes  
VA Certifying Official  
E-mail: haye-  
set@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-3102  
Office: Raymond Hall, 3rd Floor

Academic Support Office  
Tim Morse  
E-mail:  
aso@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-3447  
Office: 110 Sisson Hall

Student Accounts:  
Alicia Flynn  
E-mail: student-  
ac-  
counts@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-2137  
Office: Raymond Hall: 4th Floor

Student and Family Transitions  
Louise Tyo  
E-mail: tyo-  
la@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-2735  
Office: 128 Sisson Hall

Watertown/Ft. Drum Programs:  
Tom Fuhr  
Extended Education  
E-mail:  
fuhrtw@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-3089  
Office: 208 Raymond Hall

Career Planning:  
Karen Ham  
E-mail:  
hamkl@potsteam.edu  
Phone: (315) 267-2339  
Office: 206 Sisson Hall

### Patrick Massaro

Student Success Center  
128C Sisson Hall  
SUNY Potsdam  
Potsdam, NY 13676

**Office hours:** Thurs/Fri/  
8am-4pm

**PHONE:**  
(315) 267-3398

**EMAIL:**  
massarps@potsteam.edu

#### We're on the Web!

*See us at:*  
[http://www.potsteam.edu/  
support/military/index.cfm](http://www.potsteam.edu/support/military/index.cfm)

#### VA Work Study Student's hours:

M-F: 9am-1pm