We want to welcome everyone back to campus. I hope everyone had a good and safe break that rejuvenated you to return your focus on your educational goals.

We have a very exciting semester planned that will include a return to a new renovated office in the Education Center that has four new study stations, a kitchenette and space for our American Legion. We will also play host to more campus and community events that is aimed at building our Veteran community on campus. If you were a part of the NCAA Division II National Championships last year, I can tell you that this year will be bigger and better. That event includes a tailgate area and free tickets to the games from 25-28 March.

We are also working on some projects that will bring more services to our campus and community. I can not let the cat out of the bag yet, but we are excited to unveil that to you as they become more of a reality.

One change that I can comment on is the name change of our office. To better convey those we assist, our name will officially change from “Veteran Support Services” to “Veteran, Military & Family Resource Center” effective immediately. With that will come an update to our logos and community material. Needless to say, we are very excited about all of the changes and how these will benefit current and future student Veterans and our community.

The Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and the University of Southern Indiana have teamed up to create the “University of Southern Indiana Law Scholar” program. The first two students from USI will be chosen and begin their legal educations at IU McKinney in Fall 2015.

Each year, USI will nominate two students or alumni for admission to McKinney Law, following the university’s nomination procedures.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our students and we’re very pleased to initiate this partnership with the McKinney School of Law,” said Dr. Nicholas LaRowe, University of Southern Indiana assistant professor of political science and public administration and pre law coordinator. “McKinney is a strong law school and will give USI students an added advantage when it comes to internships and opportunities to work with leaders in government, business and law. USI students are talented, well-prepared and ready to succeed in this rigorous academic environment.”

“I’m pleased about this new agreement with the University of Southern Indiana,” said IU McKinney Dean Andrew R. Klein. “USI scholars will have the ability to take part in our wide range of learning opportunities, differentiating their legal education and allowing them to sample variety of potential career paths as they pursue their law degrees.”

Applicants must be nominated by USI, and the university’s representatives will review academic performance, letters of recommendations, volunteer and leadership experience, and areas of interest in the legal profession. Scholars will receive a minimum of a half-tuition scholarship, will be designated a program fellow in the student’s chosen area of study with a chance to meet with faculty during the first semester for help in determining a course of study should the student wish to seek that kind of guidance, paid employment as a research assistant after completing 30 hours of law school, and guaranteed experiential learning opportunities. Nomination deadline is February 1, 2015.
LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING THE NATIONAL GUARD SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

Indiana Army National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG) - a grant that guarantees up to 100% of certain tuition costs will be funded by the State of Indiana for eligible members of the Indiana Army National Guard (INARNG). The NGSG covers only certain tuition charges, not room and board or textbooks. It is subject to available funds. The FY15 budget bill allocated $3,676,240 to the NGSG budget.

NGSG Highlights:
The grant amounts are based on 30 credit hours of enrollment per academic year, or 15 credit hours per semester. Students must be enrolled full-time (usually defined as enrolled in 12 or more credit hours) or part-time (taking at least 3 credit hours).

Institutions that charge by credit hour: full-time students enrolled in at least 12 but less than 15 credit hours per semester will have their grants reduced if the actual tuition falls below the approved tuition used to estimate the grant. Institutions that charge a flat fee for enrollment in 12-15 credit hours will receive the maximum grant amount provided they are enrolled full-time.

Part-time students will receive the grant based on the credit hour tuition and eligible fees at the institution they are attending.

The student must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards (minimum GPA & other criteria) as defined by the institution in order to qualify for the NGSG.

Division of Student Financial Aid (SFA) Eligibility Requirements: SFA requires that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) be received every year by March 10th and error-free by May 15th. Visit http://www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete an application.

Student's parents must be residents of Indiana since at least December 31st of the previous year and thereafter. If the student is determined to be an independent student, the student must be a resident of Indiana since at least December 31st of the previous year and thereafter.

SFA requires that the student must be a high school graduate (including home-schooled students) or have a GED. Student must be seeking a first bachelor’s degree at a state college or university.

Indiana Army National Guard (INARNG) Eligibility Requirements: Must be in active drilling status. This applies to each academic term. Must upload a degree plan in GoArmyEd if you have earned 6 or more credit hours.

This is a one-time requirement. A new degree plan is required if you CHANGE degree and/or major.

Student cannot have been AWOL at any time during the 12 months prior to their enrollment at a state college or university for any academic term. This applies to each academic term.

Student must complete all the required INARNG paperwork and must have all the paperwork approved by the INARNG Education Services Office PRIOR TO THE COURSE START DATE. Print legibly and answer all of the questions on the application. See page 2 for guidance answering questions. Contact Ms. Madison with any questions.

Guidance After Approval and Certification: Once the application is submitted to, approved and certified by the Indiana Army National Guard Education Services Office (you will receive a confirmation email), establish an “eStudent” account on the Division of Student Financial Aid website at: http://www.in.gov/ajr/appfiles/eStudents/. Check the award status periodically by logging in and clicking on the Award History tab. Once the NGSG award is calculated for Term 2 for the 2014-2015 academic year, notify your schools’ financial aid office.

YOU MUST APPLY FOR THE NGSG EVERY FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER. Follow the same procedures each semester to apply. The NGSG can be used in the fall and spring semesters only. Review the eligibility requirements at: http://www.in.gov/sfa/2339.htm.

For more information, contact Yolonda Madison, Education Services Office at yolonda.m.madison.nfg@mail.mil.

Body shop shows appreciation for veterans with vehicle makeovers

Posted by Sean Edmondson, Digital Content Producer

EVANSVILLE, IN (WFIE) - An Evansville body shop is showing their appreciation for the men and women of the military.

Mills Body Shop wants you to nominate a veteran or active duty service member whose vehicle needs a makeover, to serve this country. And like I said we just wanted a way to free services, parts, and help them out," Decker said.

The person selected will receive free services, parts, and repairs.

You can nominate a service member by going onto http://www.millsbodyshop.com/metalofhonor.php.

"I've always been a fan of what they do for us and how much dedication that they have to give..." Co-owner Don Decker says it's their way to say thanks.
Improvement projects at American Legion posts and necessary home repairs for veterans in need are eligible to receive grants from The Home Depot Foundation, a longtime supporter of The American Legion. The Home Depot Foundation announced at National Convention last summer that it is dedicating no less than $1 million for American Legion projects throughout the country.

The Home Depot Foundation grants provide American Legion posts with funds and volunteer help to fix the little things that make huge differences: weatherizing windows, insulating attics, interior and exterior painting, installing new ceiling tiles, replacing fans and replacing flooring. Additionally, these grants provide an opportunity for Legion posts to aid veterans in need of home repairs. For example, on Veterans Day, The Home Depot volunteers made repairs to the St. Louis home of a Vietnam War veteran. A similar effort made a life-changing difference for a veteran couple in Idaho. The Home Depot Foundation and The American Legion have teamed up hundreds of other projects in communities everywhere.

There are two options for applying for the funds:

- **Community Impact Grants** provide up to $5,000 in The Home Depot gift cards for any project to be completed by The American Legion and/or community volunteers. Team Depot volunteers are not involved in these projects, but these grants are a great option for engaging your Legionnaires and community.

- **Team Depot Grants** fund volunteer projects that utilize Team Depot, The Home Depot’s associate-led volunteer force, along with volunteers from your American Legion post.

Legionnaires are encouraged to apply for both grants offered by The Home Depot Foundation, but only one at a time. To review guidelines for eligible improvement projects and both application processes, go here. Legionnaires are encouraged to contact their local The Home Depot stores and ask for the Team Depot captains who can assist with grant applications.

It is important to note that applying for a grant does not guarantee approval.

To see if your improvement project qualifies, and to apply for a grant, follow the simple instructions found here.

Questions should be directed to Scott Miller, Deputy Director, Strategic Alliances at smiller@legion.org or 317-630-1220.

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The American Legion conducts many major programs and is a good way to remain active with your comrades in arms. Our Legionnaires participate in many community activities and is one of two on a college campus in Indiana. Like everything else, it lives off of participation and your help is needed. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Pete Snowden, Post 324 commander at alpost324@yahoo.com.

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**R E N E W  Y O U R  M E M B E R S H I P  T O D A Y !**

Mr. Pete Snowden
alpost324@yahoo.com
WASHINGTON - Student Veterans of America (SVA) President and CEO, D. Wayne Robinson, released the following statement in response to U.S. Reps. David McKinley (R-W.Va.) and Dina Titus (D-NV) introduction of H.R. HR 5784, GI Bill STEM Extension Act of 2014:

"Today, we made a major leap forward with the introduction of a bill in the House, which would authorize an additional year of GI Bill benefits for veterans seeking degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

SVA has taken the lead on helping student veterans succeed in school in pursuit of lasting careers. Our Million Records Project, which examined close to 900,000 records of student veterans who attended school from 2002 to 2010, shows that veterans have a propensity towards degrees in high-growth, in-demand fields including, science, engineering and information technology.

As we address the rising national concern about future challenges and a potential shortage in the U.S. STEM workforce, veterans represent a diverse, technologically advanced population, uniquely qualified to meet our nation's growing need for skilled workers in these sectors and are well-positioned to make a huge, positive impact in America's communities and economy.

As part of SVA's strategy to address the country's deficit in the area of STEM careers, we will continue to provide our veterans with the resources and programs they need to prepare them for the careers our economy demands. By offering programs like our Math Boot Camp, a free preparatory math course offered to student veterans, each student veteran is more likely to successfully transition from combat to career.

SVA applauds Representatives McKinley and Titus who are united and focused on passage of federal legislation that gives our veterans access to higher education. If we are successful, everyone wins."

All media inquiries, please contact Jessica Coscia at 202.223.4713 or email: media@studentveterans.org

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