



Reveille

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 9/11 Volunteer Service w/ Habitat for Humanity
- CSUSB Alumni Wins Emmy
- Message of Optimism
- Post-9/11 GI Bill STEM Student info
- Spring 2019 Graduation
- Staff & Student Spotlight

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Commemorating 9/11: *Habitat for Humanity's A Brush With Kindness*



*CSUSB student painting a home
Photo courtesy of Veterans Success Center*



*All CSUSB VSC volunteers
Photo courtesy of Veterans Success Center*

On September 11, 2019, the Veterans Success Center, CSUSB's Air Force ROTC, Community Engagement, Athletics, and Student Engagement, partnered with Habitat for Humanity's *A Brush With Kindness* program. The nonprofit's aim is to provide no cost painting, landscaping, and minor exterior repair services for low-income homeowners who qualify.

In an effort to help those in need on a day that has existed next to tragedy since 2001, the CSUSB affiliates and HFH gave fresh coats of paint to a home in Corona in hopes of rebranding the date as one committed to service. The actions of all involved were done in the name of transforming the lingering trauma of that day into a wellspring of positivity; a day to

not only memorialize those who lost their lives in the attacks, but to honor them by celebrating American resolve through community service.

The painting was done between 0800 and 1300. When the volunteers left, the house stood in a proud rebirth. A subtle elegance had overtaken its structure from walls to eaves, and a finely detailed organism appeared in full bloom, sprouting from its foundation with a newly defined rapport with aesthetic.

All in all, the operation was a success. The Veterans Success Center would like to thank all who volunteered their time. We look forward to future excursions done in the name of duty.



CSUSB Alumni Celebrates Emmy

A CSUSB alumnus is celebrating an Emmy win for his contributions to a locally produced documentary, *Vietnam Speaks*. Ethan Mink, who graduated this June with a communications studies degree, was a researcher for the film, which won the Emmy for the Military-Program or Special category. The documentary focuses on the stories of three Vietnam veterans—an activist, a pastor, a director—and their experiences during and after the war. It debuted on local TV station Empire KVCR on September 11, 2018.



Ethan Mink
Emmy Winner
Photo courtesy of CSUSB

"It was really exciting," said Mink in an interview conducted after the nomination was announced. "It's not something I really saw coming, y'know? Working at KVCR was my first time working in media."

However, aside from Mink's humble attitude toward the notoriety the documentary would receive, others associated with the project had clear-cut intuitions brewing:

"My producer there, earlier on, she told us she was going to enter us

into the Emmys for a few different programs. At the time, she's like, 'I have a really good feeling about this, and usually my feelings are right, so I think we're gonna win something,' so she was sure from the beginning," he said.

Mink's producer was right in laying her feelings bare. The film's recognition of three veteran voices lost in the thick of the war's aftermath gives it a magnetic sense of engagement, with each interviewee's perspective providing an original account of war and postwar life. Powerful bursts of storytelling and insight capture the viewer's imagination, supplemented by images of soldiers withstanding a turbulence totally unique to the age. As local veteran and veterans advocate Ronnie Gyer says in a PBS State of the Empire Interview, the documentary has given a few of these soldiers a chance to speak: "I was in the first major battles of the Vietnam War, and when I came home no one wanted to hear what I had to say. The PBS special *Vietnam Speaks* opened everybody's eyes about how much we suffered over in Vietnam. All of these years later, everyone wants to hear from us."

In regard to what he took away from this project, Mink said, "Going in, I didn't know too much about the Vietnam War, but hearing their stories was really interesting. One of the veterans, he said he didn't fire his gun the whole time, the whole war, and he came back with a Purple Heart."



Ronnie Gyer
Vietnam Vet and Veterans Advocate
Photo courtesy of PBS State of the Empire Interview

Commenting on the documentary's process, he added, "A lot of hard work goes into each small aspect. As a researcher, you have to think about, is it good enough quality to be pictured? Is the resolution high enough? Is it free from copyright? It's a really intensive experience, and also knowing that the rest of the team is relying on you. It teaches you to appreciate each aspect of the film industry and to be a good team player."

Before graduating, Mink was also presented with the Outstanding Student in Media Studies award at the Communications Symposium. "It was really cool, just to be recognized in front of my peers and everything. Being called up to the stage and all the students and teachers are there. One of the professors there, Dr. Corrigan, he presented my award, and he said some really nice stuff about me. It was a really special experience." In light of these commendations, Mink seems to be a prime example of the talent and rigor KVCR's documentary reflects.

The team was presented the award by the Pacific Southwest chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Science (NATAS) on the evening of Saturday, June 15, in Las Vegas.

Congratulations, Ethan & team!

Message of Hope and Optimism

Summer has come to an end, and the Veterans Success Center is gearing up for a stellar academic year. The cogs of its machinery have been diligently oiled and tuned, eagerly awaiting the vitalizing hum of veterans, dependents, and faculty who will utilize its resources throughout the fall, winter, and spring quarters.

As VSC affiliates and the CSUSB campus as a whole falls headlong into whatever circumstances await us this year, it may be helpful to remember the importance of approaching life with whatever authenticity originally led us to our present moment. The velocity of life can often render our actions stuck in its tedium, and taking the time to remember why we stepped into the tornado in the first place might help to resurrect any anchors lost in the gust.

Enthusiasm and optimism may be key here, with introspection and optimization their product, and complacency that which they disarm. Given some of the grislier events that have hit the news lately, approaching the year with a mindful attitude might help in resisting the darker, more paranoid undercurrents that can often develop whenever some devil throws its gaze across an unfortunate vein of society.

Although this message extends to the entire campus, the VSC intends to face the year with these standards in mind. Through the interpersonal dynamics of support and service we take pride in down at the center, we hope to be a beacon of optimism in the sometimes turbulent yet monotonous nature of the day to day.



Directory Sign Posts Hope
<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/directory-sign-posts-hope-466935/>

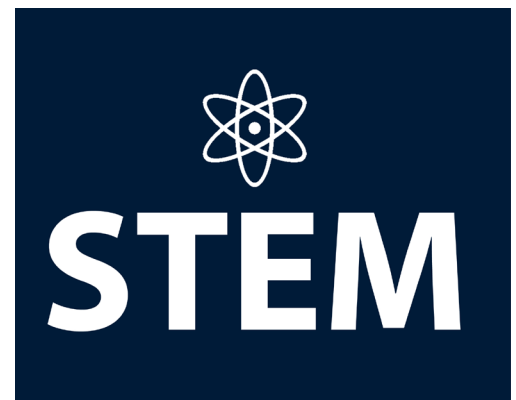
Helping Post-9/11 GI Bill STEM Students Cross the Finish Line

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship is a provision of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (Forever GI Bill) that gives extra benefits to students training in the high demand fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Training in these areas typically requires more credit hours than other fields. The Rogers STEM Scholarship provides support for this additional training, offering students the opportunity to finish their STEM degree program or teaching certification with significantly less student debt or out-of-pocket costs.

Who is eligible for the Rogers STEM Scholarship?*

- You are pursuing a degree in a STEM field;
- You have completed at least 60 standard or 90 quarter credit hours toward your degree;
- You have or will soon (within 180 days of application) exhaust your entitlement for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program;
- Your postsecondary degree program requires at least 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree;
- You have earned a postsecondary degree in a STEM field;
- You have been accepted or are enrolled in a teaching certification program;
- You have or will soon (within 180 days application) exhaust your entitlement for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program

The info above was taken from the VA website:
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/factsheets/STEMInfographic.pdf>



STEM
<https://www.afdw.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1328396/jba-highlights-stem-at-air-show/>

Spring 2019 Graduation

On June 5, 2019, the veterans graduation celebration took place at CSUSB's San Manuel Student Union. U.S. Army Veteran Erik Nabeshima led the ceremony, made the opening and closing remarks, and did so with a cohesive flow of introduction and narration.

After the initial welcoming, Nabeshima introduced Skylar Safholm, who kicked off the ceremony with a fantastic rendition of the National Anthem. Safholm's singing took the electricity of the event to its perfect wavelength; and afterward, Nabeshima's voice echoed in that atmosphere as a diligent, forthright entity.

The National Anthem was followed by thanks and acknowledgements to the Office of the President for arranging dinner, and the Rotary North of San Bernardino for providing the stoles. Before forwarding this gratitude, Nabeshima introduced himself, and incited the U.S. Army's famous *hooah!* battle cry upon mentioning his service. This effectively stirred the enthusiasm of the crowd, and audience members grinned with a reciprocal *hooah!*

In that sudden eruption of morale boost, the meaning of the gathering divulged its center. You could practically see the intensity of finish lines these men and women had conquered; from the start of their service to that final step across the podium, a kaleidoscope of thresholds past suddenly materialized. Apropos of these impressions, opening remarks and acknowledgements ended with a nod to every branch of veteran making this transition, which included a commendation of the individual spirit within each of the graduates: "There is no one like you; enjoy your moment."



Spring 2019 Veteran Graduates
Photo Courtesy of Veterans Success Center



Erik Nabeshima
U.S. Army Vet

Photo Courtesy of Veterans Success Center

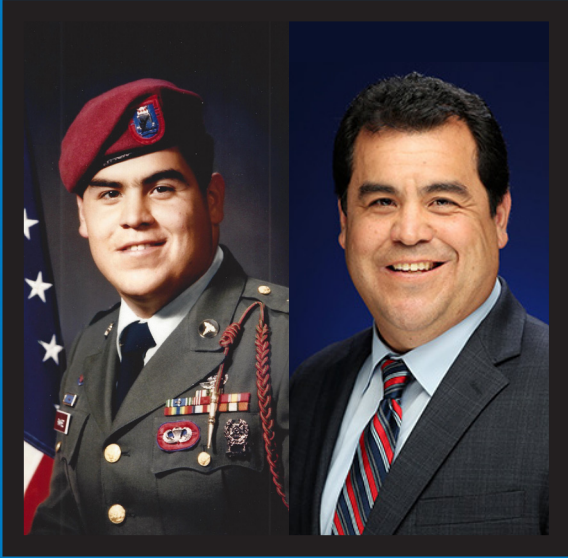
Then came the event's speakers. In chronological order, this included Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Harry Le Grande, Navy vet and CSUSB alumni Paul Jones, Kimberly Mesen representing Congressman Paul Cook's office, and Darrell Frye representing Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes' office. Each gave thanks and recognition to departments responsible for perpetuating veteran success, along with kind and insightful words honoring those of the hour.

After Mr. Frye's speech, the presentation of the stoles began. The graduates filed toward the stage as names were called by their corresponding elected official field representative. Command Sergeant Major Winsome Laos recognized our Army grads; Sergeant Major Michael Nicolia recognized our Marine Corps grads; Captain Quinn Hawley recognized our Navy grads; Captain Austin J. Buscher recognized our Air Force grads; and Ensign Bryce Laster recognized our Coast Guard grad.

Nabeshima closed the ceremony with the same oratory aptitude held throughout the event. Following his streamline declarations and appraisals, the spring 2019 veterans graduation celebration slid into its final phase with an invocation given by Chaplain Capt. Quinn Hawley. The Chaplain was introduced with a short summary of his military life and credentials. He then took the podium, and a beam of reverence brought the ceremony to a close.

From all of us at the VSC, congratulations to our spring 2019 graduates! You have worked hard for what you've earned, and should be proud of your accomplishments.

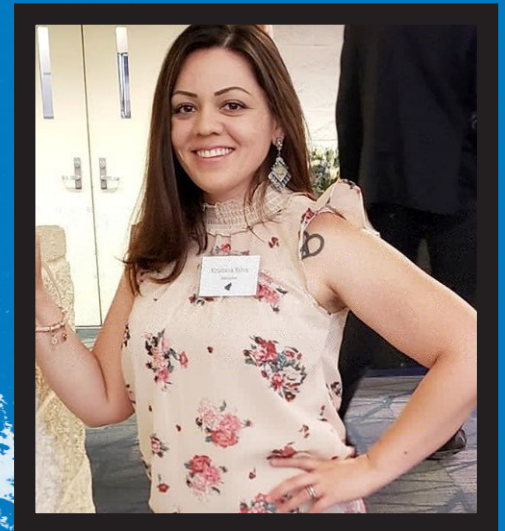
REVEILLE *SPOTLIGHT*



(Left) SPC Hector Ramirez, U.S. Army (c. 1991)
(Right) Hector Ramirez, Director of Facilities Management
 Photo Courtesy of CSUSB

Hector Ramirez is the Director of Facilities Management at CSUSB. He has had the position for about nine months, and was hired two weeks after graduating from CSUSB with a Master of Public Administration degree (MPA) in June 2018. Ramirez is a U.S. Army Veteran, and served in two integral U.S. military occupations of the late 20th century: Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. His time in the military had a deep impact on how he thinks about public service, and is what led him to pursue a degree in public administration. Besides the hard work he does for CSUSB, Ramirez enjoys hiking, going to the gym, working in his garden, reading history and politics, and coaching his 9th grader on the ins and outs of softball. He resides in San Bernardino.

Kristina Silva is a student assistant at CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus Veterans Success Center. She enjoys working at the VSC because it has given her a chance to get acquainted with the many modes of support the center provides for veterans, and takes pride in the services offered to students who have decided to continue their education after/while serving their country. Silva is a business administration major, with a concentration in marketing. When asked why she chose this particular major, she said, ". . .because it is intriguing to advertise and research for certain companies or projects associated with the general public." Aside from school and work, Silva enjoys playing with her children, doing arts and crafts, and traveling. Her hobbies include home decor, and making accessories and clothes for dolls.



Kristina Silva
VSC Student Assistant
 Photo Courtesy of Veterans Success Center



Juan Akell
Marine Corps vet, VSC Student Assistant
 Photo Courtesy of Veterans Success Center

Juan Akell is a Marine Corps veteran. He served for ten years, went on four deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and rose through the ranks to Sergeant. His last station was in Twentynine Palms, and is what brought him to his current residence in the Coachella Valley and current employment/enrollment at the Palm Desert Campus. He enjoys working for the VSC because it allows him to interact with other veterans, and is a nice, convenient way to learn about what benefits the school offers to vets. He is currently majoring in Spanish, with hopes of one day taking on a position to teach the language to young adults. Akell feels that playing such a role in a student's life might help prepare them for adulthood. His hobbies include spending time with his family, playing soccer, and hanging out with friends.

Are **YOU A VETERAN** at CSUSB?
 We want to feature you in our next Reveille! Please visit our center or send an email to vsc@csusb.edu

We'd love to hear your story!



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Veterans_success_center