



### Have a question for the Veterans Success Center?

Email them to [daniels@csusb.edu](mailto:daniels@csusb.edu), call (909)537-5195/6 or visit the center located on the lower level of the Coyote Bookstore.



### Open During Summer!

The Veterans Success Center will be open during summer, Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., starting June 17, 2013.

If you're enrolled in summer classes, come study in the center and/or utilize the free printing! Even if you're not taking summer school, come hang out in the air conditioned center as we will be hosting a couple of events, and just enjoy the friendly atmosphere!

### Kenneth Jacobs Jr. Named "Student Assistant of the Year"

Kenny, who has been working for the Veterans Success Center since its early days, was awarded the prestigious "Student Assistant of the Year" award for Student Affairs by majority decision of the division's directors. We are very proud of Kenny and appreciate everything that he does for the center.

### Summer School

Do you want to get ahead? Summer school is a great way to get needed units to graduate early or to make up units. The classes usually run differently than academic year classes, as each section is 4 hours long. But on the bright side, you only attend for 5 weeks.

Late registration for Summer Session 2013 began June 10 and continues through the start of each session. Below are dates in which you can still register for classes.

Session Regular: June 10 – June 25 (register via MyCoyote)

June 26 – July 10 (with permission slip)

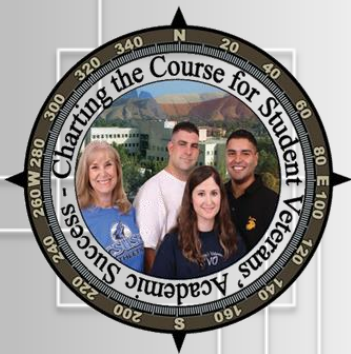
Session 6W1: June 10 – June 20 (register via MyCoyote)

June 21 – June 27 (with permission slip)

Session 6W2: June 10 – July 31 (register via MyCoyote)

Aug. 1 – Aug. 7 (with permission slip)





## Summer Events

The Veterans Success Center will also be hosting events during the summer as well as working together with other organizations around the county to provide valuable workshops. Below are a few of the events that are planned:

### **7/3 – Veterans Success Center Open House**

The Veterans Success Center will host an open house so that veterans, service members, dependents, staff and faculty can take a tour to learn about what the center has to offer!

### **7/9 – Inland Empire Veterans Education Collaborative**

Topic: Best practices and education benefits for military and veterans

Time: 9 a.m. – Noon

Location: University of Redlands

1200 E. Colton Avenue

Redlands, CA 92374

### **RSVP for 7/9**

**Linda Umberg, CalVET, at**

**(909) 387-5986**

**or e-mail**


**Linda.Umberg@calvet.ca.gov**

**More information on later events will be sent via e-mail;  
remember to keep checking!**


**To commemorate an amazing first year since the opening of the Veterans Success Center on May 25, 2012. The VSC staff members and veterans reflected on their favorite moments. The following is what they had to say...**

## **Valor Beyond the Call of Duty**

Miguel Duran, USMC, Graduating Senior




Unequivocally, my favorite moment this year was on March 12, 2013, when Cal State San Bernardino's Veterans Success Center had the opportunity to recognize six Medal of Honor recipients, five from the Vietnam War and one from OIF. We organized the program, which featured service members from all branches and ranks that spoke and showed their gratitude. The 600 plus in attendance had the good fortune to listen to the six men who shared their stories and answered questions from the audience. Their valiant and heroic efforts in the wars they participated in were an inspiration for all of us, whether or not we had ever served in the military or any war. The men encompass the great American values that have made our country strong and that most of us needed to be reminded of.



As a sergeant in the United States Marines Corps it was an honor and a privilege to be able to participate in the Medal of Honor ceremony and show the recipients how much we value their presence, especially since a few of them were fellow Marines. Having been asked to say the Pledge of Allegiance in front of these great individuals was a major milestone in my life, and is something that I will never forget. It was a great feeling looking out into the audience and seeing the event center completely filled with people showing their respect for these men who went beyond the call of duty. These noble men paved the road and made a legacy for the rest of us. I have a great sense of pride and honor knowing that as a member of the military I am a part of this legacy. I enjoyed participating in Cal State San Bernardino and the Veteran Success Center in paying tribute to the men who unselfishly risked their lives in order to accomplish their missions.


## **Armed Forces Day**

Luca Daley, USMC Dependent, Sophomore

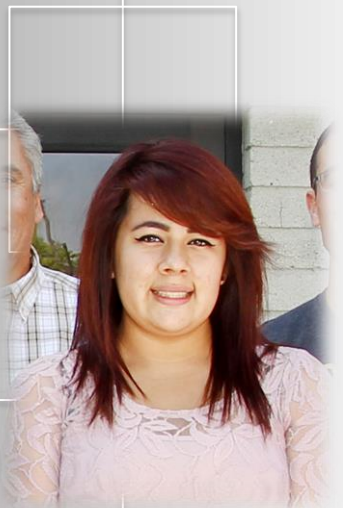


My favorite moment from my six-month tenure here at the Veterans Success Center is the Armed Forces Day event. The Armed Forces Day is a day where we celebrate and appreciate those in the United States Armed Forces. We combined our Yellow Ribbon Campaign with this event. Different departments of the school were able to "sponsor a tree" and decorate the tree with miniature yellow ribbons. Kenny Jacobs, one of our student assistants, MC'd the event, and guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson spoke to us about "The Meaning of Sacrifice." He spoke of the sacrifices that not only our service members make, but also about the sacrifices that their families make. It was evident that the audience was moved by his speech.

Following his speech was the announcement of the departments that generously sponsored a tree: 30 departments were announced. After the departments picked up their ribbon kits and decorated their trees, the trees were judged. Finally, lunch was served.



I say this is my favorite moment because it was satisfying to see all of the different branches working together to make this event happen. Although we were not able to secure a Blackhawk helicopter to land on campus, the event was still exciting as we tied yellow ribbons around the trees and had knowledgeable guest speakers. Military Humvees were also included in the celebration, as the Army brought two with them for display. This event was also one of the few that I was able to help set up completely and participate in. Although I was unable to attend the event fully, I was able to be there for the first 45 minutes or so to see the end product of the work we put in to set up the event. It was a very gratifying experience.



## Yellow Ribbon Campaign

Zayre Ruiz, Junior

Working at the Veterans Success Center has truly been an extraordinary experience. I personally have gotten the opportunity to learn a lot being here, especially since I'm not a military member. Having the chance to converse with veterans and hear their stories and how they transitioned into college students is honestly one of my favorite parts of working here. Before I started working at the Veterans Success Center, I never knew how much I was capable of doing. Along with the awesome employees here, our center has managed to have a lot of big campus events in such a short amount of time.

One of my personal favorites that the VSC has hosted was the Yellow Ribbon event that was tied in with Armed Forces Day and took place on May 17, 2013. I consider this event to be my baby because I worked and stressed over it most of spring quarter. I had previously experienced the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony last year when I volunteered, but this year, the ceremony opened my eyes even more. For one, I felt really grateful that different campus departments pitched in to help make 3,000 ribbons. I also felt a sense of pride when I saw that people really got into decorating their trees with ribbons; people went out of their way to place personal pictures on their trees and make it their own. Although that following Monday, a situation occurred, I feel like the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony was an honorable experience. We had the great opportunity to teach students, along with staff, the significance of the yellow ribbons. If anything, I think all the stress and pressure was worth it in the end.

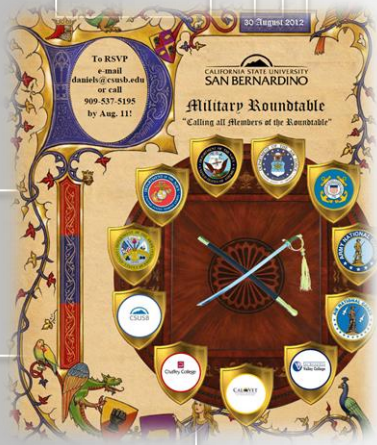


## Military Roundtable

Kenneth Jacobs, USMC Reserves, Junior

The greatest event for me was the 2012 Military Roundtable event. It brought the local community along with representatives from other states and various other locations, such as Sacramento, together to bridge the gap between the civilian and the military sectors. Knowledge from both sides was given to each other in hopes that veterans, reservists, guardsmen and active duty service members would either begin, or continue their higher educational goals. This was the first of many large scale events that the Veterans Success Center hosted with the most positive outcomes for both sides. The civilian sector learned about all the challenges that military members come across when trying to enroll or continue their education. The military sector was given knowledge about how the educational side works.

As a Marine Corps Reservist, this event left a very large imprint on my life. I personally learned, along with many others, some hidden ways to navigate the educational system and reap the maximum benefits that are offered to prior and current military members. The largest effect was the fact that many attendees of the event still keep in contact with one another. The goal, as previously stated, was to bridge the gap between two different sides and educate one another on the challenges each side faces when dealing with each other. After leaving that event I know that goal was achieved.



## Heroes: Remembering the Sacrifice

Jaime Espinoza, ASA II, Graduating Senior

My favorite moment at the Veterans Success Center this year was our Memorial Day event. The reason it meant so much to me is because we were able to get CSUSB Greeks and the SVO to join us on a field trip to the Riverside National Cemetery where students placed flags and flowers on the graves of the fallen from the Inland Empire. This was a great event, students and the staff were very surprised when they arrived at the cemetery. In fact, as we were traveling towards the cemetery I got on the intercom and educated our student leaders on the history of Memorial Day. Once we arrived at the cemetery, Capt. Chaplain David Sarmiento educated us and helped us understand the struggles a family goes through and the hardships of being in the military. He taught us the meaning of the folding of the American flag, when there is a fallen soldier. Later we went on what soldiers call a mission. The mission was to go find our fallen hero and place our flowers and American flag on his tombstone. I have to say this was a “mission” especially because we were not aware of how big this cemetery is.

Once students found their hero they weren't expecting to see graves of people our age. Some students were sentimentally touched by this observation. They saw that the grave they placed the flowers and the flag on had nothing on it. This was a great day of reflection for our student leaders at CSUSB. Some were saddened that not all graves had flowers and American flags on them. Various students asked the question, “Why don't they have flowers on their graves?” We had no specific answers, but what I can say is as long as we have the support from the student leaders, the fallen heroes will someday have flowers in the future, even if it's from our Coyotes here at Cal State San Bernardino. This event was truly successful and affected about 60 students. I want to say thank you to all those that participated from CSUSB Greeks and the SVO for attending. The following fraternities and sororities attended, and since I am Greek, I want to thank our community:

### **United Sorority and Fraternity Council**

Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc.

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc.

Delta Sigma Chi Co-ed Fraternity

Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc.

### **National Panhellenic Conference**

Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity

Alpha Phi Sorority

Kappa Delta Sorority

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority

### **North American Interfraternity Council Conference (IFC)**

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity

Sigma Nu Fraternity

### **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.



## **Graduating Veterans Stole Ceremony**

Paula Akwaboah, Graduating Senior

My most memorable moment at the Veterans Success Center was the Veterans Graduation Ceremony, which was held at the end of the 2013 school year. The event was not only centered on the graduates, but their support system as well including their families, friends, colleagues, staff and many others. As a fellow graduate, I was honored to share my excitement with the veterans whom will soon be alumni of this remarkable university. As a part of the team which put together the event, I was truly proud to see each veteran receive their graduation regalia for they truly deserved it. I am pleased to have enjoyed this moment with all of the graduating veterans of the Class of 2013 and wish them the best of luck in the future!



## **Military Appreciation Night**

Marci Daniels, M.HRD, VSC Coordinator

I have had so many fond memories throughout the year that it's extremely difficult to choose my favorite. With that said, the Military Appreciation Night at the 66ers game held on the evening of Saturday, June 1, 2013, was one of the most gratifying to me. First, it was an honor to be asked by the 66ers to help them plan and carry out the activities for the evening. Our very own Josh Jones created the PowerPoint of the "Fallen" which played on the monitron, Chaplain David Sarmiento provided an inspiring moment of reflection, and CSUSB student and newly commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tim Poseley led the Color Guard, which included fellow students Daniel McDonald, Angel Rayas, Miguel Duran, Jennifer Wintering and Abraham Castro. We also collaborated with Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mario Mayorquino to borrow their gigantic American flag, which was unfurled on the backfield. Second, we had a great time at the game. The funniest moment of the night happened when we were playing "Military Bingo" which Zayre Ruiz created and Jaime Espinoza conducted at the game. In between innings, Jaime would hold up cards with pictures on them and if you had that picture on your card you would place a sticker on it. Before the third inning, Jaime held up three cards and all of a sudden over 20 people shouted "Bingo." Since we only had six prizes, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Perez of the U.S. Army graciously bailed us out by providing us with a case of water bottles. Lastly, it was so gratifying to me that 170 staff members, students and their families attended the game. It really showed me that we have become a family—battle buddies. In the military Battle Buddies are assigned to look out for each other both in and out of combat—they have each other's backs. It's heartwarming to see that at VSC we've carried this important tradition forward.



## **Attending SOAR**

David Briggs, U.S. Army Veteran, Senior

My favorite vet center event this year was when I got the opportunity to meet the new student veterans who will be attending this fall on a Saturday afternoon about a month ago during SOAR. It was a very nice event not only because I had the chance to meet the incoming veterans, but there was also high quality free food provided by the school. Usually the only affordable food from Sodexo is cheap pizza or taco shells with sloppy joe meat. We had nice, fresh Italian bread sticks, salad, and freshly baked cookies and brownies! One had pesto, sage, olives and little bits of cheese with Italian dressing. Sooo tasty, one of my favorite events of the year!



## Heroes: Remembering the Sacrifice

Joshua Jones, USMC Veteran, Junior



The event called “Heroes: Remembering the Sacrifice” on May 22, 2013, impacted me because Memorial Day is a special day for me for the reason being that I have lost so many brothers in arms from my previous service to my country. It most impacted me because we took flags to the graves of service members that we did not even know, but the idea of taking those flags to graves of people we did not even know felt like we had a connection even though we never met. Memorial Day is also a way for me and lots of others to remember who they were and where they come from. During Memorial Day the service members play taps and it brings tears to my eyes because I am sad that they are gone, but never forgotten. To all service members, thank you.

## The 237<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

Reuben Perales, USMC Veteran, Senior



The Veterans Success Center has hosted many different events, but I enjoyed the very first CSUSB Marine Corps Ball the most. Having the school honor the traditions of the Marine Corps gave me great pride as a Marine Corps veteran. Being able to help pass on the traditions to younger Marines, as well as showing the students and staff members a different side of the Marine Corps that they might not have been exposed to, give me pride and joy. 2012 marked the first CSUSB Marine Corps Ball, but I hope it will not be the last. I look forward to seeing if I would be able to go to more even after I graduate and help out in the future as well.

## Military Appreciation Night

Victor Headley, U.S. Air Force Dependent, Junior



My favorite event at the VSC was when I had an opportunity to go to my first baseball game ever. I really enjoyed myself a lot because I had the chance to be with my friends and veteran family at CSUSB. This event made me feel really good about myself because it showed me that the VSC knows how to have fun at a baseball game. I would have to say this is my favorite moment here at VSC this year.

## Heroes: Remembering the Sacrifice

Lawrence McCrary, U.S. Army Veteran, Senior



The ceremony that moved me the most in the 2012-2013 academic year was the Memorial Day Remembrance of our fallen soldiers who gave their lives in foreign wars so that we Americans could enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in reaching for the American dream of getting a good education, finding suitable employment, and buying a home. None of which would be possible if it were not for those who laid down their lives. I lost my composure when I found that soldier’s grave to place the flag and flowers to honor him, the fallen warrior. I felt a sense of relief once I placed the flowers and flag on his grave. Thank you for allowing me to participate.

