November 2021
The Husky Vet Gazette

Important GI Bill® Update!

New Monthly Enrollment Verification Requirement

Beginning December 17, 2021, students using Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. Failure to verify for two consecutive months will impact Monthly Housing Allowance and/or kicker payments.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is encouraging students to sign up for text message verification. There is nothing you need to do at this time. The VA will be providing more information on next steps.

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Veterans Day Ceremony

When? Thursday, November 11th at 11:00a.m.
Where? Founders Green (Storrs) by the Ultimate Sacrifice Memorial (Rain Location: Wilbur Cross North Reading Room)

Please join us for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at UConn to honor and celebrate all who served, and who continue to serve, our country. This event is free and open to everyone in the community.

Kyle Milliken Virtual Run

5-mile run in honor of Navy SEAL Kyle Milliken who was KIA serving his country on May 5, 2017.

When? Begins on Veterans Day, Nov. 11th and ends on Nov. 18th.
Where? Anywhere – it’s virtual

Registration is Free (donations are welcome). Register at: The 2021 Kyle Milliken Memorial Virtual Run (runsignup.com)

Leading with Character in Uncharted Waters featuring Admiral Sandra Stosz, Vice Admiral United States Coast Guard (retired)

When? Wednesday, November 10, 2021 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.
Where? UConn Graduate Business Learning Center, Observation Deck, 2nd Floor 100 Constitution Plaza; Hartford, CT Directions

Admiral (Ret.) Sandy Stosz’s distinguished career in the US Coast Guard includes being the first woman to command an ice breaker on the Great Lakes and to lead a US armed forces service academy. During her time in the Coast Guard, She spent 12 years at sea, commanded two ships, and led Coast Guard organizations during times of crisis and complexity. Please join us to hear about Sandy’s hard-earned leadership lessons from a career spent breaking ice and breaking the glass ceiling.

RSVP below, space is limited:

Reserve Your Spot Today
**Board Games are Back!**

Every Wednesday

Starting at 3:00p.m.

Hawley Armory Rm. 105 (Storrs)

We’re resuming Board Games every Wednesday afternoon for anyone interested in joining. These are not your everyday board games. Different games will be played each week with the rules explained for everyone by the Game Master!

**Questions?**

Contact Jon Ramos (a.k.a. the Game Master) at jonathan.ramos@uconn.edu

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**AFROTC 5K Run and Food Drive**

Join this 5K sponsored by Air Force ROTC to benefit Holy Family Home & Shelter in Willimantic

**When?** November 14th at 12:00p.m.

**Where?** Begins at the Student Union and will loop around campus

Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W6t0jFl0ppFfVPiMedUclMMaPobUVFz92mALlyv14E/edit

Participants must complete a waiver, to be completed at check-in or via the link above. Any minors must have a guardian with them to run, and a photo ID is required for all participants.

A small donation of food or a $3.00 donation is being collected which will go to the Holy Family Home and Shelter in Willimantic.

**Food Drive:**

A food drive is also happening from now until November 13th to benefit the shelter. Food and other items can be dropped off to donation boxes at the Student Union, Hawley Armory, or the Stop & Shop in Willimantic.

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Student Veterans of America is conducting a quick student veterans and military-connected students demographic web survey in an effort to add to the scarce data about student veterans. This survey is for anyone who has or is currently serving in the U.S. Military and their dependents.

Here is the link to the survey:

SVA 2021 Census Survey
**Veteran of the Month: Ericka Washington**

The Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to recognize Ericka Washington as UConn’s Veteran of the Month. Ericka recently joined the team at UConn’s Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs as an Outreach Coordinator. She is working closely with the VA Work Study program in addition to being a main liaison with the staff and students at the regional campuses to ensure military-affiliated students have the resources and tools they need at all UConn campuses. Ericka shares, “I truly enjoy working with soldiers, veterans, and their families to maximize their benefits whether they are educational or retirement based.”

Ericka recently retired from the Army National Guard where she served in various positions within Human Resources, with her last assignment as the Retirement Services Officer in which she assisted soldiers and their families with retirement and benefit planning. Currently, Ericka is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Psychology with concentrations in Child and Adolescent Development and Mental Health Counseling. Her goal is to open a wellness center offering different treatment and intervention methods for children and adolescents who have experienced trauma. Ericka wants her wellness center to offer mentorship, psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, rational emotive therapy, animal assisted therapy, reiki, and floatation therapy.

Ericka advises all military-affiliated students to ask for help when needed and she understands it can be difficult for current and former military members to ask for help in a time of need. Ericka explains, “There are so many resources that are not commonly known throughout our population of students and the resources available at UConn and within our office might surprise you. We are truly here to help each veteran achieve their educational goals.”

We always welcome nominations for Veteran of the Month. If you know someone you’d like to nominate (including a student, staff or faculty member) please contact Nikki Eberly at Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu with the name of the person and reasons for your nomination.

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**Fall 2021 Upcoming Events**

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