

April 2022

# The Husky Vet Gazette

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## *Reminder – Form D*

### **Signing up for Summer or Fall Classes?**

### **Avoid Late Fees & submit the Form D Now!**

Students using VA Benefits, Veterans Tuition Waiver, or the National Guard Tuition Waiver need to submit the Form D EVERY semester they want to use those benefits.

Once you've registered for classes, submit the Form D online: <http://veterans.uconn.edu/form-d/>

**Questions?** Contact UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs at [veterans@uconn.edu](mailto:veterans@uconn.edu)

## *Inside This Issue*

### **PG. 2**

Operation Warrior Horse

New CT Veteran License Plates

Graduation Cords

### **PG. 3**

Fresh Check Day

New Veteran Mentors webpage

### **PG. 4**

Veteran of the Month

Upcoming Events Spring 2022



## Operation Warrior Horse

Operation Warrior Horse is a 10 week equine supported psychotherapy program designed by Veterans for Veterans! This therapy group meets for 2 hours each week to help Veterans begin to heal from the invisible wounds incurred in service through the healing effects of the horse and human connection.

This experiential therapy takes place on the serene farm of Healing Hoofbeats of CT in Bethlehem. It is facilitated by a Licensed Therapist and an Equine Professional who is also a Combat Veteran. In partnership with our four-legged healers, this therapy team is the perfect storm of mental health expertise and a working knowledge of military service.

- Offered to qualifying Veterans at no cost.
- Sessions begin in April and in July

**Want to learn more or sign up? Go to**

**<https://www.healinghoofbeatsofct.org/owh>**

## Veteran License Plates

CT Department of Veterans Affairs launched Conflict Specific Veteran License Plates in March 2022.

These license plates are for eligible Veterans who served in the specific war or conflict as indicated on their DD 214 or other discharge documents.

**Questions?** Find detailed information at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/Special-and-Vanity/Special-and-Vanity/Wartime-Veteran-Plate>



## Graduation Cords

Graduation cords are available for student Veterans who are graduating. These cords are available, at no cost, if you served in the military, and will be going through the May Commencement Ceremony.

Please stop in the main office in Hawley 100B and pick-up your graduation cord. Or, if you're at a regional campus send an email to Nikki Eberly at [Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu) with your name and mailing address and we'll mail one to you.

These cords commemorate your successful completion of your degree program here at UConn, as a student Veteran. Congratulations!



# Fresh Check Day

## April 23, 2022

*Be well. Feel well. Do well.*

**Student Union Lawn**  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m

Games, Prizes,  
Free Dairy Bar Ice Cream  
**AND BABY COWS!**



## Reminder – VA Self Verification

**Don't forget!!** Students using Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits must verify their enrollment at the end of each month with the VA (Veterans Affairs). Failure to verify for two consecutive months will impact Monthly Housing Allowance and/or kicker payments.

The VA has the **option to verify enrollment easily via text message**. More details can be found at:

[https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification\\_of\\_enrollment.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/isaksonroe/verification_of_enrollment.asp)

## UConn Veteran Mentors

The Veterans Advisory Council has created a new resource for student Veterans at UConn: a Veteran Mentors webpage. You can view this resource at:

<https://veterans.uconn.edu/contact/veteran-mentors-at-uconn/>

Members of the UConn's Veterans Community are honored to serve as resources to students and fellow faculty and staff who are seeking some advice and/or guidance from a fellow veteran on-campus. Please feel free to contact them – no question is too big or too small.

Each of them have several years of experience working at the University of Connecticut and are familiar with the inner workings of campus in addition to having experienced first-hand the transition from the military.

## **Veteran of the Month: April Weaver**

The Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to recognize April Weaver as UConn's Veteran of the Month.

April Weaver served in the Air Force, as a leader and manager in healthcare operations for several years, from which she retired. At UConn, she has been pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Genetic Sciences. What's most remarkable is she's been pursuing her degree while balancing the demands of being a mom and spouse, along with a long commute to the Storrs campus, while also serving her fellow student Veterans on-campus in her part-time job as a VA Work Study student. April is being awarded the Willis N. Hawley Service Award this spring for her work as VA Work Study student on-campus.

April was hired shortly before the pandemic through the VA Work Study Program to work in UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs. She often was the only remaining student employee (there are usually more than 5) processing hundreds of benefits requests, advising students and families, and providing

the first line of customer service to current and potential students. April also attended virtual team presented at military student orientations, developed new and dynamic ways to better serve students in the virtual environment, and provide support and levity to the entire time in UConn's Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs. April often says "we get to serve the best students in the world," referring to the fact that not only are our students outstanding members of the UConn community, but also most are military veterans.

We always welcome nominations for Veteran of the Month. If you know someone you'd like to nominate please contact Nikki Eberly at [Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu) with the name of the person and reasons for your nomination.

### **Spring 2022 Upcoming Events**

April 14 <sup>th</sup>	AFROTC Awards Ceremony
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fresh Check Day 1p.m. – 4p.m.
May 2 - 7	Final Exams
May 7 - 9	Commencement Ceremonies
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day

