COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

DANIEL & GAYLE D'ANIELLO BUILDING
HOME TO THE
NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER
AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
ABOUT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Syracuse University is a private research university that advances knowledge across a broad range of disciplines to drive breakthrough discoveries and breakout leadership. Our collection of 13 schools and colleges with over 200 customizable majors closes the gap between education and action, so students can take on the world. In and beyond the classroom, we connect people, perspectives and practices to solve interconnected challenges with interdisciplinary approaches. Together, we're a powerful community that moves ideas, individuals and impact beyond what's possible.

OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) serves as Syracuse University's "single point of entry" for all veteran and military related programs and initiatives. It collaborates and coordinates with the university community and stakeholders to best serve veterans, military-connected students, and military family members who are students or employees at Syracuse University. By offering a diverse range of programming, support, and resources specifically focused on our student veterans and their families, OVMA seeks to make the Syracuse University campus more veteran friendly and relevant for every student veteran.

COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING AND HIRING VETERANS
Syracuse University has a long history of engaging veterans and the military-connected community through its educational programs, community outreach, and employment programs. After World War II, Syracuse University welcomed more than 10,000 returning veterans to our campus, and those veterans literally transformed Syracuse University into the national research institution it is today. The University’s contemporary commitment to veterans builds on this historical legacy, and extends to both class-leading initiatives focused on making an SU degree accessible and affordable to the post-9/11 generation of veterans, and also programs designed to position Syracuse University as the employer of choice for military veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members.

COMMITMENT TO A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY
Syracuse University maintains an inclusive learning environment in which students, faculty, administrators, staff, curriculum, social activities, governance, and all other aspects of campus life reflect a diverse, multicultural, and international worldview. The University community recognizes and values the many similarities and differences among individuals and groups. At Syracuse, we are committed to preparing students to understand, live among, appreciate, and work in an inherently diverse country and world made up of people with different ethnic and racial backgrounds, military backgrounds, religious beliefs, socio-economic status, cultural traditions, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. To do so, we commit ourselves to promoting a community that celebrates and models the principles of diversity and inclusivity.

EEOC
Syracuse University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law to the extent prohibited by law. This nondiscrimination policy covers admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs, services, and activities.

ABOUT THE COVER:
William Pearson Tolley became Syracuse University’s 7th Chancellor in 1942. Tolley led Syracuse University through World War II and major expansions until his retirement in 1969. As the end of World War II approached, Chancellor Tolley was asked by President Roosevelt to serve as a member of a small group of college and university leaders tasked with creating what would ultimately become the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 or the “G.I. Bill.” Tolley then opened the doors to Syracuse University to all returning war veterans seeking a college education. By 1947, the university’s enrollment had tripled in size to roughly 9,000 student veterans among the 18,000 total enrollment. In Tolley’s retirement years, he reflected on the university’s accomplishments during his chancellorship and mentioned the need for a (student) veteran building on campus.

Kent D. Syverud became the 12th Chancellor and President of Syracuse University on January 13, 2104. One of Chancellor Syverud’s goals was to once again make Syracuse University “the best place for veterans” and become the national exemplar in higher education by empowering this generation of veterans and their families with academic offerings at the university. Chancellor Syverud realized Chancellor Tolley’s reflection by directing the construction of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC), the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building at Syracuse University which proudly opened in November 2021. The NVRC is the permanent home of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA), the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Army and Air Force ROTC, Student Veteran Organization, and the Syracuse University Veteran Affinity Group.
This past year, military-connected students have been eager to reconnect with their campus, their peers, and Syracuse University’s military-connected community after two years of restrictions and policies put in place to protect public health. While this was another adjustment, it was eagerly awaited and greeted with enthusiasm. The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) has been pivotal in helping to create a stronger community as we all welcome back a sense of normalcy.

During the 2021-22 academic year, we were overjoyed to once again host many of our annual events such as the Stars and Stripes Tailgate and Military Appreciation Football Game, the Veterans Day Ceremony, ROTC Chancellor’s Review, ROTC Commissioning and Commencement ceremonies. These gatherings provided us an opportunity to celebrate the success of our military-connected students as a community.

Our supporters have a major impact on the success of our military-connected students. We have celebrated our veteran and military-connected student’s success with scholarships, student veteran awards, and internship awards. We were able to bring together 18 Syracuse University student veterans for the convening of the 14th annual Student Veterans of America Conference. We hosted networking events and socials to provide an opportunity to build our military-connected community. Events we took for granted, we now cherish with a renewed vigor. This was perhaps most visible in the celebration of the grand opening of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building. We moved into the NVRC in 2020 but were unable to celebrate what this building means to our campus community. Our grand opening was finally our opportunity to celebrate this groundbreaking building and provide a look into the work being done to make Syracuse University the “best place for veterans” and military-connected students.

This report chronicles the OVMA team’s accomplishments over the last twelve months, based on its lines of effort: education, employment, programs, campus culture, and development. These designations represent the strategic initiatives that effectively leverage Syracuse University’s strengths - leadership, resources, alumni, community partnerships, supporters, faculty, and staff. This report is a reminder of our military-connected students’ achievements in both academic excellence and community service, which enriches our university and reflects what it means to serve our country and our communities while exemplifying what it means to “Be Orange.”

The military-connected students detailed in these pages reflect the very best of Syracuse University’s military-connected students. As a veteran and Syracuse University alumnus myself, it is an honor to serve and be part of this amazing community by enabling their success in higher education and beyond. Go Orange!

COL Ron Novack, G’20, U.S. Army, Retired
Executive Director, Office of Veteran and Military Affairs
Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle Member
Syracuse University
EDUCATION

Ron Novack, OVMA Executive Director, 2022 Pat's Run Finish, Arizona State University, Sun Devil Stadium
Since 2017, Syracuse University has had the privilege of partnering with the Pat Tillman Foundation (PTF) as one of 16 university partners. This year, four Syracuse University student veterans were selected as Tillman Scholars. Anthony Ornelaz, a student in the Master of Fine Arts program through the college of arts and science is joined by three College of Law students, Natasha DeLeon, Amanda Higginson, and William Rielly, who have been named 2022 Tillman Scholars. The four Tillman scholars mark the most scholars awarded in one year since becoming a university partner with PTF.

Being the Best Place for Veterans is embodied by these individuals whose strength, spirit, academic distinction, and tremendous potential are pillars for what Tillman scholars are known. We applaud them as they receive this prestigious honor.

—Ron Novack
Executive Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs.

VETERAN’S COMMENCEMENT

The annual student veteran commencement ceremony took place on Friday, May 13. This time-honored tradition recognized student veterans earning undergraduate, graduate, and advanced degrees. This event, held in the K.G. Tan Auditorium in the NVRC, was open to the public and celebrated the 301 student veterans who graduated from Syracuse University during the 2020-2021 academic year. Students were addressed by guest speaker, Dr. Ken Marfilius, Director of Online and Distance Education at Falk College, Assistant Teaching Professor the School of Social Work and a U.S. Air Force veteran.
Inaugural Joint Commissioning Celebration
On Friday, May 13, 24 U.S. Army and 11 U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets officially became the next generation of military leaders at the University’s inaugural Joint commissioning ceremony held at the National Veterans Resource Center’s K.G. Tan Auditorium.

The celebrations for this accomplishment were held throughout the day in the NVRC during an inaugural Joint Army and Air Force ROTC Commissioning Celebration. During the joint Celebration, commissionees were addressed by Chancellor Syverud and presented with the Chancellor’s ROTC Leadership Certificate of Achievement Award.

Pinning and Salute Ceremonies
Following the Joint Ceremonies, Army and Air Force ROTC held separate pinning and salute ceremonies in the K.G. Tan Auditorium and Parade Ground to officially commission the class of 2022 into their respective service.
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2022 Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference
Eighteen student veterans, including eight Army veterans, six Marine veterans, and four Navy veterans, recently returned from the 14th annual Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Joining the students were Syracuse University conference presenters Ron Novack G’20, Executive Director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA); Jennifer Pluta G’15, Director of Veteran Career Services for OVMA; Rosalinda Maury, Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) Director of Applied Research; Misty Stutsman Fox, Director of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business portfolio at the IVMF; Mirza Tihic, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises, Whitman School of Management, IVMF; and Linda Euto ’86, G’91, G’02, Associate Director for Research and Evaluation, IVMF. This year, OVMA Executive Director, Ron Novack was nominated and a finalist for SVA Advisor of the Year.

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)
The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Veteran Career Services participated in numerous national-level organizations events and conferences. These efforts highlighted best practices that support student veteran career pathways to employment. Veteran Career Services was featured in several blog posts and presentations. Most notable was serving as a Co-Lead for the National Association of Colleges and Employers Individuals Serving/Recruiting Veterans. The group aims to provide professional development and resources to individuals serving or recruiting student veterans. Veteran Career Services was also interviewed by NACE on ways employers can successfully recruit veterans and steps that higher education practitioners can take to support the career development of their student veteran population.
2021 SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
WARrior-Scholar Project

For the seventh year in a row, Syracuse University hosted the esteemed Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP), a no-cost academic boot camp for first-year student veterans. After a virtual program in 2020, participants were welcomed back to campus for the 2021 program.

The Warrior-Scholar Project provides a way forward academically for military veterans following their transition from military service. WSP is an intensive, weeklong college preparatory academic boot camp. In addition to training military personnel in the skills required for college, they are taught that they can be a valuable addition to the classroom. Writing tutors, sessions on analytical reading, and an opportunity to work with other student-veterans prepare them to be successful within a campus environment. During the 2021 program, Syracuse University welcomed 15 student veterans to live on campus during the week and participate in the academic boot camp.

BETTY AND MICHAEL D. WOHL VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

KEEPING OUR PROMISE, HONORING THEIR SERVICE

Founded in 2015, the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the College of Law is now in its seventh year of providing quality legal advice to veterans in Syracuse and across New York State. The Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) provides legal representation to veterans and their families who are seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or upgrading a military discharge through the various military branches. The VLC is staffed by student attorneys in their 2L or 3L year at the College of Law, many who are veterans themselves or who have a connection to the military and a passion for serving veterans.

The VLC serves two critical functions on the Syracuse University campus. The VLC provides legal advice to veterans and their families and also provides a training opportunity to empower law school students as veteran advocates. Student attorneys at the VLC learn about veteran’s law, military law, and federal administrative law. Student attorneys manage actual veteran clients and their cases, engage in fact investigation, draft persuasive letters and briefs to the various governmental agencies, and even have the opportunity to orally advocate for clients.

This past year, student attorneys in the VLC performed a broad array of administrative actions and court appeals to challenge wrongful denials of
federal veterans' benefits. Our students adapted to the VA’s new tele-hearing format and regularly appeared with their clients before Veterans Law Judges at the Board of Veterans Appeals (Board). Appeals to the Board involved issues around service connection for medical issues including veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and sleep apnea. Students collaborated together to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on cases dealing with a veteran’s chronic fatigue syndrome, as well a deceased veteran’s claim for asbestos exposure that his widow is continuing to pursue on his behalf. Finally, student attorneys are practicing before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on behalf of a widow who has been denied the military’s survivor benefit plan.

OPERATION VETERAN ADVOCACY UPDATE

OVA (Operation Veteran Advocacy) is a student-run College of Law organization that provides Syracuse University College of Law students an opportunity to engage with and assist veterans in the community. This year OVA resumed many of its regular activities. In the fall semester, led by President Ryan Marquette, the OVA student leadership participated in the fall student veteran welcome on campus. OVA co-hosted the College of Law’s fourth annual Veterans Day Celebration, a ceremony that honors those who have served and serve in and out of uniform. The ceremony featured the senior uniformed lawyer in the U.S. Navy, Vice Admiral Del Crandall, Jr., who shared his perspectives on the meaning of Veterans Day and why our nation celebrates Veterans and their service with the College of Law Community.

In November, as part of the Central New York Veterans Parade and Expo, students in OVA teamed up with Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY for Valor Day at the New York State Fairgrounds. Law students and local attorneys provided free legal consultations for veterans and their family members as part of the area’s Veterans Day events.

OVA participated in Law Alumni Weekend to strengthen connections between the current students and our alumni. During the College of Law’s Alumni Weekend, OVA supported an event titled “Serving Veterans at the College of Law and in the Community.” Students in OVA shared clinic and Syracuse University-wide updates and impact with our alumni. The oldest living College of Law alumnus and WWII and Korean War-era veteran, Robert Gang ’39, L’42, was recognized in front of current faculty, alumni, students and honored guests.

MILITARY VISUAL JOURNALISM

The Military Visual Journalism Program has been at Newhouse since 1963. For nearly six decades, Syracuse University’s military visual journalism program has prepared service members to tell stories through compelling imagery and video. Active-duty Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Soldiers who work as Public Affairs and Mass Communication specialists study at Newhouse for 10 months under a contract with the Department of Defense. These students take classes in Photography, Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Sound, Documentary, Multimedia, social media, Design, and Communications. They leave Newhouse with 30 credit hours and a certificate of completion, along with the ability to matriculate to SU and earn a bachelor’s degree from Newhouse.

While at Newhouse, students hone their skills and become higher-level storytellers for the Department of Defense. They are non-commissioned officers whose duty after they leave Syracuse is to pass on the knowledge they acquired to fellow military members they supervise in their next command and beyond.

This year, ten Military Photojournalism and six Military Motion Media participants completed the program at Syracuse University.
DEFENSE COMPTROLLERSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1952, Syracuse University’s Martin J. Whitman School of Management has been home to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP). The DCP represents a unique cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. The curriculum is a 60-credit hour program that the students complete in 14 months. Graduates are awarded a Master of Business (MBA) degree and an Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) degree. Students take 42 credits at the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and eighteen credits at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. The name was changed from the Army Comptrollership Program (ACP) to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP) starting with the class of 2006. Since its inception, the DCP program boasts 2,064 graduates including 25 participants in the class of 2022.
U.S. ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Syracuse University School of Education and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (SGM-A) began a partnership in August 2019 to offer a master’s degrees in instructional design, development, and evaluation (IDD&E), offered fully online through the School of Education to SGM-A fellows. The fellows, who are assigned to Fort Bliss for three years, will finish their degrees within a year and go on to design and instruct the academy’s Sergeants Major Course, which educates the military’s enlisted personnel to operate on all levels of leadership. The third cohort of 14 USASMA fellows began in Summer 2021.
VETERAN CAREER SERVICES

Supporting Student Veteran Career Pathways
Syracuse University Veteran Career Services in the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs is exclusively dedicated to supporting the career pathways of all Syracuse University student veterans and is committed to Syracuse University being the “Best Place for Veterans.” Veteran Career Services strives to deliver a portfolio of customized and innovative veteran-focused programs and services that prepares student veterans for career paths after graduation. Veteran Career Services provides student veterans with opportunities that help them to get started by exploring career possibilities, to build skills that make them marketable and to take action by getting experience and making meaningful connections with alumni and employers.

How We Supported Syracuse University Student Veterans In 2021-22
In this challenging environment, creating opportunities that support the career pathways of Syracuse University student veterans has been the priority of Veteran Career Services. Over this past academic year, Veteran Career Services is proud to have been able to deliver new and existing programs to Syracuse University’s military-connected community.

OVMA Undergraduate Internship Award
Last year Veteran Career Services introduced the OVMA Undergraduate Internship Award; an award that aims to eliminate the financial barriers that might impede student veterans from participating in internship opportunities. Internships are a cornerstone to career exploration and development and are essential to accessing meaningful employment opportunities. After last year’s soft launch of the Internship Award, Veteran Career Services grew the number of internship award recipients from 1 to 8 awardees for a total of $31,500 was dispersed to the recipients.

Those who received the Internship Award indicated that the funds directly impacted their ability to participate in their internship by eliminating financial barriers that would have otherwise limited their ability to partake in their internship. Awardees noted that the funds received were used to offset associated costs necessary to perform the internship, which include:

- Childcare
- Food
- Rent
- Transportation
- Gas/Tolls/Parking
- Moving Expenses
- Utilities

The OVMA Undergraduate Internship Award is open to all full and part-time undergraduate student veterans with the intent to provide financial assistance during the summer semester when internships are most prevalent. Applications are accepted beginning October 31 through May 31.
OVMA Connect - Flash Mentorship and Community Building Program

Veteran Career Services prepares and supports student veterans’ career development by providing opportunities for students to connect with employers and alumni, which is an essential part of building community. In support of this line of effort, Veteran Career Services launched OVMA Connect, a flash mentoring platform that offers a platform for quick, one-time meetings between Syracuse University student veterans and OVMA mentors. OVMA Connect is a valuable tool for alumni to network and build our Orange community.

The flash mentorship capabilities on OVMA Connect provides student veterans the opportunity to ask mentors about their experiences, get career advice, conduct informational interviews, and network. OVMA Connect is creating an organic community, built on sharing experience and expertise that will influence and impact student veteran career pathways.

From the official launch in January 2022, the OVMA Connect community increased to almost 280 members which includes 225 Student Veterans.

SVA NATCON Employer Networking Reception

In conjunction with Student Veteran of America’s National Conference, Veteran Career Services hosted an Employer Networking Reception at Disney’s Coranado Springs - the site of this year’s conference. The networking reception was a unique and exclusive opportunity for Syracuse University student veterans to connect directly with top employers attending the conference. The event also allowed student veterans to network with industry leaders to help leverage their career goals and to build their professional networks. The Employer Networking Reception came at a time when there has been an absence of in person events and opportunities for student veterans to participate in, and for some this was their first opportunity to connect with employers face-to-face.

WRP

For the last several years, Veteran Career Services served as one of two University liaisons for the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP). WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private-sector employers nationwide with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to demonstrate their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs. Each year Veteran Career Services has at least one student veteran electing to participate in the program, this year 3 out of the 13 participants were student veterans. The WRP program is another example of how Veteran Career Services provides unique opportunities for student veterans.

Building Skills through Cisco Networking Academy

In partnership with the Institute for Veteran and Military Families, Veteran Career Services is pleased to provide Syracuse University student veterans with access to FREE Cisco Networking Academy courses that can lead to industry level certifications. Building skills and obtaining industry-level certifications is a great way for student veterans to widen their aperture allowing them to access opportunities that may otherwise be unobtainable. The Cisco Networking Academy courses include information security, system security, networking security, network administration, cloud security, and popular programming languages like Python and Linux, which cover essential knowledge for all cybersecurity and information technology domains used in protecting businesses.
Highlights from the Graduating Student Veterans Class of 2021
Veteran Career Services conducts a First Destination Survey for Syracuse University’s military-connected population with an emphasis on surveying outcomes data on undergraduate student veterans. The class of 2021 consists of graduates from late summer 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021, early summer 2021. Below is a snapshot of the class of 2021:

**TOP EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY STUDENT VETERANS**
2. Amazon.com
3. Northrop Grumman Corp.
4. Syracuse University
5. Department of Defense (DOD)
6. General Motors Co.
7. Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Co.
8. Rapid Response Monitoring Services
9. Accenture plc
10. U.S. Department of State
12. The Library of Congress
13. Apple Inc.
14. Deloitte US
15. Department of Veterans Affairs
16. National Football League (NFL)
17. L3Harris Technologies
18. Lockheed Martin Corp.

**TOP RESPONSES BY INDUSTRY**
1. Defense
2. Government - Local, State & Federal
3. Information Technology
4. Higher Education
5. Healthcare
6. Government - Consulting
7. Investment Banking
8. Management Consulting
9. Transportation & Logistics
10. Non-Profit
11. Manufacturing
12. Electronic & Computer Hardware
13. Other Education
14. Movies, TV, Music
15. Restaurants & Food Service
16. Journalism, Media & Publishing
17. Social Assistance
18. Telecommunications
19. International Affairs
20. Agriculture

**WHERE LOCATED**
The majority of those student veterans who responded work within the Northeastern Corridor.
As a Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE) partner campus for the sixth year, Syracuse’s PAVE team, led by team leaders, Miguel Pica ’22 and Amanda Lalonde ’23, paired all incoming undergraduate student veterans with a peer advisor to help them navigate college life, address challenges they may face, refer them to appropriate resources on and off-campus, and provide ongoing support. This year the PAVE team consisted of four Fall 2022 and five Spring 2022 Peer Advisors serving 54 undergraduate student veterans.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY OFFERS:

MORE THAN 200 MAJORS

100 DIFFERENT MINORS

FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS

SINCE 2015, THE VETERAN ADMISSIONS TEAM HAS HELPED INCREASE MILITARY-CONNECTED ENROLLMENT BY OVER 500%
National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC), Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Building
NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

In November 2021, Syracuse University dedicated its National Veterans Resource Center at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building. This innovative facility serves veterans and military-connected families in Central New York and across the nation. The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs calls the third floor of this state-of-the-art building our home where we can serve military-connected students, alumni, staff, and faculty. The NVRC is also the home to the Institute for Veteran and Military Families, Office of Veteran Success, Veteran Career Services, Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC. By bringing these resources under one roof, OVMA can best serve the Syracuse University military-connected population.
Over the past year, the NVRC has welcomed many guests, including community leaders, special events highlighting the military-connected community, and leaders in the field of higher education.
RESERVE RECRUITING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (R2PC) EVENT

Lieutenant Colonel John R. Dickens, Commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Syracuse hosted their Recruiting Reserve Partnership Council (R2PC) in the K.G. Tan Auditorium, National Veterans Resource Center at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building. Command groups from across New York State and beyond were invited for this one-day event to discuss partnerships between reserve units, ROTC and Army Reserve Career Group. As part of the R2PC, representatives from the Syracuse University College of Professional Studies were invited to provide an overview of online education opportunities available, especially educational opportunities available at the tuition assistance rate. Syracuse University will honor the Department of Defense (DoD) TA rate for eligible military at the rate of $250 per credit hour. This applies to eligible Active Duty, National Guard members and US Reserve Component military pursuing part-time online undergraduate degrees covering 100% of tuition. At the conclusion of the event Kimberly Lantry, Administrative Assistant, and Jennifer Pluta, Director of Veteran Career Services, were presented with a plaque as a token of appreciation from the Syracuse Recruiting BN for their support for hosting the R2PC.
VETERAN’S DAY CEREMONY

The Annual 2021 Veterans Day Ceremony at Syracuse was held for the first time in the National Veterans Resource Center at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building. The event, traditionally held at 11 a.m. on November 11th featured a welcome and introduction by Charlie Poag, a senior in the Newhouse School and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Christine Brophy, research analyst, Office of Institutional Research and a U.S. Army veteran, shared the history of Veterans Day. Harris Krahn, a senior in the Maxwell School and College of Arts and Sciences, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and secretary of the Student Veterans Organization, spoke on the University’s history of serving veterans and reflect on his own experiences on campus. The ceremony included remarks from Chancellor Kent Syverud and Hendricks Chapel Dean Brian Konkol. Chancellor Syverud introduced the event’s keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Victor Holman ’82, U.S. Army, Retired. The event will also feature performances from the Syracuse University Singers and the 198th U.S. Army Band.
Bana Miller ’04
As a military spouse of 16 years, Bana Miller ’04 knows a thing or two about moving due to assignments. She recently made her fifth move in seven years, this time to Seattle, where her husband, Lt. Col. Matt Miller, is now stationed. “I count myself very lucky to be a military family member, even with all the challenges it brings... I credit my education at Syracuse University for giving me a really solid foundation and putting me in the best position possible for thriving in my career when I did become a military spouse.”

Ryan Austin Yon ’23
While stationed at the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York, Ryan Austin Yon set a goal to attend Syracuse University under the Green to Gold Scholarship Program. Yon succeeded in winning the scholarship and began at the university in 2019. He is a dual major, studying policy studies at the Maxwell School and data analytics in the School of Information Studies, while simultaneously serving as a cadet in the Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC).

Stephen Woodard ’70
Stephen Woodard ’70, who served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, was a proud Air Force ROTC cadet as a student at Syracuse University from 1966-70. He earned a degree in English literature from the College of Arts and Sciences and met his wife, Carol Woodard ’70, a graduate of the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. While challenging, it was a time that was the foundation of his personal and professional life.

Justin Pascual ’20, G’22
As a former explosive technician with the U.S. Air Force, Justin Pascual ’20, G’22 knows what it takes to stay focused in the field of duty and intentional in his actions. That’s why the nutrition science graduate student in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics wants to next support the military by becoming a naval aerospace and operational physiologist in the United States Navy.

Dania Tompkins ’24
Dania Tompkins ’24 spent eight years in the U.S. Navy as an electrician’s mate first class on the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76), becoming the first and only female leading petty officer in the reactor division.

A high score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test sparked an interest that would carry Dania Tompkins ’24 throughout her military career and beyond. Tompkins is studying liberal arts through the College of Professional Studies at Syracuse University to advance her career in the field of green energy.
After having to forgo the annual Stars and Stripes Tailgate in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OVMA celebrated gathering once again in 2021 with the 7th annual Stars and Stripes Tailgate at Manley Field House. Over 600 individuals, from the military-connected community including student veterans, members of local Reserve and Guard units as well as members of local VSO (Veteran Service Organizations), and 200 soldiers and family members from Fort Drum joined Syracuse University to celebrate in advance of the 2021 Military Appreciation Football Game vs Wake Forest on October 9th.
The February 26th Syracuse Men’s Basketball vs. Duke game was the last time that Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski would coach at the JMA Wireless Dome against his good friend Coach Jim Boeheim. In honor of this final Syracuse meetup, Boeheim and the University presented “Coach K” with a framed photo printed on a piece of the former Carrier Dome roof and announced the creation of a new scholarship in Krzyzewski’s name, recognizing his commitment to community and his military service. Krzyzewski separated from the military in 1974 as a captain, following his graduation from West Point in 1969.

The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement will now be presented annually to a Syracuse University student veteran, serving military member or a military family member enrolled here, who through their actions and aspirations embodies Krzyzewski’s public and demonstrated commitment to the virtues of honor, empathy, and servant-leadership. The Krzyzewski Award honoree will not only be an exceptional student but also a leader on the campus and in the community.

An annual gift from Jim Lee ’75 and his wife Lou Ann Lee has made The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement possible.

**VA HOSPITAL GAME RECOGNITION**

Syracuse Veterans Affairs Hospital employees were recognized during the Men’s Basketball game vs. Boston College on February 19, 2022. Employees were given tickets to the game and recognized during a mid-game shoutout.
1LT JAMES N. LYONS PERSONALITY PANEL UNVEILING CEREMONY

On October 15th, OVMA honored U.S. Army 1LT James N. Lyons ’03 with an unveiling of a personality panel in the NVRC’s Hall of Honor. He arrived on the Syracuse University campus in 1998 as a biochemistry major with aspirations of playing collegiate lacrosse for the Orange. A shoulder injury before his first year at the University sidelined his athletic dreams, but not the love for sports, traveling, and service to others. James joined the Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) fraternity and the Syracuse University Ambulance Department and began a life of service to others. When the September 11th, 2001, attacks occurred, James felt it was his turn to serve in the military. After graduating from Syracuse University in 2003 with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, James enlisted in the United States Army and completed basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He then attended Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia earning a commission as an Armor Officer.

James was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. He served as a tank platoon leader and deployed with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On September 27, 2006, First Lieutenant James N. Lyons was shot and killed in southern Baghdad, Iraq while his unit was attacking insurgents that had attacked a key strategic facility. At the time of his death, James was Syracuse University’s first known and youngest casualty of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the unveiling ceremony in the NVRC, James’ fiancée, Hillary Trent Genge ’02 G12 spoke about James’s legacy and helped his parents, Robert and Marcia Lyons unveil his personality panel.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNING

On November 23, 2021, Syracuse University representatives gathered with a number of other representatives from universities across the nation for an Innovation Orientation Day that culminated with the signing of an Educational Partnership Agreement at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The educational partnership agreement will strengthen these institutions existing relationships with the military and allow for new opportunities to encourage and enhance education, research, data literacy, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and other disciplines. In May 2022, Col Jason Curl, Deputy Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division (LI) visited the NVRC to discuss and sign an Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA).

ORANGE DOOR PROGRAM

Student veterans looking for transition support can connect to resources through the Orange Door program. These doors, identified on campus with an Orange Door hanger, are the offices of faculty and staff who have volunteered to be student veteran liaisons that can address the issues that often arise in transition. They are resources that provide support and care for academic, behavioral, legal, financial, personal, and family issues. Though student veteran liaisons do not replace a student veteran’s academic advisor, they can help supplement the support and connections student veterans build on campus. Currently, there are over 120 Orange Door Liaisons identified on campus.

“An Orange Door opens up pathways to inclusivity and understanding essential to the values of Syracuse University. These door hangers can help be a catalyst for dialogue and make our student veteran population feel welcome” says Ron Novack, executive director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs.
MILITARY-CONNECTED FEATURES

Brynn Taylor ’25
Brynn Taylor ’25 is a first-year student at Syracuse this fall using the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which allows service members to transfer their benefit to a spouse or child when they meet specific criteria. Her father, Scott, transferred his educational benefit to her after serving more than two decades in the Army. Scott Taylor is the director of transfer and veteran admissions at Syracuse, helping veterans and military family members like Brynn pursue their educational goals. “I feel super grateful,” says Brynn. “The pride that you get, seeing your family member in uniform and thinking, ‘Wow, they’re serving my country.’ I feel really fortunate that he served and that I’m able to go to a good school.”

James Flores-Lombay
Captain James Flores-Lombay is proud to be a Puerto Rican serving in the U.S. Air Force. As an operation flight commander he leads, recruits, trains, counsels, and evaluates the Syracuse University-Air Force ROTC Det 535 cadets as future Air Force officers. Additionally, he serves as a liaison between the detachment commander and the students - directing and leading laboratories and instructing the freshman class.

Tiffany Love L’22
Military spouse Tiffany Love is a member of the first cohort of JDi students. She was planning to attend law school in person in 2019 after her family returned from being stationed in Japan. While preparing for the Law School Admission Test, her husband’s military career forced her to change her plans. Instead of being sent back to the United States, her husband was ordered to serve in Germany for the next several years. Love says the JDi program is flexible enough that she can complete the coursework from anywhere.

Ryan Marquette L’22
From organizations to internships, Ryan Marquette L’22 had the chance to explore different areas of law while pursuing a Juris Doctor at Syracuse University’s College of Law and a Master of Public Administration through the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs—a three-year joint program that combines law and policy. In addition to his rigorous schoolwork, Marquette, a U.S. Army veteran and active member of the Army National Guard, also had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience last summer at the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic, the Children’s Rights & Family Law Clinic and the Criminal Defense Clinic, gaining exposure to three areas of law in which he previously had little experience.

Miguel Pica ’22
Miguel Pica ’22 transitioned from military service to attend Syracuse University in the Fall of 2019, where he began the pursuit of his baccalaureate degree in Policy Studies at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with minors in Public Health and Biology. As a 2022 graduate with dreams to pursue a master’s degree in public health, Miguel’s service to others continues both on and off-campus. He dedicated his time to mentoring new student veterans arriving on campus while serving as the Peer Advisor for Veterans in Education (PAVE) Team Leader, remained involved with the University’s Student Veteran Organization (SVO), served as one of the University Senators for undergraduates, and volunteered his time tutoring for La Casita Cultural Center.

Robert Gang ’39 L’42
At 103 years old, Robert Gang ’39 L’42 is the oldest living alumnus of Syracuse University’s College of Law. The WWII and the Korean War-era veteran attended Syracuse University as both an undergraduate and law school student, and he was a member of Syracuse University’s Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Madeline Messare ’22
When most college students are asleep, Madeline Messare ’22, and her fellow ROTC cadets are already well into their morning workout. Starting her day at 5 a.m., Messare, a dual major in forensic science and psychology at Syracuse University’s College of Arts and Sciences, thrives on the challenges being a cadet presents. “I love the structure of it, the mental and physical challenge that makes accomplishing a goal extremely rewarding. I am proud to wear the uniform because it symbolizes being a part of something bigger than myself,” she says.
Richard Jones '92, G'95, L'95

The newly appointed chair of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) Advisory Board, Richard M. (Rich) Jones ’92, G’95, L’95, believes that President Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address provides us with a call to action. He says that the most important obligation as a nation and as a university community is to “care for those who have borne the battle.” Jones says it is this very commitment that has guided the leaders of Syracuse University for many decades and will shape the future for generations to come.

Josh Seefried G’22

Social entrepreneur Josh Seefried G’22 has always enjoyed activism and organizing ideas. It’s what led the retired Air Force captain to use social media to carve out a space for fellow LGBTQ service members to communicate, and eventually enroll in Syracuse University’s MBA Program online. Seefried says he wanted to pursue an MBA because while he had a lot of firsthand experience from advocating for the LGBTQ military community and helping fellow service members come out after “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was repealed in 2010, he lacked “book smarts.”

Tru M. Truong G’24

Originally from the small town of Ben Tre, Vietnam, Tru Truong began her journey in the U.S. at 12 years old when she moved with her mother and sister to Maryland. She was always interested in joining the military as she liked the idea of unpredictable work, discipline, and a lot of travel. But first, she had to get her college degree. Tru Truong served as a construction mechanic as part of the SeaBee community in the U.S. Navy. Truong earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland, where she studied civil engineering and enjoyed working at the theater of performing arts on campus while she was there, doing construction and making props for the stage. After graduation, she still had the urge to join the military, so she enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2013. Today, Truong is attending Syracuse University on a VA benefit. In addition to the 16 credit hours she is currently tackling, she also works at the fabrication shops in the School of Architecture.

Jasmeane Brock L’24

Taking this steadfast approach to decision-making is how Brock found her way to the College of Law’s JDinteractive (JDi) program. It’s also how she decided to join the U.S. Army. Together, Brock’s confident choices are adding up to a consistent purpose. “I made the decision about law school at Syracuse the same way I did about joining the Army,” she says. “I was either going to go for law school or not, and either way I would be ok with it.”

Since starting her JDi, Brock has enjoyed advancing her initial research on policies that can one day help other military service members. She’s worked with Beth Kubala, teaching professor and executive director of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic in the College of Law, and Suzette Melendez, the College of Law’s associate dean of equity and inclusion.

Sharon Otasowie L’21

Sharon Otasowie L’21 is a proud College of Law alumna. Her experience as an Air Force ROTC JAG (Judge Advocate General Corps) cadet at the University prepared her well for her first assignment as an Air Force JAG officer. Now stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico, Otasowie was born in Nigeria and raised in southern California. She appreciates how the College of Law was people-oriented and didn’t foster an over-competitive culture. “At Syracuse, everybody wanted to be there to help you,” she says. “Professors were so approachable and helpful, and I was getting the best I could to succeed.”

Kola Oluwagbemi, G’22

National Guard soldier and federal civil servant Kola Oluwagbemi, G’22 has had a “very favorable experience” as a result of the University’s commitment to the military community. The National Guard Bureau (NGB) selected Kola to participate in the Defense Controllership Program (DCP). The DCP is a 14-month program designed primarily for Department of Defense (DoD) military and civilian personnel in the financial management discipline. Upon graduation, he will earn an MBA from the Whitman School of Management and an EMPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.
David Ladd '22

David, a US Army Veteran, graduated from the iSchool in May 2022 and earned a Master’s Degree in Applied Data Science along with Certificates of Advanced Studies in Information Technology and Information Security. During his last quarter as a student veteran, David applied for a work-study with Veteran Career Services and was hired by Jennifer Pluta as an assistant. During the work study, David helped Jennifer launch OVMA Connect and provided expertise in data analytics. After graduation, David continued to work for Veteran Career Services as a part-time SU employee and recently accepted a full-time position as a Database Administrator in SU’s department of Enterprise Application Services. David is dedicated to helping student veterans and will continue working part time for Veteran Career Services.

Amanda Lalonde '23

Amanda Lalonde '23 discovered that some of the best lessons in higher education come after a roundabout journey. LaLonde powered through different schools and degree programs, into military service in the Navy and Navy Reserve, and on to full-time family duty, before coming back home to Central New York where it has all clicked for her at Syracuse University. Here, she’s embracing her best college experience as an Honors student, recipient of the Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship, and 2022 Remembrance Scholar.

Janice Poe '22

Growing up in Atlanta, Janice Poe spent her whole life in the city, and always wanted to go to college. She thought joining the military would be the best way to pay for it and was fortunate to get into West Point. She thrived there for two years before realizing, just in time, that it wasn’t the best fit for her because she wanted to pursue advanced studies in the medical field. However, the long, rigid service commitment that comes after a West Point education wouldn’t guarantee a chance to go right away. Just ten days after leaving West Point, Poe enlisted in the Army National Guard. It came with greater flexibility and combined with a Minuteman scholarship; she’d have her college fees covered. As a Simultaneous Membership Program cadet, Poe got to experience student life with the Syracuse ROTC battalion and continued service in the guard.

Jennifer Pluta G'15

Jennifer Pluta G’15 has exactly the right mix of experience for her work as the director of Veteran Career Services. A native of the Binghamton, New York area, Pluta has served in the Army Reserve for 23 years, where she’s a career counselor, a master sergeant, and was recently selected as qualified for sergeant major. As a career counselor, she leads a team to help fellow soldiers progress in their military careers. It’s like her role at Syracuse, where for nearly 17 years, she’s helped student veterans learn more about, pursue and seize employment opportunities they may have never thought to consider. She also leads the University’s Veterans Affinity Group for faculty and staff. And, with an impressive 100% placement rate connecting student veterans to new careers, Pluta has plenty of insights on the magic behind helping service members and student veterans thrive.

Dwayne Murray '97

When Dwayne Murray '97 was about seven years old, his grandmother bought him a Syracuse University sweatshirt from the Salvation Army. “Growing up in the New York metro area, there’s instantly an identifiable passion for anything Syracuse University,” he says. “I have always felt a gravitational pull in my heart just to be in that space. “Today Murray and his family are feeling that pull and seeing Orange as they set their sights on a return to Syracuse in June 2022. “I speak with the authority of my family team,” he says. “Team Murray is bought in. We love Syracuse. We love this school.” Murray also speaks with unbridled enthusiasm for his new role as the deputy director of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA). The job is especially suited for his experience, abilities, and profound passion for service, students, and Syracuse University.

Emily Graham '22

When Emily Graham’s husband Nick was admitted to Syracuse Law School, Emily had one year left in her military commitment. Nicholas deferred entry for a year while Emily finished her service and considered options in higher education. She had started her nursing degree and was planning to become a public health nurse but didn’t have a great passion for the nursing part so much as the public health part. That’s when she and Nicholas went on their trip to Bali. “We saw a man with a Syracuse shirt on, which is unusual to see in that part of the world,” she says. “When we talked to him, it turns out he was on the board of directors for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families. He said I have to check out
Syracuse. I was pretty dead set on going to nursing school to become a public health nurse, but I looked into Syracuse’s public health program because of him. I’m glad I made the decision to switch.”

Nadia Morris-Mitchell ’24
Nadia Morris-Mitchell ’24 doesn’t have a lot of time to spare. As a National Guard member, part-time fitness instructor, and full-time employee, she knows it’s crucial to balance her schedule. “I’m just that person who’s always running a million miles an hour,” she says. She had been interested in going back to school to gain greater management skills but was wary of the time constraints. So, when a representative from Syracuse University came to speak with the veterans working with the U.S. Air Force at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base about continuing their education utilizing their flexible learning formats, she was intrigued. She’s now pursuing a degree in creative leadership through the College of Professional Studies. “I am hoping to learn how to better present myself in a position of leadership, and this program is a perfect avenue.”

Si Yun (Sara) Lim ’22
Si Yun (Sara) Lim knew she wanted to study international relations at Syracuse University, even if she didn’t know where she’d be heading at first. “I got my acceptance letter, and my mom asked me where Syracuse was. I had no idea,” Lim says. “I thought I was going to New York City.” That might be the only part of Lim’s story that has seemingly taken her off track. She emigrated from South Korea when she was 5 years old, settling with her family in Suwanee, Georgia. Though her father served in the Korean military years before she was born, she found her drive to join Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) through experiences with other military-connected people growing up.

ALUMNI STORY
NEWT HEISLEY

Newton “Newt” Foust Heisley was born in 1920. Originally from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, he attended Syracuse University and graduated in 1942 with a fine arts degree from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Heisley was hired to be a graphic designer at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Heisley commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and attended flight training in Texas at Ellington Field.

After WWII, Heisley returned to the United States and began working at the Hayden Advertising Agency in New Jersey. One of Hayden’s clients was Annin Flag Company, the world’s largest flag manufacturer at that time. In 1971, the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was looking for a flag design to promote their organization. Heisley was given the task of creating a flag for their organization.

Heisley’s image of a black and white prisoner’s silhouette has since been adopted as a symbol for America’s missing service members. In 1988 the flag was flown over the White House, and since 1989 is the only flag permanently displayed at the U.S. Capitol. In 1990, the POW/MIA flag was ordered by law to be displayed in national cemeteries, military bases, veteran memorials the U.S. Post Office on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day,
FIRST STUDENT VETERAN APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ryan Marquette a 2022 College of Law and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs Graduate, was named as a Student Representative Appointed to the Board of Trustees. Before attending the College of Law, Marquette served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army for eight years and continues to serve in the New York Army National Guard.

Marquette also served as president of Operation Veteran Advocacy, president of the National Security Student Association, and member of the Syracuse Law Review. He is also a research assistant for Judge James E. Baker in the College of Law’s Institute for Security Policy and Law.

Marquette served as the inaugural law student representative for the 2021-22 academic year. He also participated, ex officio, on the board’s Academic Affairs Committee and Enrollment and the Student Experience Committee.

STUDENT VETERANS’ ORGANIZATION

SVO AWARDS

The Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) presented two awards to student veterans in honor of their significant and notable achievements during the SVO’s social held at the Inn Complete on May 6, 2022.

This year’s awards included the Student Veteran of the Year Award which was awarded to Ryan Marquette L’22 and the Danny Facto VA Work-Study Award which was awarded to David Ladd G’22.

ARMY AND AIR FORCE ROTC

One of the longest consecutive running programs of its kind in the country, Syracuse University’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) trains students to commission as officers in the Army and Air Force. Throughout their training, cadets are accessed on a wide variety of metrics, including grade point average, physical fitness, and leadership.

When cadets from both the Army and Air Force received their final assessments and national rankings this past year, several cadets received prestigious awards.

SHARP RUN

On April 7, 2022 Army ROTC cadets and cadre participated in a 5K for SHARP awareness. Army ROTC Cadets Madeline Messare and Lillian McGowen organized the event on campus to bring attention to sexual harassment prevention.
designations and were among the top-ranked cadets in the country. Army cadets attended advanced training camp over the summer, and eight were selected as distinguished military graduates, meaning they were assessed in the top 15% of all cadets nationwide, including active duty, national guard, and reserves. For Air Force cadets, the assessment process begins their first year in the program and continues through their senior year, appearing in front of their leadership boards. Cadets are evaluated based on their grades, military bearing, and technical expertise and are compared to cadets nationwide. During their junior year, cadets submit their preferences for competitive-rated career fields, like pilots. Based on these assessments and submitted preferences, the Air Force assigns the cadets their military specialty. Every Air Force cadet that applied was selected for rated positions.

COLOR GUARD AT JIMMY V CLASSIC

The Syracuse University Joint ROTC Color Guard traveled to New York City on December 6, 2021, to present the colors during the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden.

CHANCELLOR’S REVIEW

For the past two years, the University’s ROTC cadets have had to celebrate their accomplishments and receive their scholarship awards virtually. Due to the COVID pandemic, the annual Pass in Review event where cadets perform drills and ceremony in formation as Chancellor Kent Syverud “reviews the troops” and presents awards, was forced to be put on hold. But this year’s 105th Chancellor’s Review, sponsored by the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA), was back in person at the JMA Wireless Dome, as more than 160 cadets were recognized for their distinguished performance and commitment to service.

Among those recognized were Army Cadet Isabella Lee and Air Force Cadet Erin Beaudoin, presented with the OVMA Commitment to Service Award by Vice Chancellor Michael Haynie.
LIPPERT WELCOME

In August 2021, Air Force ROTC welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col. Ryan Lippert. Born in Illinois, Lippert grew up in Colorado and has adopted Mandeville, Louisiana, as his unofficial hometown. Lippert was previously stationed at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath, an air base near the village of Lakenheath in Suffolk, England. In addition to flying the F-15E Strike Eagle, he served in numerous positions with the most recent being the 48th Operations Support Squadron commander. In that role, he was responsible for over 230 airmen, civilians, and contractors that kept the airfield open and supported members of the three fighter squadrons.

GOTIE FAREWELL

At the end of the Spring 2022 semester, Army ROTC bid farewell to their Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Gotie. LTC Gotie had overseen the Stalwart battalion for three years.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY VETERANS AFFINITY GROUP

Established as a partnership with OVMA, the Syracuse University Veterans Affinity Group is open to all members of the campus community who have served and also those with a passion for supporting the military. Since its founding in 2014, the Affinity Group has grown to almost 300 members and its ranks include employees from all areas of the University and branches of service.

This year the group was able to continue to connect, and reconnect, the University’s military connected community through virtual and in person events and meetings.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Veterans Affinity Group was proud to kick of the new year in the Bisignano Grand Hall of the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) with a networking social. This exciting event provided Affinity Group members the opportunity to experience the benefits and beauty of the NVRC while connecting with new and existing members in support of building community.

A highlight for the Veterans Affinity Group was an interactive tour of the newly renovated JMA Wireless Dome followed by a lunch at Club44. The tour was hosted by Pete Sala, Vice President & Chief Facilities Officer, Liza Rochelson, Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Chief Campus Facilities Officer, and the facility services team! The Affinity Group was excited to see all the amazing new features and upgrades at the JMA Wireless Dome, including the largest jumbotron of any university, state of the art sound system, and lighting. The JMA Wireless Dome is gaining popularity as a CNY concert venue and most recently hosted Sir Paul McCartney.

Members of the Affinity Group come together every month to host presentations from Affinity Group members or organizations. Highlights

At the end of the Spring 2022 semester, Army ROTC bid farewell to their Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Gotie. LTC Gotie had overseen the Stalwart battalion for three years.
from this year’s presentations included an overview of military-connected programs available through Syracuse University’s College of Professional Studies the coordinated care and services offered by the IVMF’s Syracuse Serves program, and the portfolio of services offered by Vets2Industry. The Vets2Industry presentation was hosted by the CEO, and Founder of Vets2Industry, Brian Arrington, an IVMF O2O alumnus.

This year the SU Vets Affinity Group was honored with the opportunity to hold the U.S. Flag for the SU Football vs Liberty game as part of the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Game. During pre-game festivities, SU Vets Affinity Group members and their families held the U.S. Flag across the field as the national anthem was played.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
For the fifth year in a row, the Veterans Affinity Group members joined forces with Syracuse University’s Facility Services, to clean and honor the Veterans section of Oakwood Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America (WAA) takes place in local, state and national cemeteries in all 50 states. This year, the Veterans Affinity Group spearheaded efforts to make Oakwood Cemetery an official part of National Wreaths Across America Day. The theme for WAA 2021 was “Live up to their legacy,” and the Veterans Affinity Group was proud to live up to the legacy of those who served by volunteering and participating in the WAA Ceremony and wreath laying at Oakwood Cemetery.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
Air Force veteran Phil Benedict was recognized as Syracuse University’s Hometown Hero during a Syracuse University Football game! Phil was a member of the U.S. Air Force Heyford Boxing team, and now serves as a Building Supervisor overseeing some of the most notable buildings on campus, including the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at the Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello Building. Phil is currently a Syracuse University student veteran studying to earn a master’s degree in Teaching & Curriculum from the School of Education. He is also an Adjunct Instructor teaching Women Self Defense and is the Head Coach and Trainer for the Syracuse University Boxing Team.

Edward Kiewra from the Office of Institutional Research was joined in the Bisignano Grand Hall of the NVRC by friends, family and colleagues in celebration of his retirement from Syracuse University. Lt. Col. Kiewra, US Army retired, was instrumental in helping Syracuse University become “the Best Place for Veterans!”

Speaking at this year’s Veterans Day Ceremony, was Affinity Group member Christine Brophy, from the Office of Institutional Research and U.S. veteran, who shared the history of the creation of what is known as today’s Veterans Day.

Jake VanMarter, founder and former president of the Veterans Affinity Group presented the members of the Affinity Group with a challenge coin for their services to the organization. Mr. VanMarter retired this year from Syracuse University Facility Services and had served for three years as the Affinity Group president.
OFFICE OF VETERAN SUCCESS

The mission of the Office of Veteran Success (OVS) is to support the student veteran experience on campus by assisting with their veteran educational benefits and the veteran work-study program. The Office provides an opportunity for student veterans to build community in conjunction with the Student Veterans Organization and providing an exclusive veterans lounge.

The Office of Veteran Success (OVS) expands

Syracuse University continues to experience the growth of military-connected students using Veterans Administration (VA) education benefits. To meet the demand of increasing veteran benefits processing and to sustain the student experience, the university has hired an additional School Certifying Official (SCO) to process and administer those benefits. Morgan Cooney joined the OVS team on May 2, 2022. Morgan graduated from Syracuse University with a master’s degree in Social Work in 2017 and previously worked as a healthcare social worker. Morgan is excited about the opportunity in returning to the university as an SCO to help veterans and their dependents navigate utilizing VA education benefits.

OPERATION WELCOME

The OVMA’s Office of Veteran Success OVS team provided welcome baskets filled with supplies to each of the new student veterans residing in south campus housing as part of Operation Welcome.
OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS
OVMA ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Comprised of leaders with diverse and many levels of experience in the military, government, business, higher education, and public service sector. The Board provides advice and counsel to the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs related to programs, initiatives, and opportunities positioned to advance the educational aspirations of the University’s veteran and military-connected students.

- **Mr. Richard M. Jones ’92, G’95, L’95**, Executive Vice President, Global Tax Counsel and Chief Veteran Officer for Paramount Global, U.S. Army veteran, OVMA Board Chair
- **Mr. Paul Dottle P’14, P’18**, Vice President, Global Shared Services, General Mills, U.S. Army veteran, Chairman Emeritus
- **CSM Gary Ginsburg ’72**, U.S. Army, Retired
- **Mr. James Lee ’75**, Former Equity Partner, Menio Global
- **LTC Millard Hall G’88**, U.S. Army, Retired, Associate Vice President, Specialized Services, ISS Facility Services, Inc.
- **Mr. Ken Quaglio G’91**, Senior Partner, Kearney, U.S. Army veteran
- **Mr. Glenn Richardson G’89**, Executive Consultant, LeaderSages, U.S. Army veteran
- **Mr. Mark Westervelt, P’18**, Environmental Consultant, Cooperstown Environmental
- **Ms. Janina Rios ’24**, School of Visual and Performing Arts, SVO (Student Veterans Organization) President, U.S. Army veteran
NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER DONOR ROLL

The National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at Syracuse University serves as a class-leading national exemplar of academic, government, and community collaboration positioned to empower those who have served in defense of our nation. The donors listed below have provided capital support between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 for this historic endeavor.

**BISIGNANO GRAND HALL**
Mr. Frank Bisignano, Mrs. Tracy S. Bisignano, and Family

**HILDAGO AND QUAGLIO FAMILIES OFFICE**
Mr. Kenneth L. Quaglio G’91, Ms. Valerie H. Quaglio, and Family

**WATSON FAMILY U.S. ARMY ROTC CLASSROOM**
Mr. David N. Watson, Mrs. Ellen T. Watson, and Family

**Individuals**
Dr. Gerald S. Alperstein G’78, Ph.D.’78
Ms. Sara G. Alperstein
Mr. Robert F. Anno ’81
Rebecca A. Anno
Mr. S. Jeffrey J. Bastable ’69, G’73
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Ms. Patricia Warden

If you would prefer your recognition name to appear differently in future publications, please email us at vlf@syr.edu.
Thank you to our many donors who are providing access for military-connected students

**MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Paul M. Dottle and Mrs. Valerie E. Dottle and Family

Gerald B. Faigle Jr. and Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Gerald B. Faigle, Jr. ’58, ’59 and Mrs. Roberta M. Faigle ’60

Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans  
Mr. Barry G. Flanik G’93 and Mrs. Kirsten P. Flanik

Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship  
Lt. Col. Millard Hall, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired G’88 and Dr. Lynette G. Hall ’89

Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students  
Mr. Wilder J. Leavitt ’86 and Ms. Mary P. Morningstar

Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship  
Mrs. Patricia H. Mautino ’64, G’66 and Mr. Louis A. Mautino ’61, G’62

Lucy and Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship Endowed Fund  
Mr. Ernest L. Herrman and Dr. Kathleen Herrman

Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents  
Mr. F. Glenn Richardson G’89 and Mrs. Carol Richardson

Spall Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans  
Mr. Theodore F. Spall, Jr. ’69 and Mrs. Suzanne A. Spall

James N. Lyons ’03 Sons and Daughters Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Mr. Marc Klein ’03 and other donors

The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement Established by Syracuse University  
2021-2022 funds provided by Mr. James Lee ’75 and Mrs. Lou Ann Lee
2021-2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following military-connected scholarships were awarded during the 2021-2022 school year. Scholarship support is the gift of opportunity and knowledge. Endowed and current-use scholarships enable Syracuse University to deliver the best educational experience possible for military-connected students.

Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Undergraduate Student Veteran Scholarship
Bounome Chanphouang '23
Christian Viola '22

Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Military Family Member Scholarship
Hannah Gavin L'23
Kamileh Rivera '23

Gerald B. Faigle Jr. and Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship
Megan Neuman G’23
Rob Ryan ‘23

Lucy and Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship
Amanda Lalonde ’23

Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students
Curtis Cline ’25
Cayden Lombard ’24
John Nipper ’23
Kamileh Rivera ’23

Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship
Joshua Kompf ’23
Hakim Morris ’24

Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans
Jesus Adkins ’23

The Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents
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Dottle Family Endowed Scholarship
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Brecken Feldman ’24
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OVMA Executive Director, Ron Novack, Gerry ’58, and Bobbie Faigle ’60 visiting campus for the Class of 1960 Sixtieth Reunion Celebration
MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH TARGETED SUPPORT

Scholarships
Scholarships provide access to the best educational experience and are a tremendous way to show your support for military-connected students.

The Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents
Glenn Richardson ’89, a U.S. Army veteran and Defense Comptrollership Program graduate, and Carol Richardson established the Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents to show their support for undergraduate military spouses and children currently enrolled at Syracuse University. Glenn and Carol recognize the significant role of military family members and the sacrifices they make, serving our nation alongside their loved ones in the armed forces.

“Carol and I are proud and fortunate to support military-connected students and the opportunity to promote Syracuse University as The Best Place for Veterans. GO ORANGE!"

—Glenn Richardson ’89
Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Member, U.S. Army veteran

Career Immersion
Launched in 2017, thanks to Mr. Paul Dottle P’14, P’18 & his family, their amazing gift made the career immersion program possible!

A gift to the Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program prepares students for civilian careers upon graduation through a combination of skills assessment, preparatory career-focused seminars, courses, and a three-day immersion trip to major metropolitan areas across the country. This experiential offering provides student veterans with valuable career networking and engagement opportunities.

“My family is honored to be a part of everything that is happening at Syracuse University in support of veteran and military-connected students on campus. A unique challenge faced by many of our student veterans is the task of navigating career opportunities. That is why I chose to endow the Veteran and Military-Connected Student Immersion Program. As a veteran and a proud father of a former U.S. Air Force officer, I cannot imagine a better cause to support.”

—Paul Dottle P’14, P’18
Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Member, U.S. Army veteran
Career Internships

The successful launch of the Career Internship Program was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Mark Westervelt P'18 and his family and Mr. Paul Dottle P'14, P'18 and his family, thank you!

The OVMA Student Veteran Undergraduate Internship Award was established to eliminate the financial barriers that impede student veterans from participating in internships. The award is open to all full- and part-time undergraduate student veterans. The annual award provides financial assistance to undergraduate student veterans during the summer semester when internships are most prevalent. The purpose of this fund is to help student veterans find the right jobs following graduation, internships are a crucial component of that job search.

“Veteran students are not typical undergraduate students. Veteran students are older, more mature, have greater life responsibilities and may even be supporting a family. An unpaid internship creates financial barriers for veteran students. The Student Veteran Undergraduate Internship Award breaks these financial barriers and allows veteran students access to the invaluable experiences associated with internships.”

—Mark Westervelt P’18
Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board Member & Jeanne Westervelt
ROTC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 2021, MG Peggy C. Combs U.S. Army, Retired ’85 provided a generous gift to launch the ROTC Professional Development Fund.

A gift to the ROTC Professional Development empowers aspiring cadets to enhance their leadership, management, team building, and communication skills to unleash their potential as future leaders. The ROTC Professional Development Fund helps to support additional leadership training and activities that enhance the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. It offers numerous opportunities for cadets to participate in professional development opportunities such as staff rides, retreats, lectures, and seminars to learn how to effectively inspire, develop, and lead others.

“I owe so much to the Syracuse University Army ROTC program and cadre. ROTC provided me with a foundation for so many successes I have enjoyed, not only in the Army, but throughout my life. In my time on campus, and despite the political climate of the 70’s, the University and my professors were always supportive of ROTC. It’s a wonderful feeling to see that SU’s tradition of support for veterans, and opportunities for today’s cadets, has only grown. The ROTC Professional Development Fund is an opportunity for me to try, in a small way, to Pay It Forward.”

—MAJ Timothy Brady ’78, U.S. Army, Retired
We would like to thank the donors who made a gift to the ROTC Professional Development Fund between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

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ROTC Fiscal Year 2022 Professional Development fundraising results
$10,700
We “Boost the ’Cuse” every time we come together to accomplish something great. On October 7, the Orange community joined together, once again, to make their gift to support current students because together we are Forever Orange.

Thank you to our donors who supported the Veteran Legacy Fund through the 2021 Boost the ’Cuse campaign.

**“Boost the ’Cuse”**
$13,898

The inaugural “What We Love About ROTC” campaign launched in February 2022 to support the ROTC Professional Development Fund. This fund supports additional leadership training and activities that strengthen the Army and Air Force ROTC programs.

Thank you to our donors who supported the 2022 ROTC Professional Development campaign.

**“What We Love About ROTC”**
$2,365

Make Your Mark 2022 Campaign made a world of difference for promising military-connected students and featured student stories sharing how important your gifts are!

Thank you to our donors who supported the Veteran Legacy fund through the 2022 Make Your Mark campaign.

**“Make Your Mark Campaign”**
$19,398
Air Force ROTC
DEVELOPING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY!

Air Force ROTC Cadets visiting Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Air Force ROTC Cadets visiting Griffiss Air Force Base, Rome, NY
James N. Lyons arrived on the Syracuse University campus in 1998 as a biochemistry major with aspirations of playing collegiate lacrosse for the Orange. A shoulder injury before his first year at the University sidelined his athletic dreams. James joined the DKE fraternity and began to pursue service to others through his fraternity and the Syracuse University Ambulance Department.

When the September 11, 2001 attacks occurred, James felt it was his turn to serve in the military, following his family’s long history of service dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. After graduating from Syracuse University in 2003, James enlisted in the United States Army.

On September 27, 2006, the Syracuse University community lost one of our own. United States Army 1st Lieutenant James N. Lyons ’03 was killed in action while trying to secure a water treatment facility from insurgents just south of Baghdad, Iraq. James was Syracuse University’s first known and youngest casualty of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In honor of James, his DKE brothers, friends and family established the James N. Lyons ’03 Sons and Daughters Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides support to Syracuse University students of fallen or disabled U.S. veterans.

We would like to thank the donors who made a gift to the James N. Lyons ’03 Sons & Daughters Memorial Scholarship Endowment between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

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Veteran Legacy Fund

The Veteran Legacy Fund provides unrestricted support to the Syracuse University military-connected community. We would like to thank the donors who made a gift to the Veteran Legacy Fund between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

We are grateful to the those listed below for their gifts and continued generosity:
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Chancellor Kent Syverud with members of the Syracuse Football Club, who generously donated to the Captain Floyd Benjamin “Ben” Schwartzwalder Hall of Honor in the National Veteran Resource Center.
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Paul Dottle P’14, P’18 and Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives & Innovation, Dr. Mike Haynie
Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle

Members of the Veteran Leadership Circle are a committed group of donors who shape the future of veteran and military-connected students at Syracuse University through their support. Members make a gift of $2,500 annually to the Veteran Legacy Fund to become Veteran Legacy Leadership Circle and Syracuse University Hill Society Members.

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To all our current members, thank you for your generous support and leadership.

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The “1944 Circle” recognizes graduates of the last decade who desire to take their commitment a step further. Veteran Legacy Fund 1944 Circle members make a gift of $250 or more annually to provide unrestricted support to our initiatives.

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To all our current members, thank you for your support.

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Rich Jones ’92, G’95, L’95 OVMA Board Chair with Warrior Scholar participants.
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Class Act, the Senior Class Giving Campaign, is an effort led by student ambassadors to encourage their peers to make a gift in honor of their senior year.

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Your donation to the Veteran Legacy Fund (VLF) will change the lives of military-connected students at Syracuse University.

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