



# UNLV STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION



Volume I, Issue III

**August 1, 2009**

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## **IMMEDIATE MESSAGE:**

### **THE POST 9/11 GI BILL WILL BE OFFICIALLY IMPLEMENTED ON AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Want to compare the Montgomery GI Bill to the New GI Bill or calculate your benefits:

See The New GI Bill Calculator at: [www.newgibill.org](http://www.newgibill.org)

### **Message from the President**

With the fall semester just three weeks away, all of our attention is shifting towards getting back into classes. If you haven't already applied for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you may want to as soon as possible. First, you should know all the details of the new GI Bill. It is very intricate and all the details need to be reviewed and evaluated on an individual basis before making the change from Chapter 30 to 33. Here are a few websites you can visit to assist in making a decision: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), [www.newgibill.org](http://www.newgibill.org), and visit our website [www.studentveterans.org/unlv](http://www.studentveterans.org/unlv) for a short video on the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The earlier you make the irrevocable switch the sooner you will receive your benefits. UNLV's certifying official and Bursar's office, our Regional VA office, and the National VA office are working diligently to ensure we all receive the benefits in a timely and efficient manner. However, there will be some kinks that need to be ironed out as the semester goes along so patience will be required.

UNLV SVO's website, [www.studentveterans.org/unlv](http://www.studentveterans.org/unlv), also contains all of our events and all updates that occur during the weeks between newsletters. The Directors and I are meeting and talking frequently in the next three weeks to plan a great semester for your organization. We all hope you can attend the bi-annual meeting **August 26, 2009 at 1100**, and every third Wednesday of the month's meetings this fall. Please stay up-to-date of all UNLV SVO happenings and feel free to contact me or any of the Directors anytime. We wish you all a remarkable semester and look forward to providing any services you may need in the upcoming months.

Rebel Regards,

Antonio Montenegro III

President

#### **I. Student Veterans Services Committee**

US Air force officer veteran, graduate student and Academic Success Center employee Sally Caspers lead the initiative in establishing a Student Veterans Services Committee. The first meeting took place on July 7<sup>th</sup> with several key administrators and faculty members in attendance. SVO Officers Kelly Mercer and Jeremiah Benardis were in attendance.

UNLV SVO would like to thank the following for attending and contributing their ideas to this newly formed committee:

Kelly Mercer, SVO; Jeremiah Benardis, SVO; John Jacobs, Admissions; Gayle Juneau, Advising; Gail Reese, VA; Clark Hochstetler, DRC; Neil Annandale, CAPS; Bob Ackerman, EDL; Liz Baldizan, ASC; Julio Espinoza, CAPS; Bill Geiser, AFROTC; Sally Caspers, ASC

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Location: Academic Success Center Conference Room

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## II. SVO Board of Directors Meeting

On July 16, all members of the board gathered to discuss plans for next semester and discuss new initiatives. The board will meet again on August 4<sup>th</sup> after the Student Veterans Services Committee meeting in the Lied Library. Meeting minutes are available upon request.

### SVO Board Member Spotlight:



Jeremiah was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming. He enlisted in the Army Reserves his junior year of high school at the age of 17. In 2003 he served in Operation Enduring Freedom and after coming home he completed an Associate of Applied Science degree in Drafting & Design in 2005, and an Associate of Science degree in General Studies in 2006. Jeremiah is currently a member of the Nevada Army National Guard with the 240th Eng. Co. He is attending UNLV to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology while also participating in the Army ROTC program to receive his commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation. Jeremiah held the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) before becoming a Cadet. Jeremiah was the Distinguished Military Graduate at his AIT, as well as an Honor Graduate at WLC. He has completed the Army Infantry Air Assault School and the Army Infantry Basic Airborne course. Jeremiah is currently working as a Draftsman in UNLV's Planning & Construction Department.

## III. Senator Reid Hosts A Conference Call With Student Veterans

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, members from SVO, student veterans from UNR, and others spoke with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid regarding the New GI Bill. Student veterans acknowledged the importance of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, but they also highlighted several issues that need to be fixed. To see SVO's Press Release regarding this conference visit: <http://www.studentveterans.org/members/files/73/Press%20Release%207.23.09.pdf>

#### IV. CSUN POSITIONS AVAILABLE

UNLV CSUN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

APPLICATIONS DUE BY  
5 PM AUGUST 7, 2009 FRIDAY

# OPEN SENATE SEATS!!

YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME AN UNLV SENATOR

**CURRENT OPEN SEATS:**

- 3 SEATS FOR THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
- 2 SEATS FOR THE COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
- 1 SEAT FOR THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
- 1 SEAT FOR THE COLLEGE OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES

**\*ALL SENATE SEATS WILL BE OPEN IN THE FALL.**

FOR MORE INFO OR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE 3RD FLOOR IN MSD ROOM 316  
OR DOWNLOAD AT [WWW.UNLVCSUN.COM](http://WWW.UNLVCSUN.COM)

UNLV CSUN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

For more information on open positions and the application process visit:

<http://unlvcsun.com/>

**PLEASE LET SVO KNOW IF YOU INTEND ON APPLYING**

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**V. Dissertation Proposal**

Neda Raymond is a 4th year doctoral candidate in UNLV's Clinical Psychology program, and is currently completing a dissertation proposal entitled, "Examining the Experience of Combat-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Recent War Veterans." For the dissertation study, Raymond hopes to recruit and interview individuals who have experienced combat-related PTSD as a result of participation in OIF/OEF. The goal is to recruit participants from within the Las Vegas community, but also was hoping to access student veterans who are willing to participate through UNLV's Student Veterans Organization. Approximately 8-10 veterans will be interviewed for the study. For those interested or know of a veteran who may be interested, you may contact Neda Raymond at: [raymon11@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:raymon11@unlv.nevada.edu) or (702) 496-6221.

VISIT US AT

[WWW.STUDENTVETERANS.ORG/UNLV](http://WWW.STUDENTVETERANS.ORG/UNLV)

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