



# Student Veterans Organization

## Monthly Newsletter



Volume I Issue II

July 1, 2009

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President

I. Student Veterans Membership Count-p2

II. SVO Summer Cookout-p2-3

III. USMC Sgt. Maj. Estrada-p3

IV. From our Nation's Capitol-p4

V. Sgt Ferrin Dental Memorial Clinic-p5

VI. Veterans' Legislation-p5

VII. Western Regional Director Visits UNLV-p6

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States. Each year on July 4th, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event. While we take time to honor those that fought for our liberty before us, we should also take time to think about those who are fighting in foreign lands for other countries' independence from tyranny and terrorism today. Please be safe and enjoy your Independence Day weekend. You all deserve and have earned that right.

Rebel Regards,

Antonio Montenegro III

President

## I. STUDENT VETERANS COUNT: 100

- a. Army- 40
- b. Marines-11
- c. Navy-16
- d. Airforce-33
- e. Coast Guard-0
- f. Undergraduate: 74 Graduates: 25 Post Grad: 1

## II. UNLV SVO SUMMER COOKOUT

Our first annual summer cookout, held on Friday, June 5, had a great turnout. Student veterans, supporters, staff, faculty, CSUN undergraduate representatives, GPSA graduates student body President and representatives from the Rebel Yell (our campus newspaper) were all in attendance. Thank you to all who made this a success. Please see the pictures below and we encourage student veterans to come out to our future social events.



Photo Left from left to right: CSUN Pres A. Cronis, SVA Vice Pres M. Dakduk, GPSA Pres J. Lucero, Liberal Arts Senator C. Hernandez, CSUN Vice Pres D. Gonzalez, SVO Exec Dir. J. Benardis. Bottom Left to Right: SVO Member R. D'Silva, SVO Pres T. Montenegro, SVO Exec Dir. K. Mercer

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Above Left to Right: SVO President Antonio Montenegro and members of the Veterans' Memorial Committee.  
4<sup>th</sup> from left: SVO Faculty Advisor Dr. Bob Ackerman



Above left to right UNLV Boyd Law  
Marine Student Veteran Derek Armstrong  
and friend

### III. 15<sup>th</sup> SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS JOHN ESTRADA

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, members of SVO and UNLV School of Dental Medicine (also officers in the NV Army National Guard) students met with SgtMaj Estrada. SgtMaj Estrada spoke about several issues including the current war in Iraq and Afghanistan.



In Photo: SgtMaj Estrada  
(ret.) is located in the center  
More info on SgtMaj Estrada  
may be found here:  
<http://15smmc.com>

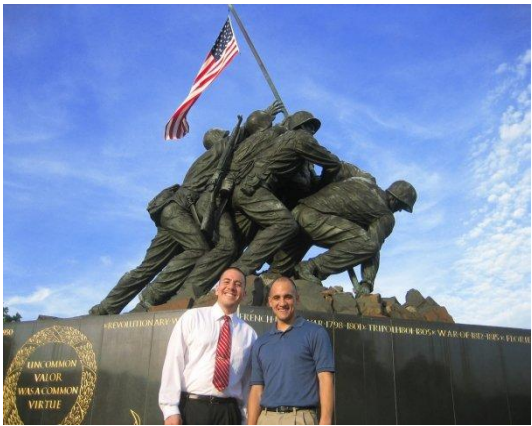
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#### IV. FROM OUR NATION'S CAPITOL

The national coalition of student veterans' organizations is consolidated under the banner of Student Veterans of America (SVA). The national office is now located in Washington DC and is collocated with the Wounded Warrior Project. UNLV student veteran Michael Dakduk has traveled to DC twice as Vice President of SVA: the week of Memorial Day and in this past month of June.

Left to Right

SVA Board Member Rodrigo Garcia (MBA) and Vice President Mike Dakduk (Marine Memorial, VA)



Left to Right: SVA Vice President Mike Dakduk and President Derek Blumke (U of Mich., Ann Arbor)

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WARRIORS-SCHOLARS-LEADERS

## V. SGT CLINT FERRIN MEMORIAL CLINIC

John Ferrin, the brother of fallen soldier SFC Clint Ferrin, continues to offer free dental service to veterans without insurance and with low income. He is reaching out to student veterans and hopes that more of us will sign up for dental care. Student veterans Reuben D'Silva and Michael Dakduk have utilized this free service. Visit the web site at



In photo: SVO Pres. Montenegro, SVO member and Dental student J. Ferrin, SVO Member R. D'Silva, and SVA Vice Pres M. Dakduk

## VI. VETERANS' LEGISLATION –FROM CARSON CITY

### a. State Legislation:

- i. Senate Bill 318 passed and approved by the Governor providing a waiver of tuition for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged and who were on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or certain other military installations on the date of discharge. Other military installations include Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pickel Meadow, Ca. Full text on the bill may be read at:

[http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/SB/SB318\\_EN.pdf](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/SB/SB318_EN.pdf)

- ii. Assembly Bill 188 passed and approved by the Governor which authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to waive certain fees and tuition for a child, widow or widower of a person who was killed while serving in the Nevada National Guard. Full text on the bill may be read at: [http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/AB/AB188\\_EN.pdf](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/AB/AB188_EN.pdf)

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WARRIORS-SCHOLARS-LEADERS

## VII. SVA WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS UNLV

Jessi Tseng, the Western Regional Director for Student Veterans of America, visited UNLV and spoke before the CSUN Student Body Senate and the Executive Officers. Jessi was accompanied by her local chapter Vice President from the UC Santa Barbara Student Veterans Organization, Quincy Yamada.



Left to right: Q. Yamada (UCSB SVO VP), A. Montenegro, D. Gonzalez (CSUN VP), A. Cronis (CSUN Pres), M. Dakduk (SVA VP), J. Tseng (SVA West Regional Director)

Date: June 15, 2009



Left to Right: Q. Yamada, Paige Hanson (CSUN Education Student Senator), A. Montenegro, J. Tseng.

Date: June 15, 2009