Veterans Day

SGM Joe Young, VetNet Community Liaison

Just like to take a few lines here and talk about Veterans Day.

Veterans Day came about back on Nov 11, 1917. It was a day that World War I officially ended. The victorious Allied Forces and the defeated German Army signed the treaty of surrender in a train car in France. Even after the treaty was signed the word was slow in getting out and the fighting went on for another day or so in some areas.

Veterans Day is when those who had fought and survived the war took a bit of their time and gave thanks and maybe had a little celebration with their battle brothers. It was also a time when they thought about their friends who gave all but mainly about those who made it.

As you go about your daily lives, stop and think about what these veterans have given you and done for you.

The sad part about the veterans is that as they grow older and older, they disappear and are gone forever. The World War II veterans, “The Greatest Generation” are leaving us at around 100 a day, passing away due to old age and other ailments. Our Viet Nam brothers and sisters are leaving us due to Agent Orange and the side effects that come with it. Our brothers and sisters from Desert Storm suffer from several unnamed sickness. They have dubbed it “The Gulf War Syndrome.” Those vets that have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering the fallout from the “Burn Pits.”

So today as Veterans Day approaches and you see a veteran, regardless of what war or conflict they fought in, don’t be afraid to go up to them, shake their hand, thank them for their service and wish them a Happy Veterans Day. It’s their day and they deserve it.

ADVISING DAY is Tuesday, November 6th

Come to campus and attend one or many of the workshops that will be offered throughout the day.

Topics include:
- Health Occupations Career Exploration & Planning
- Student Leadership
- Academic Planning
- Salvaging the Semester
- Planning for your Transfer to a Bachelor’s Program
- Peer Tutoring & Online Tutoring @ GCC
- Writing a College Entrance Essay
- Are Alcohol & Drugs interfering with your success?
- Information Sessions for ADN & LPN Programs

A SPECIAL DROP-IN SESSION FOR STUDENT VETERANS
10:00-12:00 PM IN E128

Any veteran who would like to know about the military credits they have earned during their service should bring their Army AARTS, Navy/Corpsman SMART, Air Force CCAF, or USCG CGI transcript for preliminary review. An unofficial copy of the transcript will suffice for this initial review. Vets who do not know how to access their military transcript should email Terry Lynn at lynnt@gcc.mass.edu and he can provide them the link to obtain it. Please provide him your branch or branches of service only, there is NO need for your social security info or DOB.

Presented by: Terry Lynn, Dean of Professional Studies  
Diane O’Hearn, VetNet Advisor

Check us out: http://web.gcc.mass.edu/veterans
VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEK

Monday, 11/5
VETS CENTER OPEN HOUSE ALL DAY-N215
Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks will be provided. Take advantage of this opportunity to stop by the VETS Center to check it out, hang out and mingle with student veterans.

Tuesday, 11/6
ADVISING DAY-East Building 10 - 12 p.m
All student veterans will have an opportunity to bring in their military transcripts and have them evaluated or re-evaluated for graduation credit.

COMMUNITY SERVICE-Holyoke 2 - 4 p.m.
GCC student Veterans will be heading down to the Holyoke Soliders Home to visit the veterans in residency. Everyone is welcome to join in the community service event. Please connect with Diane O’Hearn if interested in participating.

Wednesday, 11/7
BAKE SALE-CORE Foyer 8 – 12 p.m.
This bake sale will be located in the CORE foyer. VETNET is actively raising money to support local veterans families in the Greenfield area during the holiday season.

VETNET MEETING N215 12 – 12:50 p.m.
This will be a special VETNET meeting for everyone. A social hour for folks to come learn what VETNET is all about, meet the student driving force behind the student club’s success and ask questions.

A GATHERING FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS OF VETERANS N215 6 – 8 p.m.
Family members and friends of veterans are invited to a gathering the VETS Center to socialize and begin to build an extended support community for our student veterans

Thursday, 11/8
VETERANS DAY RECEPTION Dining Commons
12 - 12:30 p.m.
A reception commemorating all Veterans. Brief comments will be made by President Pura, Terry Lynn, Doug Wilkins, Catherine Lemelin, and Kevin Leszczynski.

VETS CENTER ROOM DEDICATION N215 12:30 p.m.
Immediately following the Veterans Day Reception, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly named: Channing & Marie Bete Veterans Center.

Friday, 11/9
COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT 7 – 9 p.m.
Bringing the campus community together for a night of R&R, camaraderie, and fun. Refreshments, including popcorn will be served. Movie & Location still to be determined. Watch email for details.

VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEK IS DESIGNED TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE GCC CAMPUS COMMUNITY. ALL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE!

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” ~Elmer Davis

CHILDREN’S CORNER
Veterans Day Poems from Children Across the Country

Veterans Day
by Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We’re proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank ALL veterans just the same.

Veterans Day
by Taylor Weinman

Representing the red white and blue
The colors of our flag stand out proud and true.
The white stars on blue background with red and white stripes
Remind me of these veterans, who all risked their lives.
Just so the people of the U.S. could all live in peace and be free
These are the heroes that represent you and me.
They stood up strongly, untied as one,
And kept up the fighting until they were done.
And although some have fallen, and lost their lives in war,
We pray for each one of them.
And now that their souls live on forever more,
Above in God’s hands.
They watch over our nation,
And give us strength to triumph over others with strong anticipation.
So every year, when this day comes by,
Think of all the veterans that while fighting, had to die.
And remember that they were people
With fire and passion embedded inside.
They die for this country,
So remember and honor them with pride.