

From the Director



Greetings,

I hope students are looking forward to Spring Break March 4-8. Before your time off, I invite you to look through our newsletter. You will find information about upcoming tax reporting, the MSU Food Pantry, other area events, and information from our school certifying official James Tucci.

The Military Resource Center continues to serve our military educational benefited students. Please continue to provide suggestions about how we can improve our current practices. We appreciate the feedback, as it allows us to better serve your needs as you work to accomplish your academic goals!

*Andy Heitkamp
Veteran Services Director*

Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow. Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**OFFICE HOURS
8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**Military Resource Center
Minot State University
500 University Ave W
Minot, ND 58707
701-858-4003 / 1-800-777-0750**

IN THIS ISSUE

REMEMBER

YOUR
EDUCATIONAL
BENEFITS
HOTLINE
1-888-442-4551

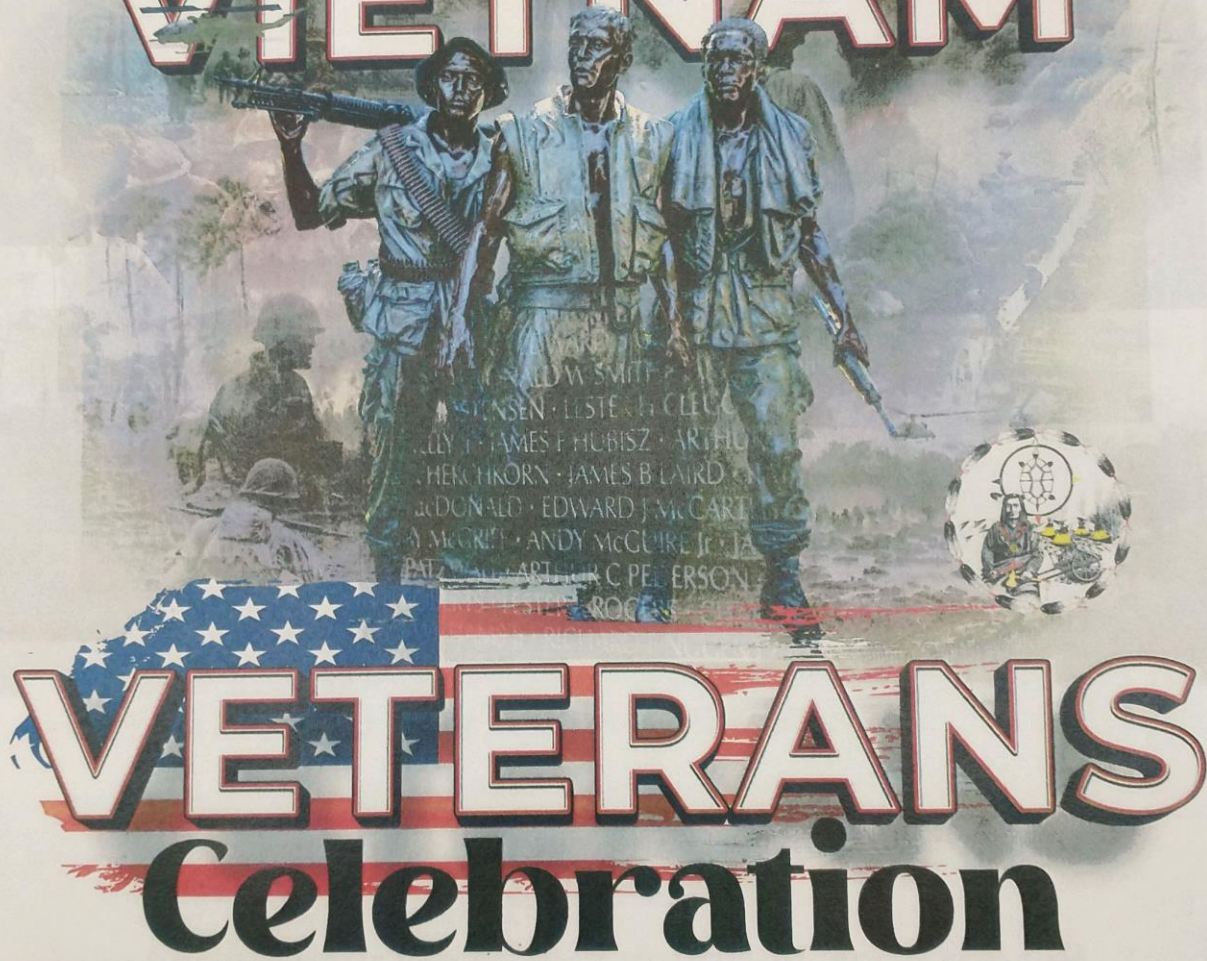
From the Director
Activities Attended
Belcourt Vietnam Vet Welcome
Chili Bowl VIII
James's Corner
Important Dates
Enrollment Verification info
National Guard Blood Drive
Mil Tax info
Prairie Warrior Auction
On the Water dates
VFW Mississippi Pot Roast dinner
VA Benefit Payments update
MSU Food Pantry
Minot Vietnam Veteran Day
Medora Musical Veterans appreciation
Burleigh County Sheriffs
Minot Legion SAVE training
VA Safety Plan App

Activities Attended

February

- 1 Junior Achievement John Hoeven
- 1 Minot Area Chamber Military Affairs
- 6 Campus Wellness & Recovery Peer Support group
- 7 Safe Communities meeting
- 7 Behavior Intervention Team meeting
- 8 Advancing the Science on Peer Support and Suicide Prevention workshop day 1
- 9 Enhancing Tutoring with AI
- 12 Advancing the Science on Peer Support and Suicide Prevention workshop day 21
- 13 Academic Advising Center meeting
- 13 ND Suicide Coalition Hope Café webinar
- 14 Staff Senate Death by Chocolate event
- 15 Junior Achievement John Hoeven
- 15 Military One Source webinar
- 20 US ARMY SSG Salazar meeting
- 21 VA Career Readiness training
- 21 Behavior Intervention Team meeting
- 22 VA Office Hours training
- 22 VA Educating Civilian Providers workshop
- 22 Fraud Awareness Seminar
- 23 Veterans Breakfast
- 24 MSU Preview Days resource fair
- 26 Student Affairs meeting
- 27 Power BI security review
- 29 Student Affairs meeting

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM



**March 15th, 2024
11am - 4pm
Sky Dancer Event Center**

**Keynote Speakers
Meal to be served
Door Prizes
Sponsored by TMBCI**

All Veteran's Welcome

SERVING MEANS SAVINGS

<https://www.homedepot.com/c/military>

Active military, veterans and their spouses enjoy a discount at our stores and online

Get Started

- Apply online & start saving
- 10% off eligible purchases everyday
- [See our Frequently Asked Questions about the Military Discount here](#)

ADMIT ONE

General Admission

5-8pm

INDEPENDENCE, INC.

INDEPENDENCE CHILI BOWL VIII

CHILI BOWL VIII

Tickets on sale now!

7 MARCH 2024

Clarion Convention Center

\$20

\$20

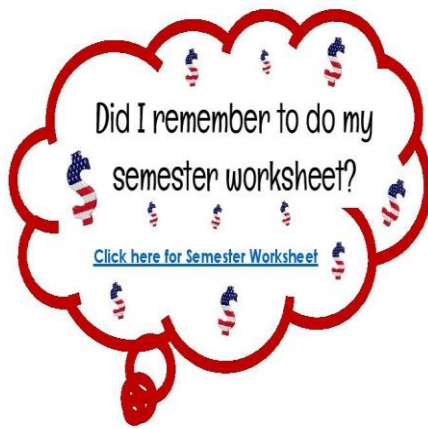
Get your tickets here!



Check out the Minot State Veterans Service Center Facebook page and give it a to stay current with events.

www.facebook.com/MinotStateVeterans

James's Corner



Students,

I wanted to explain why we ask you all to submit your semester worksheet as soon as you are done enrolling in your courses. This term there have been way too many students that have completed their worksheets after the 100% refund date set by MSU. When this happens, it means you will be held financially liable for taking courses that I cannot certify. The VA requires me to audit every enrollment and to ensure the classes you are taking are necessary for your degree, so when I find a class or two that aren't required, you are able to drop/ swap them out for another course without penalty if you get us the semester worksheets on time! When we get these late submissions, we run into problems where the student becomes liable financially for taking classes they aren't required to take since the VA won't pay for them. We put these rules/suggestions into place for your benefit, we do not want to create any surprise debts for you with the VA and, in fact, try to maximize the payment awarded to you by your benefit!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

James Tucci
Veterans School Certifying Official

For questions regarding your financial aid (federal grants/loans) at Minot State University call Minot State Financial Aid (701)858-3375

<https://www.minotstateu.edu/finaid/>
Title IV School Code: 002994

Important Dates

Academic

March

- 4-8 Spring Break
- 8 Fall semester graduation application due to Registrar's office
- 11 Classes begin for 2nd 8 wks
- 14 Last day to add second 8-week classes
- 14 Last day to withdraw second 8-week classes and receive 100% refund
- 26-28 Fall registration begins
- 29 Easter Break University Closed
- April 1 Easter Break No Classes

March is...

- Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Women's History Month

US Armed Forces Dates

March

- 3 Navy Reserves birthday
- 4 National Hug a G.I. Day
- 5 Seabee birthday
- 13 K9 Veterans Day
- 15 American Legion birthday
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Rosie The Riveter Day
- 25 National Medal of Honor Day
- 29 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
- 31 Easter Sunday

Be seen. Be heard. Belong.

Enrollment Verification



A Guide for Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) Students

Post-9/11 GI Bill® students attending **IHL facilities** who receive Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) and/or kicker payments are required to verify enrollment at the end of each month. This applies to IHL students with terms starting **on or after December 17, 2021**.



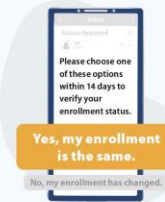
Step 1 Opt-In

For a quick and easy experience, **VA highly recommends using text message verification**. When your enrollment is processed by VA, you will receive a text message from VA to opt into text message verification.¹

- ▶ **Reply "YES" to opt-in.** You will receive a text confirming you have opted in.
 - The text message link will expire in **14 days**. After that, you will be automatically enrolled in email verification.
- ▶ If you reply **"NO"** or cannot receive texts, you will be automatically enrolled in email verification.



OR



Step 2 Verify

Text: On the last day of each month, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification for that month.

- ▶ **Reply "YES"** to verify your enrollment.
 - If you don't reply within **6 days**, the conversation will close and you will need to call the **Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)** to verify your enrollment.
- ▶ If your enrollment status has changed, **reply "NO."** Please contact your School Certifying Official (SCO) to ensure your enrollment record with VA has been adjusted.²

Email: If you opted out of text messages and/or have enrolled in email verification, **on the last day of each month**, you will receive an email requesting enrollment verification for that month.

- ▶ **Select "Yes, my enrollment is the same"** to verify your enrollment.
 - If you don't select a response within **14 days**, the conversation will close and you will need to call the ECC to verify your enrollment.
- ▶ If your enrollment status has changed, **select "No, my enrollment has changed."** Please contact your SCO to ensure your enrollment record with VA has been adjusted.



Step 3 Payments

If you verify enrollment each month and still qualify to receive MHA and/or kicker benefits, your payments will continue uninterrupted.



If you fail to verify for two consecutive months, your MHA and/or kicker will be placed on hold. You will need to call the ECC to verify your enrollment and have your payments released.

Visit our [website](#) and review our [FAQs](#) to learn more.
Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.



¹ Non-College Degree (NCD) facility students who are already verifying their enrollment can opt into email verification by calling the ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 internationally.

² To find your SCO, go to the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) and search for your school.

BLOOD DRIVE



Because of you,
life doesn't stop
#vitaltolife

National Guard Drive

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024


10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

VITALANT BLOOD MOBILE

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY - 3420 2ND ST. NE



To schedule your life saving donation, scan the QR Code or, call Tara at (701) 580-5288.

 GIVE BLOOD | vitalant.org

vitalant. 

How VA education benefit payments affect your taxes

<https://www.va.gov/resources/how-va-education-benefit-payments-affect-your-taxes/>

Do I have to pay taxes on the VA education benefit payments I receive?

No. Payments from all GI Bill programs are tax-free. This is true for you, your dependents, and your survivors.

Tax-free education benefits include:

- Tuition
- Training fees
- Test fees for licenses and certifications
- Money to pay for a tutor
- Work study
- Books
- Housing

Please don't include education benefit payments as income when you file your taxes.

“Payments you receive for education, training, or subsistence under any law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are tax-free.



<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/miltax-military-tax-services/>

37TH ANNUAL PRAIRIE WARRIOR AUCTION



21 MARCH • 5:30PM • ND STATE
FAIR CENTER MAGIC PLACE



DONATIONS

NOW ACCEPTING
DONATIONS! CONTACT
THE MACEDC OFFICE FOR
DETAILS ON HOW YOU
CAN HELP OUT.



SAVE THE DATE

THE 2024 PRAIRIE
WARRIOR AUCTION
WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 21
AT THE ND STATE FAIR
CENTER IN MINOT!



JOIN US!

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC AND
FEATURES A LIVE AND
SILENT AUCTION, BUFFET,
DRINKS, AND MORE!

**HELP US SUPPORT THE SQUADRONS OF TEAM MINOT
AND BOOST MORALE ON MINOT AIR FORCE BASE!**

PRESENTED BY



SCAN HERE OR VISIT THE CALENDAR
AT MINOTCHAMBEREDC.COM FOR
MORE INFORMATION!

Veterans – Let's GO fishin!!!

On the water 2024 dates

<https://www.facebook.com/p/On-the-Water-Inc-100067785296574/>

<p>Partners & Volunteers</p> <p>Serving our veterans is made possible by the generous support of our many local partners and volunteers.</p> <p>OTW Volunteers and Partners provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Volunteering • Donation of Goods and Services • Financial Support  <p>Thank you for supporting our veterans and the "On the Water" mission.</p> <p><i>*Donations are tax deductible*</i></p> <p><i>On the Water, Inc.</i></p>	<p>Contact Us:</p> <p>For more information about On the Water, Inc., our mission, how veterans can register for our free fishing events and free use of our dedicated Veterans Cabin, or to learn more about supporting or donating to OTW:</p> <p>Website: www.otwnd.org</p> <p> Find us on Facebook at: On The Water Inc.</p> <p>Email us at: onthewaternd@gmail.com</p> <p>On the Water, Inc. PO Box 1735 Minot, ND 58702</p> 	 <p>VETERAN LET'S GO FISHING SUMMER 2024</p>  <p>www.otwnd.org</p>
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<p><i>On the Water Events and Opportunities</i></p> <p>On the Water, Inc. is a 501(c)3 North Dakota non-profit organization. OTW provides outdoor recreational opportunities to U.S. military veterans who served in overseas conflicts or have service-connected disabilities.</p> <p>OTW events and opportunities are provided at no cost and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five, one-day fishing events held at Indian Hills Resort on Lake Sakakawea (30 miles west of Garrison) <p>2024 Summer Fishing Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 14 (Fri.) • June 15 (Sat.) • July 20 (Sat.) <i>*Dedicated Ladies' Event*</i> • August 9 (Fri.) • August 10 (Sat.) <p><i>* Limited to 28 veterans per event. Weather dependent.</i></p> 	 <p>VETERANS CABIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of OTW dedicated Veterans Cabin (two-bedroom, bathroom, shower, kitchen, air conditioning, internet, cable TV, grill, golf cart, picnic tables, deck, parking, sleeps six comfortably).  <p>ACCESS RAMP WITH LIFT</p> <p>www.otwnd.org</p>	 <p>"Let's go Fishing!"</p> <p>All events take place at Indian Hills Resort on Lake Sakakawea (30 miles west of Garrison – www.fishindianhills.com).</p> <p>Participants should arrive by 7 a.m. the morning of the event and have a current ND fishing license.</p> <p>Boats, boat captains are provided by OTW volunteers. Boats are off the water by 3 p.m. or earlier.</p> <p>Sack lunch, pop and water, and catered BBQ rib dinner are provided by OTW.</p> <p>For more information about OTW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Chuck at onthewaternd@gmail.com • Visit our website at www.otwnd.org • Find us on Facebook at On the Water Inc <p>SUMMER 2024</p>
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Minot Post 753

Veterans of Foreign Wars

1100 SE 31st St

Mississippi Pot Roast Dinner

Served with Mashed Potatoes and Cole Slaw



WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

TIME: 5:30PM UNTIL GONE

COST: \$15 PER PLATE

DINE OR TAKE OUT

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GI Bill®

Multiple VA benefits payments update

Starting April 20, 2024, the VA will no longer send a veteran's or family members' benefit payments to more than one bank account. **This will require all veterans and beneficiaries who receive GI bill payments and other benefit payments across multiple banking accounts to select one account by April 20, 2024.** For example, if a veteran receives GI Bill payments to one of their bank accounts and disability compensation payments to another, they will need to consolidate and select one account for all payments by April 20, 2024.

This shift is happening as a part of the VA's efforts to modernize the 50-year-old, antiquated GI bill payment system. Once fully deployed, the platform will improve claims processing and customer service by providing direct, online, one-stop access to GI Bill benefits and information. This shift will impact nearly 50,000 of 800,000 total GI Bill beneficiaries. The VA will be aggressively reaching out to these students through text message, phone, and email on a weekly basis through April 20. They will continue to receive text messages and emails until they have updated their information on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov). VA is also working with schools, Veterans Service Organizations, and other relevant parties to make sure that Veterans meet the deadline.

The easiest way for beneficiaries to make this change is to log on to [Change Your VA Direct Deposit Information | Veterans Affairs](#). When they get to the pay information, there will be a box for the bank account information of their education benefit and a box for the bank account information for the other benefits they receive. The beneficiary should then update the bank account information to use the same account for all benefits.

Importantly, no veteran will miss a benefits payment of any type. For any students who do not consolidate their bank accounts for benefits by April 20, VA will consolidate them on their behalf, electing their non-education benefit pay account as their primary bank account.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact your Regional Quality Assurance Specialist. <https://www.va.gov/opal/nac/sdc/qa.asp>

Upcoming events and retreats



<https://bradyoberglegacyfoundation.org/events/>

We provide combat veterans with outdoor, recreational retreats that allow them to have fun while unburdening their hearts and minds as only they can do, together.

Food Pantry at Minot State University

Student Food Pantry List

Protein

Cans of Tuna*
Cans of Chicken*
Canned Stew
Canned Chili
Hash
Pork and Beans
Soups
Spaghetti Sauce*
Kidney Beans
Peanut Butter*

Canned Vegetables

Beans
Carrots
Peas
Tomatoes
Corn
Instant Potatoes
Spaghetti Sauce

Fruits

Canned Fruits
Fruit Cups
Dried Fruits
Jelly
Raisins
Juice Boxes

*Indicates high demand items

Starches

Rice*
Pasta*
Macaroni and Cheese*
Crackers
Cans of Ravioli/Spaghetti O's*
Hamburger Helper
Boxed Meals*

Breakfast

Boxes of Cereal*
Instant Oatmeal (individual packets)*
Cereal Bars
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Pop Tarts
Muffin Mix

On the Go/Snacks

Tortilla Chips
Salsa
Pringles
Cookies
Granola Bars*
Microwave Popcorn
Easy Mac*
Microwaveable Non-Frozen Meals*

If you would like to make a financial donation so that we can replenish the food pantry with necessary items, checks may be made to:

Lutheran Campus Ministry,
memo: Food Pantry



Medora Musical 2024

VETERAN APPRECIATION July 14
<https://medora.com/medoramusical/>



BURLEIGH COUNTY **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT** **NOW HIRING – DEPUTY SHERIFF**



Starting Hourly Pay: **\$26.14 - \$29.01** + **\$1300 Hiring Bonus**

Benefits

- ★ NDPERS Pension Retirement
- ★ Optional 457 Retirement Plan
- ★ County Pays 95% of BC/BS of ND Health Insurance Premium
- ★ Life Insurance
- ★ Medical Flex Spending Account Option
- ★ Bi-weekly pay
- ★ Vacation accrual: 4+hrs/pay period
- ★ Sick time accrual: 4hrs/pay period
- ★ 10.5 Paid Holidays per year
- ★ Tuition Reimbursement
- ★ Employee Assistance Program
- ★ Numerous overtime opportunities
- ★ Paid Training/LE Training Academy

Special Assignment Opportunities

- ★ West Dakota SWAT/Crisis Negotiations
- ★ Dive/Airboat/Water Rescue Team
- ★ ROV/Sonar Team
- ★ UAS/Drone Team
- ★ K-9 Handler
- ★ Narcotics Task Force
- ★ Fugitive Task Force
- ★ Investigations Section
- ★ Warrants Section
- ★ Civil Section
- ★ River Patrol
- ★ Desert Off-Road Patrol
- ★ School Resource Officer

Join Our Team Today!

Apply Now:
www.burleighco.com/jobs



LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT A VETERAN IN CRISIS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024
6:00 P.M.
MINOT AMERICAN LEGION
1949 N BROADWAY**

Sarah Kemp Tabbut from the
 Fargo VA will be presenting VA S.A.V.E.

S - Signs

A - Ask

V - Validate

E - Encourage and Expedite

S.A.V.E. is designed to help you ask with care,
compassion, and confidence when talking with
a Veteran with suicide risk.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT MILLO
NEWDESIGNSBBS@HOTMAIL.COM**

Check out the new Safety Plan app!



Safety Plan helps Veterans create a personalized step-by-step action plan to keep themselves safe during a crisis. It is highly customizable and provides access to coping tools, self-assessment measures, and crisis support resources like the Veterans Crisis Line. Download the app today by using the QR code above, or by visiting the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Note: Safety Plan is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs app, developed by the National Center for PTSD Dissemination and Training Division and the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.