



# Student Veterans of America

Winter '22  
Quarterly Newsletter

# HEADLINES

**2022 was a banner year for Student Veterans of America and we closed out the final quarter strong, looking towards the 15th Annual National Conference.**



## LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

In late October of this year, SVA held its annual Leadership Institute in Washington D.C., where the top Student Veterans from around the country are invited to spend multiple days experiencing the premier student leadership experience in the country. More than 100 Chapter Leaders were chosen during a rigorous selection process for what was widely described as the greatest Leadership Institute in the organization's history. For the first time ever, the foundational curriculum experience, which includes deep dives into values, delivering results, and building relationships was joined by an entirely new advanced curriculum covering topics such as mental models, culture, building a team, and communication.

In addition to all of the updated and original curriculum, which more than doubled the content experience from years past, an entirely new post-Leadership Institute experience was added leading up to NatCon in early January. Each of the SVA Fellows, which is the title earned upon graduation from the Leadership Institute, leaves the event with a personal leadership mission statement, communication strategy, and action plan. They will spend the time in between the Leadership Institute and NatCon learning from each other and their Mentors as they execute these plans in the real world. There is no substitute for real world experience and there is no leadership development event that rivals that of the SVA Leadership Institute where we are building the next greatest generation of American leadership.



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWS



SVA's Government Affairs team is pleased to report several promising policy developments from the past quarter. Perhaps most notably, the Department of Education released final regulations for the new 90/10 rule which closes a loophole that incentivized bad-actor schools to target student veterans for their education benefits. These updated regulations marked the culmination of years of advocacy work by SVA and many other veteran, military, and higher education organizations to close the 90/10 loophole and protect student veterans and service members from bad-actor schools that prioritize profit over outcomes.

SVA also welcomed a myriad of other final regulations issued by the Department of Education that address issues related to affordability and student loans, including two of our long-standing priorities. Among others, we were especially pleased to see regulations that restore a strong Borrower Defense rule and improve Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). The new Borrower Defense regulations ensure students have access to appropriate relief when they fall victim to institutional fraud or other misconduct, and the updated PSLF regulations will help more military borrowers get the credit they deserve for their service.

SVA was also excited to see the introduction of comprehensive legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to modernize the VA Work-Study program, which was spearheaded by 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow, John Randolph of Pennsylvania State University. This forward-thinking legislation would expand allowable work activities, increase the number of hours students can work, authorize payment at the local minimum wage when higher than state and federal rates, and require VA to collect and publish critical information on how the program is serving students.

Finally, at the time of this writing, two of SVA's major policy priorities for 2022 remain positioned to potentially pass the Senate and be signed into law. These include legislation to establish essential protections for VA education benefits during future national emergencies as well as a bill to study the VA VITAL Program and identify best practices, which we hope will help the program expand and reach more student veterans.

The Government Affairs Team looks forward to welcoming chapter members to SVA's 15th Annual National Conference in January to gather input on policy issues and solutions that can improve the lives of student veterans, service members, their families, and survivors!



# HANX PARTNERSHIP

We're proud to announce our partnership with HANX for Our Troops, a new company started by Tom Hanks, where 100% of profits will go towards organizations that provide critical support and resources to veterans. Student Veterans of America was chosen alongside longtime collaborators Bob Woodruff Foundation, Headstrong, and Hire Heroes.

And, SVA is proud to be featured on the website, along with the stories of SVA President & CEO Jared Lyon, SVA Marketing Coordinator Kameron Smith, SVA Chapter President Joshua Jones, and SVA Board Members Katherine Martinez, Fontaine Stegall, and Sherri Shi.



**“We saw HANX as a way to support Veterans and military families, as 100% of the profits go to organizations that have proven to be of great aid to those who have served our country. Good products for good reason.”**

**- Tom Hanks**



**OUR PROMISE**

**SO, WHAT DOES  
100% OF PROFITS  
ACTUALLY MEAN?**

Beyond our operational upkeep, all net profits will go toward a community of trusted organizations that provide support to Veterans and their families.



**To support the mission and drink some “damn good coffee,” visit:  
Website: <https://givehanx.com/> • Social Media: @GiveHanks**

*We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Hanks and the CAA Foundation for this incredible opportunity.*

# SPOTLIGHTS

## SVA Honors Student Veteran of the Year Finalists



## SVA Honors Chapter Advisor of the Year Finalists



## SVA Honors Chapter of the Year Finalists



All winners will be announced at the **15th Annual National Conference**, to be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in January 2023.

# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

SVA is honored to have a dedicated Board of Directors, committed to advancing the vision of empowering student veterans to lead and live their best lives.

## J. Ford Huffman, BS

**BOARD SECRETARY**

*B.S., West Virginia University*

“There was no master plan. When I began volunteering to help a group of student veterans at George Washington University in my neighborhood, all this civilian wanted to do was offer my skills to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I was welcomed to the GWU group’s activities, met other veterans, and ended up volunteering with five different and nascent veterans groups including Student Veterans of America (SVA). The associations and friendships led to my being asked to become a member of the SVA advisory council, which led to my being on the SVA board as secretary. I’d offer to help SVA even if I weren’t on the board – but having a seat allows me to work even more closely with SVA members and staffers.”

“Last spring I attended a HillVets social event on the rooftop of an office building overlooking the U.S. Capitol, and, as usual, I wore my SVA lapel pin – which might as well have been a billboard. I was approached by at least half a dozen other attendees who recognized the red-and-blue seal. Some were active in their campus chapters. Others wanted to know more about the organization. SVA’s reputation among veterans is gratifying, personally, and the esteem reflects SVA’s efforts to empower students’ roles and lives on campus.”



## Local Chapter News



Members of the University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University SVA Chapters partnered together with Concerned Veterans of America to aid with the Hurricane Ian Relief Effort. This was a joint effort between the SVA chapters. The USF students drove two hours south to assist with the clean up on Pine Island, FL on Sunday Oct 30th.

USF members included: Manfredo Bobadilla, Kaitlyn Rodriguez, Ammon Bradford (president), Julia Clark, and Jason Thomas. FGCU: Troy Bolivar (Chapter Advisor).



Loyola University Chicago featured robust programming leading up to Veteran’s Day. SVA’s National Outreach Coordinator Mackenzie Marion took part in a Women Veterans Symposium with three other notable participants on November 9th.

And, on Veteran’s Day the SVA Chapter hosted a ceremony with keynote speakers including the new Loyola president Mark C. Reed, EdD, the Director at Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs Terry Prince, the SVA Chapter President Josh Jones, Chapter VP Carly Fournier, and Chapter Advisor Alex Pirila.

# DEI Spotlight

The SVA Racial Justice Task Force has been convened as part of our ongoing commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. These efforts have been made possible through the generous support of Raytheon Technologies. The Racial Justice Task Force will be providing educational support and content development for SVA leadership and campus chapters, which includes contributing to the development of educational and informational materials for SVA outreach, trainings, and curriculum. Further, they will assist SVA around issues of racial justice and provide recommendations for best practices. The Task Force will also serve in an advisory capacity for the SVA Chapter DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) Liaison Program. The SVA Racial Justice Task Force's next meeting will be at NatCon.

## Meg Hendricks

Vice President, Head of Military and Veteran Affairs Fiserv

## Abby Kinch

SVA Interim Chief of Staff, Vice President of Programs & Services

## Anette Nance

Certified Career Coach & Consultant

## Alanah Odoms

Executive Director, Louisiana ACLU, SVA Board Member

## Richard Delgado, Jr.

Boeing Global Engagement

## Rodrigo Garcia

talipot\* Global Chief Financial Officer, Former SVA Board Member

## Marybeth Gasman

Associate Dean for Research, Graduate School of Education at Rutgers, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education

## Christine Quemuel

SVA Senior Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellow, Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Angelica Ruiz

Raytheon Technologies Associate Director, Global DE&I Talent Attraction

## Wilton Williamson, Jr

Vice President Connection, Wounded Warrior Project



**NatCon:** The 15th Annual National Conference returns to Disney's Coronado Springs in January 5th-7th, 2023 featuring keynotes from The Honorable Denis McDonough, The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Sebastian Junger, Master Sgt. Cedric King (USA, Ret.), Rebekka Eshler, Avalisa Ellicott, and Jamie Gray Hyder.

**Join MySVA**, our new online portal for chapter leaders to keep information updated, apply for programs and scholarships, and see other chapter events in your area.

SVA is excited to share updates to the online **Career Center** with several new features coming in the next month as well as a larger plan in place for the year ahead. The SVA Career Center provides tailored professional mentoring, career guidance, and job placement as a part of the larger SVA ecosystem. Along with programming in the leadership curriculum, the Career Center seeks to comprehensively support this population while on active duty, during transition, and as veterans not yet enrolled in school, including the family members making the transition simultaneously. Among other improvements, a designated sponsor/exhibitor's page in the Partner Directory of the Career Center will better organize partners and opportunities. **Stay tuned for more news shortly!**

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## General Eligibility Requirements:

- Honorable Discharge (including honorable under general conditions)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA (Proof of Transcript Required)
- Planned enrollment at a 4-Year University for the full 2023/2024 Academic Year
- Have already completed at least 1 full year of College/University (Unofficial Transcript required)

\*\*\*See SVA's Scholarship Page for most up to date eligibility/application requirements including award specific requirements.

### Raytheon Missiles and Defense Patriot Scholarship

Application open: 10/11/22 - 1/31/23

Student Veterans of America and Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD) have partnered to provide two (2) \$10,000 scholarships to student veterans demonstrating a commitment to and passion for their chosen field of study, as well as demonstrated leadership and engagement within their community. The Patriot Scholarship is offered exclusively to U.S. Army veterans, and is named after RMD's Patriot Air and Missile Defense System.



### Raytheon Technologies Spy-6 Scholarship

Application open: 1/5/23 - 4/7/23

The Raytheon Missiles & Defense SPY-6 Scholarship, named for the U.S. Navy's SPY-6 Family of Radars, provides returning sailors an opportunity to achieve educational goals and position themselves for success in civilian professions. Two \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded to sailors who pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited university and demonstrate leadership in their local community.



### Comcast NBCUniversal Scholarship

Application open: 1/5/23 - 4/7/23

The Comcast NBCUniversal-SVA Scholarship will support two student veterans in any major with an interest in the entertainment industry with a \$12,000 scholarship each.



### Google Scholarship

Application open: 3/31/23 - 4/30/23

As part of Google's commitment to military veterans, the company partners with SVA each year to fund scholarships. The scholarship provides assistance to student veterans who are pursuing university degrees in the field of computer science in the U.S. Selected students will receive \$10,000 for the upcoming school year.



### John Edelman Scholarship

Application open: 3/31/23 - 4/30/23

John Edelman is committed to supporting education that promotes improved mental health to veterans and service-members. He has committed to providing (2) \$10,000 scholarships for high-performing student veterans pursuing degrees/careers in mental health counseling, and through the John Edelman Scholars program, to reward achievement and encourage further study.



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