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Photographs courtesy of Robert Whitehead, CSUSB's AMC Photographer



VSC News | 11.30.12

### Have a question for the Veterans Success Center?

E-mail them to [daniels@csusb.edu](mailto:daniels@csusb.edu), call (909)537-5195/6 or visit the center located on the lower level of the Coyote Bookstore.



## Welcome to the Third Edition of the Reveille!

Dear Reader,

I proudly introduce you to our third edition of the newsletter, The Reveille. As the chief correspondent, I would like to thank you for your interest in the past newsletters. The Veteran's Success Center has many programs and events to offer the students of CSUSB. This newsletter also features our student veterans from various branches of the military on a monthly basis. Check out their short bios and when you see them around campus, thank them for their service. I myself am a creative writing English major with a family member in the military. I enjoyed writing these articles and I hope that you will enjoy reading them. I look forward to the next edition. Until then, thank you for the support. Encourage others to do the same and have a great winter break.

Lizbeth Cacho-Vega  
Chief Correspondent

### The Meaning of Veterans Day

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service ..." These were President Woodrow Wilson's words said in honor of the first Veteran's Day, then Armistice Day, November 11, 1919. While many of us enjoy the observed school day and/or work day off, we must consider the sole purpose for today's national holiday. Armistice Day was a day of peace between the allies of the United States and Germany when they signed the famous Treaty of Versailles. This ended World War I on the eleventh day on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month. What many people don't know is that it didn't become a federal holiday until 1938, nineteen years later. Then in 1954, Armistice Day was switched to Veteran's Day by the confirmation of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and then the date was changed to be observed on the fourth Monday of October in 1968. Initially, all states changed the date but soon reverted to observing Veteran's Day on Nov. 11 by popular demand. Most of the population agreed that Veteran's day should be observed on Nov. 11 and in 1978 the holiday was changed back to the date we celebrate now. We should take this day as a remembrance to our fallen, lost, and surviving war heroes. Thank you for your bravery.



# Banquet in Honor of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Cal State San Bernardino's student Marines, Dr. Frank Rincon, Vice President of Student Affairs, Capt. Cicero Runningcrane, USMC, the VSC staff and a few others, hosted the inaugural Marine Core Birthday Ball on Nov. 8, 2012. Followed by a screening of the commandant's video, Chaplin Capt. Richard Hetitsh, USN, provided the invocation. This was followed by the national anthem and then the famous cake ceremony. The keynote speaker, Col. Bucky Peterson, USMC ret., addressed of the importance of this tradition that has lasted for 236 years. The highlights of the evening were the sword ceremony and the cake cutting ceremony in which the youngest and the oldest Marine participated. The air was very social and every Marine beamed with pride as they sat among their brothers in arms. The ceremony ended with closing remarks from Richard Valdez, USMC veteran, and everyone gave a round of applause congratulating every Marine.

***A special thank you to our sponsors: [Desi]gn Cakes and Cupcakes; Student Veterans Organization; Veterans Success Center; and CSUSB Recreational Sports***

## Meet Our Marine Corps Coyotes! Reuben Perales, USMC Veteran

Reuben Perales, MLG1, was a corporal stationed at Camp Pendleton, is a transfer student from Mira Costa College, and now a junior at CSUSB majoring in business finance. Reuben claims he "lives in the shadows" and doesn't like to show off, but he shows great pride and uniqueness saying that he joined the Marines merely because it was a challenge and he felt like he could face it. This determined student noticed that too many people were following a similar path and he chose the Marines to find his own way in life. I asked him if he had funny or interesting stories and he mentioned how "a lot of things happened in the dorms" and also said a few of the practical jokes that would be played on the fellow cadets in training camp. He told me about the few times that brakes would be mysteriously taken off of bicycles causing someone to either crash or be late to their training. This dedicated student has strived and told me about the stigmas that Marines have and how they are either well respected or picked on at social places by people who either "hate them or love them." His services are both courageous and admirable and more people should follow in this born-to-be leader's footsteps.

## Miguel Duran, USMC Reservist

Miguel Duran is a corporal (CPL) E-4 with the 2nd Battalion 23rd Marines H&S Co. located in Pasadena, California. Miguel has been in the Marines for the past seven years. He is a criminal justice major. In his experienced time in the military he can recall the "blood, sweat, and tears" he put into his work. Yet, despite all of this, he recalls the good times with an overall satisfaction that has come due to all of the sacrifices and hardships a Marine must endure. When asked, "What is your favorite part of the Marine Ball?" He said, "The camaraderie between all the Marines there. We know that no matter what age or rank, we have gone through the hardest initial training in the world and nobody can take that away from us." He cannot explain the feeling he gets when he attends these celebrations but when everyone is in dress blues, a bond is clearly formed. Miguel's unintended initial enlistment in the Marines led him to where he is today. During his senior year, two wrestling teammates joined the Marines and he was impressed by their transformation and decided to join. Miguel should serve as an inspiration to many.



Courtesy of Robert Whitehead, CSUSB's AMC Photographer



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## American Ex POW/MIA Cecil Davis

On Nov. 9, 2012 Cecil Davis, a well-known ex POW/MIA Army Air Corps officer from World War II, addressed the Air Force, Det. 002 ROTC cadets at their POW/MIA Ceremony. Davis spoke of his bravery and his struggles to survive in the custody of the Germans by which he was taken prisoner for almost a year. His voice resonated deep within the hearts of the audience who were listening so intently that at times the room became so silent that a pin could be heard if it was dropped. He laughed as he told us stories of how the “Crazy Russians,” as he called them, became his friends. He told us about the ideas they would come up with to make the time go by faster like playing the “What’s in your bread today?” guessing game as they would find everything from shards of glass to rat droppings in their food. Not all the stories were humorous though. Some brought looks of shock and horror across the room as he spoke of the atrocities he had to face when they made him clean the ovens in a concentration camp, filling them up with bodies and unloading the bones to be thrown into shallow graves. He offered important advice to the families and the veterans of wars. He spoke of the importance of communication and support, of therapy and how the “invisible” injuries were the ones that needed more healing than the visible ones. What an inspiration and honor to have had this man come and inspire us with his courageous words. Thank you Mr. Davis.

## Collection Boxes for the 426<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion & 163<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Wing

Two major donation drives took place during veteran’s awareness week. Boxes were placed across campus to collect games, activities, personal hygiene products, snacks, and used electronics to benefit the soldiers of the 426<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion who are currently deployed in Afghanistan. The second drive was for the families in need of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Wing. Potatoes, yams, boxes of stuffing, rolls, loaves of bread and chips were collected to feed 30 families. Thanks to major contribution from Sonia Rodriguez, Kenneth Jacobs, his mom Elsa Simpson, Neena Prado, James and Marci Daniels, the boxes were filled to capacity. So special thanks goes to them for their hard work and dedication. When wheeling out the donations Sergeant First Class Alec Appleton remarked, “We really appreciate this gesture, and I am sure that our soldiers in Afghanistan will as well. Thank you for your support.”

## Beautiful Stoles for Grad Vets

Are you graduating this year? The Veteran’s Success Center now has beautiful stoles being offered to any veteran, active duty service member, ROTC Cadet, reserve, or California National Guard member who will be graduating this December 2012. The stoles are free of charge and they will include a patch of your military branch and American flag patch. If you’re interested please contact Angela Beers ASAP at the VSC from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays or Fridays. Show your military pride and wear the stoles, they’re free!





## OSHER Foundation Scholarship

Are you currently an undergraduate student who took a gap of five years or more off in your education? If so, then the Osher Foundation has a scholarship just for you! This scholarship is available for the 2013-2014 academic year. The application process is fairly easy. All you have to do is in addition to filling out the application through the [finaid.csusb.edu](http://finaid.csusb.edu) link you must submit a two to three typed, double spaced essay discussing topics such as: the importance of college in your life; why your education was interrupted, community service that you have performed; and any extenuating circumstances regarding your pursuit of an education. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2013. There is still plenty of time to complete the submissions but the earlier the better. So if eligible, give it a shot!



## Vandenberg Scholarship

The Vandenberg Spouses' Club Scholarship Program offers generous scholarships to military spouses, high school seniors, and undergraduate dependents. If you match one of these descriptions then you are eligible for this scholarship. Overall, the requirements for both spouses and students are that they must show academic honors, awards and be active in community service. These are essential in determining eligibility. Military spouses or relatives don't have to be active and the family members of deceased veterans are eligible as well. Financial need will not be a determinant factor in who receives the scholarship. For the application and further information, you can go to <http://www.vandenbergspousesclub.org/scholarships/>.



## Donate Military History Books to the VSC

The Veteran's Success Center is now accepting donations of old or new history books regarding the military. As long as they are readable and kept in a fairly preserved state then the center will accept them. Please drop off the donations in the VSC located under the bookstore.



## SVO Toys for Tots Drive

It's that time of the year again, every year we give and we get presents, why not give a little more and help a child get some Christmas joy in their life as well? Toys for tots has begun their collection. This organization founded by the Marines in 1947 has kept the tradition alive. They are now accepting any type of unwrapped toy, you can drop it off at the VSC before the end of finals week and your donation will help a child in need of a smile this Christmas. But what if there is no time or if I'm too late you ask? Then you can make a monetary donation or a gift donation online at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org). Season's greetings.

