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Issue 33
December 2016

BEST FOR VETS MILITARY COLLEGE 2017

Look What's Inside...

- Presidential Election and Analysis of Now
- The Baggage of No Bags
- Pearl Harbor Day
- The December 2nd Veterans Stole Ceremony
- S.T.A.R.S. Seminar Information
- Favorite Holiday Traditions!



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**CSUSB Veterans
Success Center**



As reported by William Lewis, VSC Student Assistant

In its annual report, the “Military Times” released its best schools for military veterans, placing CSUSB in the top 20 universities in the nation. To earn such a prestigious placement, colleges around the U.S. have to meet special requirements and must offer veteran-specific programs that focus on the development and success of their student veteran population. Some of the criteria that the colleges have to meet include: complete an “exhaustively detailed, roughly 150-question survey. Over 90 percent participate in large scale federal education agreements such as the White House's Principles of Excellence and the U.S. Defense Department's Memorandum of Understanding. The colleges at the highest level are cost effective and have a low student-to faculty ratio.

The Veterans Success Center at CSUSB has a number of services that have contributed to the school being ranked among one of the best in the nation and the top school in California for veterans. Among these programs are:

Tutoring - We have a staff that is able to assist students with different levels of scholastic needs;

Inland Empire Education and Mental Health Collaboratives - The VSC is a founding member of both collaboratives, which are focused on training educators and service providers so that they can improve services to veterans.

Writer's Group - Meets on Saturdays to discuss and review students' professional writing and assist them in the publishing process.

Support Group for Veterans - Where those who need assistance in overcoming difficulties can safely attend; ask Marci Daniels or Jaime Espinoza for more information.

The Student Veterans Organization - Focused on representing our veteran population at the national level and advocating for the resources that they need.

The Reveille - A regularly produced e-newsletter highlighting achievements and different areas related to veterans at Cal State San Bernardino.

Services for veterans also extend to the campus in Palm Desert, staffed by a dedicated group of student assistants, who make veterans feel welcome.

With the tireless work of the staff and student assistants the Veterans Success Center will continue to strive for excellence and provide outstanding service to the veterans of CSUSB.



Elections 2016 and Its Complicated Nature

Editorial by William Lewis



With the election results in and a new president-elect selected, the overall race has been one of incendiary words, strong rhetoric, and difficult feelings for many. The 2016 presidential election has led to a divide, brought to light some underlying feelings, and thrown analysts for a loop in almost every way. Donald J. Trump won the Electoral College, but not all Americans agree with that decision. This is to be expected to some extent. When the candidate of one major party is victorious over another major party, there will be those who disagree with the decision and work to pursue their interests by other means.

What makes this election different is the amount of polarization that occurred post results. Present on this campus and around the country were acts of protest, and in some areas much more fervent protest (and in some areas, though few, rioting). With this election in particular, it can be said that the candidates were not the desired choice of many Americans for being the Commander and Chief of the United States. According to the analysts at the FiveThirtyEight website, this year's selections have had a historically low favorability rating among the general populace. Six months prior to the election both parties were disliked, according to the estimates. Donald Trump was disliked strongly by 53 percent and Hillary Clinton was disliked strongly by 37 percent of those polled. This has set the precedent for the most disliked individuals who have run for our highest political office recorded since the 1980s. With this large amount of negative feelings over the candidates, it can be understood, to a degree, that the losing side would be more than traditionally upset.

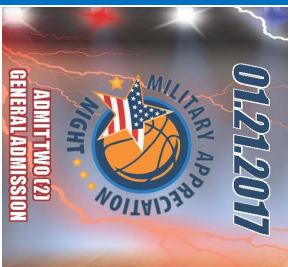
Most of the supporters of Hillary Clinton state that since Mrs. Clinton was the victor of the popular vote she should be the victor of the election. According to NBC News, Mrs. Clinton will likely cap out at 2.5 million votes over Mr. Trump in the popular vote total. The issue with the popular vote is location (and how it relates to the Electoral College). If a candidate has already won an area of the electoral college (even if by one vote) they don't need any additional votes in that area (assuming no more votes came in from that point). The votes that were cast in favor of Mrs. Clinton are in areas where she already won, such as, California, New York, and Illinois (traditionally Democratic party states). These can be seen as "Superfluous Votes" as described by NBC, or votes that don't affect the electoral college any further. Think of it in this manner, a state has a set amount of votes to give to the electoral process for example, California has 55, it cannot give anymore than 55 electoral votes. So when the population of California is very supportive of Mrs. Clinton (62 percent voting Democratic, 33 percent voting Republican, and the remaining 5 percent going to third party nominations), the end result is California can only give 55 electoral votes.

With this mindset, the concept isn't so far-fetched that a president can win the election without having to win every single vote. This forces the presidential candidates to appeal to Americans from all walks of life instead of just appealing to the masses of population; if that were the case, the population-dense states would have the sole decision on the outcome of the election, and this wouldn't be true representation of the entire United States.

Brief classroom session aside, that doesn't assuage the feelings of discontent that many are feeling right now. There are families who fear some of the immigration rhetoric that was spoken and there are families glad that immigration policies are going to be more tightly enforced. There are those who are glad the president-elect is taking a hard stance on economic and foreign affairs, and others who believe that this will be the rise of a class divide and poor relations with other countries. These concerns will occupy a space in the minds of all over the next four years (and perhaps longer). But, at the end of the day, those concerns don't change who the president-elect is, and if the country remains divided, progress won't be made in any reasonable fashion. Just as it has been in past elections (regardless of the victor), the American people need to work together, and focus on understanding each other rather than on what we dislike about each other. With unity, the spirit of what makes America great can truly be focused on and headway into a new age can be made.

VSC

Military Appreciation Night



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Proposition 67 — Humor and Handbags



*Image reprinted from the Daily Mail

With the passage of Proposition 67 (which bans single-use plastic bags), California now has an entertaining dilemma. Most stores have already gone ahead of the curve and complied with the ballot measure before the effective date Jan. 1. Much to the surprise of local Californians, grocery stores have done away with their single-use plastic bags and started charging between 10-15 cents for a durable reusable plastic bag. This caused some friction to customers, most of who are a little irate believing that the proposition wouldn't come into

effect until Jan 1. This misconception being untrue, as grocery stores must be in compliance with the act immediately in order to avoid potential penalties.

For the reader's reference, the exact wording of the proposition is below:

"A 'Yes' vote approves, and a 'No' vote rejects, a statute that prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers single-use plastic or paper carryout bags but permits sale of recycled paper bags and reusable bags. Fiscal Impact: Relatively small fiscal effects on state and local governments, including a minor increase in state administrative costs and possible minor local government savings from reduced litter and waste management costs."

So be sure to be mindful of your future shopping and invest in reusable bags. As a helpful tip, categorize your reusable bags into different food groups; meat, should never be mixed with vegetables in grocery bags, but the residue left on the bag from a previous shopping trip can remain to contaminate the rest of the contents. Keep your bags clean and organized, if possible buy the kind that can be cleaned in a washing machine, or easily wiped down.

Pearl Harbor Day

"... December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." - President Franklin D. Roosevelt

The words spoken by President Roosevelt 75 years ago, were part of his speech petitioning Congress to declare war against Japan. The war was won four years later on Sept. 2, 1945.

To this day we still honor the memory of that attack by taking time to remember the sacrifice that was made by the men and women of the past, and taking it to heart when we honor the men and women of today. Although Pearl Harbor is far from the minds of many Americans today, it is still important to reflect on the lessons learned regarding WWII and apply them to the here and now. Do honor to those who died through an act of war by striving for measures that lead to peace. Seek to understand your neighbors, break bread over common interests, and educate yourselves on the matters of importance, through these simple measures it is possible to improve the world starting with each individual person.



Veteran's Graduation Celebration

Written by Eduardo Verdugo

On Friday Dec. 2, 2016, the Veterans Success Center hosted its Fall Veterans' Graduation Celebration to honor our graduating student veterans. The event was held in the Obershaw Dining Room in the Upper Commons. Student veterans received a stole adorned with their branch patch and U.S. flag as well as a CSUSB alumni pin and wooden branch seal. The students that graduated with a GPA of 3.0 or higher were further acknowledged, with honors, as they were presented with the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society honor cord. The ceremony included speeches from U.S. Navy veteran Agustin Ramirez, staff advisor to the Student Veteran Organization, U.S. Army veteran and president of the SVO, Arturo Brooks, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and CSUSB alumni, Kenneth Jacobs, and guest speaker U.S. Army Capt. Philippe Vazquez, commander of the Redlands U.S. Army Recruiting Company and a CSUSB alumnus.

U.S. Navy chaplain Capt. Quinn Hawley provided the benediction and invocation for the graduates. The graduates were presented with their regalia by officers from different branches: Cpt. Philippe Vazquez, U.S. Army, bestowed the regalia on Army Veterans, Capt. Quinn Hawley, U.S. Navy (Ret.), bestowed U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Veterans, and 2nd Lt. Ken Nakanishi, U.S. Air Force, bestowed U.S. Air Force veterans. The graduates were presented with certificates of recognition from state Assemblymember Cheryl R. Brown, presented by Jon Gaede, and Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition from the Office of Congressman Pete Aguilar, presented by Omar Pamplona.

After the ceremony, the graduates, their families, special guests, and attendees were invited to stay for dinner. Many of the graduates took this time to take pictures with their families, the representatives from Congressman Aguilar and Assemblymember Brown's offices, and the military officers. This celebration of our veteran graduates is among many of the reasons CSUSB has been ranked as the number one veteran serving organization in the state of California, by the Military Times. We encourage all student veterans to enjoy and take part in this celebration when their time comes. Being honored alongside your peers is a great joy that we wish for all CSUSB student veterans to experience.

When it is your time to graduate please let the VSC know by emailing vsc@csusb.edu or calling us at (909) 537-5195.



Please join us on
01-24-2017

Overcoming Test Anxiety

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker Tess Webster-Henry, MS Health Educator

The series sessions are open discussions on topics that we know are important to student veterans. The sessions are moderated by experts but driven by the attendees! The free one-hour sessions will be held by the Veterans Success Center each month at 11:45 a.m. and best of all, we provide the lunch for free.

Holiday Traditions

Sunday Nnamanci, U.S. Navy Veteran

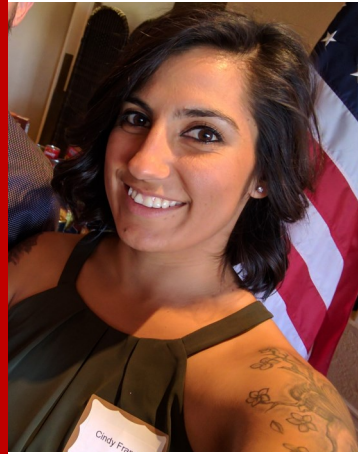


My favorite tradition is travelling to Nigeria (West Africa) to visit my family. This year my family has come to visit me so I don't have to travel. I don't have any seasonal movies that I really enjoy, but I do love one dish from

Nigeria made with fish and goat, as well I enjoy a Cantina di Casteggio Moscato (made specially in Lombardy, Italy). We actually don't hide our presents, it's pretty simple we wrap them and exchange. I don't have a favorite game right now, but I'm currently working on selecting one with my family.

If anyone has suggestions I would enjoy hearing them!

Cindy Franco, U.S. Army Veteran



When I was younger my family didn't have to hide presents very well. As kids we knew better than to try and sneak a peek or search for the hidden presents. My dad somehow always knew when one of us was breaking the rules, maybe it was the not-so-hidden happiness written all over our faces.

I wasn't really one for games, but my family and I enjoy sitting around the living room and talking about our favorite Raiders game, and if possible we would watch whoever was recorded from the most recent game.

I'm not one to make a big fuss about the holidays, but I enjoy a few different foods and beverages, normally the adult kind, but this Christmas I'm looking to try some new traditions while working on what kind of traditions I'll want for my family in the future.

Kirk Allen, U.S. Navy Veteran

Kirk was sent to the fleet reserve after 30 years of service abroad, and is currently pursuing his masters in interdisciplinary studies at the Palm Desert Campus.

His career goal is to teach culinary arts, intercultural relations, and perhaps military science at a community college near the beach.

A father of three, Kirk believes that a lifetime of learning is a good model to set for his children.



While pursuing his culinary interests Kirk has found a wide variety of different foods to taste around this season. But it's hard to beat the classics of a well cooked turkey and some delicious mashed potatoes.

He enjoys spending time with his family and celebrating the joys of going into a new year, and he wants to wish everyone happy holidays!

Sue Trapp, U.S. Army Dependent

One of our favorite things to do is decorate our house with festive lights, putting up a Christmas tree and setting up an advent wreath. Also we can't miss a Christmas Eve service, that's a tradition. I like to watch "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Santa Claus" around this time.

It's hard to say what my favorite food is, German Blau Kraut with potato dumplings are great with a Christmas roast. A dessert I love around this time is called "Stollen," a type of fruit bread (similar to fruitcake). I especially enjoy making it with candied orange peels and other types of zitronat, raisins and almonds also make it into the dough mix, as well as cardamom and cinnamon spices. As a family we like to play "Apples to Apples," "Cranium," and "Clue."



We've had two ways in the past that we revealed the Christmas presents in a fun way. One was when we had a scavenger hunt that everybody had to use clues to find and another when we had Santa come a hand out the gifts!