

From Editor's Corner
G Adams-Square



To our student veterans, after enduring a year of many challenges we conclude 2021 celebrating our veterans

Unlike traditional students, active-duty military are always on duty, meaning they must be military ready to report at any time, similar to being "on call" in other professions except there is no end until retirement or discharge from the military (Brown & Gross, 2011).

Any common criminal can learn to shoot a gun. Any warlord can give some AK-47s to a few kids and teach small-unit

tactics. Any nation-state can develop capabilities to rival ours, if on a smaller scale. What they can't do, is ensure that those skills are put to good use, not to ill. But the United States military does. The focus on character development starts from the very beginning. When soldiers arrive at the reception battalion, they get a "smart book" along with their haircuts, ID tags, and boots. It has technical details about their rifles, other weapons, radios, and such, but the most important stuff is the Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the Soldier's Creed. This is what they recite each morning at first formation. As basic training progresses, soldiers go through training rituals, -the obstacle course, the bayonet course, the rappelling wall, the marksmanship range, and many others. The Army uses this training to teach basic soldiering skills, and to instill character(excerpt from Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, Nov. 10, 2015).

Sailors on ballistic-missile submarines conduct drills to be ready with the ultimate nuclear deterrent. Airmen train to deliver ordnance on-time and precisely on-target anywhere on the globe. These troops and all the others are highly skilled and proficient but the foundation of it all is their character. There is no more certain trumpet than the justice of America's creed, and our troops are thankfully prepared for the battle. We are grateful to them, as we are grateful to all our veterans (excerpt from Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, Nov. 10, 2015)

To you civilians reading this note, I hope every day that you see a serviceman or a veteran that you will shake their hand and say, 'thank you.' They live an interesting life because they have given so much. Honor them and cherish them.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Adams-Square,
(previously printed)

To continue the tradition at MGA, our November 2021 issue of MGA Student Veterans Esprit De Corps Newsletter will commemorate veterans during the Holiday Season. This edition highlights MGA current student veterans and events from the November 2021 Veterans' Day remembrance.

**MGA Student Veteran
Chase Jones**



Hello, my name is Chase L. Jones and I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I served in the USN from 2013-2017. My rank in the Navy was an Aviation Electronics Technician also known as an AT. I made my way up the ranks to a Second

Class Petty Officer and earned my Aviation Warfare pin.



My official title was AT2 (AW) Jones. I had duty stations all over the United States. My last duty station was Naval Station North Island in San Diego, California. I was assigned to the VRC-30 squadron in San Diego. We were a Carrier Onboard Delivery Squadron (CODS), which means we transported people, supplies, mail, and parts on and off the aircraft carriers stationed at NAS North Island.



My job was supervisor of the avionics shop along with many other collateral duties. The avionics shop consisted of troubleshooting and repairing any communication and navigation systems on our 12 C2-A aircraft

Student Veteran Chase Jones Story Continues



During my time at VRC-30, I had the chance to serve on board four aircraft carriers. They were the USS Nimitz CVN-68, the USS Carl Vinson CVN-70, the USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71, and the USS John C. Stennis CVN-74. I went on many work up exercises with these ships, and deployed for 9 months in 2016 with CVN-74. I traveled to countries all over the

South China Sea in support of our mission.



I was able to visit ports in many countries including Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam, Brunei, Japan, and Guam.

Deployment taught me many things, but the most was how to be happy with our liberties and freedoms in the United States and appreciate everything we have. The military taught me to grow up very quickly and developed my life skills. The hardest part about being in the military was spending so much time away from home and my young daughter. Even though I had to watch her grow up from afar for the first few years of her life, I am

grateful for my time spent serving our country and I know she is proud of me for making that sacrifice.

I can no longer be called back to active duty because my two years of inactive reserve service has been satisfied. However, if I felt the pull to return to service, I would. I strongly believe that anyone able to serve should at least serve two years in the military. It really does teach you things you cannot learn in the civilian world and gives you incredible experiences that you will carry with you forever. My time here at MGA has been great. I enjoy having the chance to go back to school to learn new skills and find a new career outside of the military. My major is Biology and I hope to find a career in genetics research. I am confident in my commitment to bettering myself and I believe that the culture here at MGA will play a great hand in helping me reach my goals, just as my time in the Navy has.

EASTMAN CAMPUS
MGA Christy Faulk
Student Services
Coordinator



**Tribute to student
vets & employees**

SFC H. Gene
Behrends,
Assistant Chief
Instructor-Flight
Department
Sadeth Cheng,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Adon Clark, Dean
MGA School of
Aviation
Gabe Dorasmi,
Aviation
Maintenance
Technology
Corey Farr, MGA
School of Aviation
Air Traffic
Controller

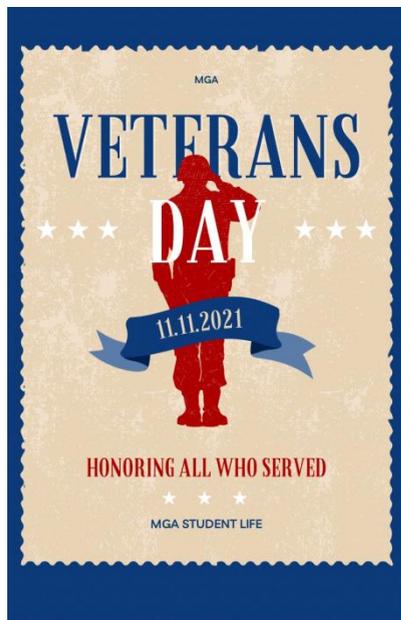
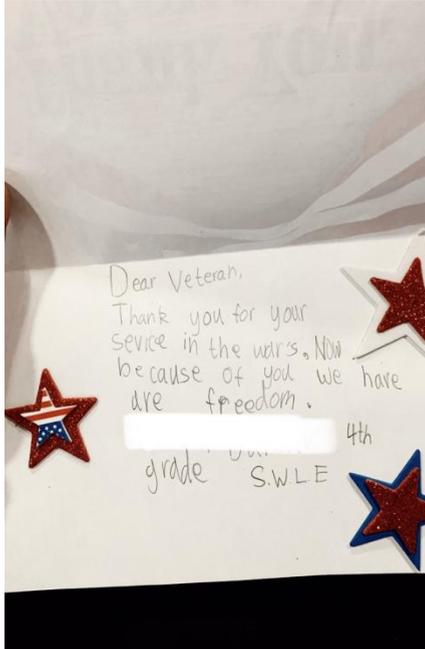
Pat Johnny,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Nicholas Johnston,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Art Lester,
Aviation
Maintenance
Technology
Joseph Lipman,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Ellen Mazzarela,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Jerrod Meadows,
BSASM Flight
Airplane
Newlyn Ngo
Aviation Science
Management
Cainan Patrick
BSASM Flight
Helicopter
John Peters,
Aviation
Maintenance
Technology
Angela Taylor,
Tower Chief



Dublin Campus Ongoing Efforts to Support Vets

MGA Hannah Thomas
Student Services
Coordinator

For Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, Dublin Campus students wrote letters to veterans. Letters were delivered to the veterans at the Dublin VA.



Macon Campus

Middle Georgia State University and the Macon-Bibb County government jointly observed Veterans Day at Coleman Hill. Ceremony was conducted November 11, 2021 | 11 AM



VA extends presumptive period for Persian Gulf War Veterans

VA has extended the presumptive period to Dec. 31, 2026 for qualifying chronic disabilities rated 10% or more resulting from

undiagnosed illnesses in Persian [Gulf War](#) Veterans to ensure benefits established by Congress are fairly administered.

If an extension of the current presumptive period was not implemented, service members whose conditions arise after Dec. 31, 2021 would be substantially disadvantaged compared to service members whose conditions manifested at an earlier date.

Limiting entitlement to benefits due to the expiration of the presumptive period would be premature given that current studies remain inconclusive as to the cause and time of onset of illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf War Veterans.

VA presumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Persian Gulf War service without regard to cause, including, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal

disorders. Also included are undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders and sleep disturbances.

Persian Gulf War Veterans who are experiencing any of the symptoms listed above and other unexplained medical issues are encouraged to [file](#) a compensation claim for them.

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/96639/va-extends-presumptive-period-for-persian-gulf-war-veterans/>

Submitted by veteran George Mathews

Caregivers have been overlooked, those days are over, VA secretary says

Caregivers have been overlooked by VA over the years, but those days are over, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Oct. 29.

Speaking at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Sixth Annual National Convening, McDonough said one of VA's most important jobs is to support caregivers.

"Our job at VA and EDF is to help those caregivers to find ways to make their lives easier – both because that's the right thing to do, and because supporting caregivers improves outcomes for Veterans," he said.

VA will continue to focus on four pillars: advocacy, access, outcomes and excellence. Focusing on those four is critical, as the stress of managing a household and Veteran's medical conditions during a pandemic is hard.

"This is the type of stress that leads caregivers to suffer from anxiety, depression and health issues more often than most Americans," McDonough said. "And it means that our shared mission to care for those caregivers has never been more important than it is right now."

During the pandemic, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation partnered with VA to provide more than \$500,000-worth of free, professional [respite services](#) to caregivers who needed it. On top of that, VA has vaccinated more than 85,000 caregivers and given personal protective equipment, all while delivering more care and benefits than ever before.

McDonough said VA will continue the close collaboration with the [Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory committee](#) – which is chaired by Senator Elizabeth Dole. VA's dedication to caregivers shows, with its first ever senior advisor for caregivers: Meg Kabat advises the secretary on families, caregivers and survivors.

"We'll move heaven and earth to get caregivers timely access to their VA resources," he said.

Ensuring that caregivers who help Veterans with assisted daily living get those resources, McDonough noted that

the [Program of Comprehensive Assistance](#) will soon expand to cover all generations of caregivers. PCAFC was previously expanded in October 2020 to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Soon, access to PCAFC will include eligible Veterans from all eras who have a serious injury – incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service.

VA [announced in September](#) that its [Caregiver Support Program](#) is extending eligibility through Sept. 30, 2022, for Veterans who are [legacy participants](#); it additionally extends to [legacy applicants](#) and their family caregivers who participate in the [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#).

This extension applies to Veterans who were

participating in PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and to individuals who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020. It also applies to those who were accepted into the program after Oct. 1, 2020.

The secretary highlighted other programs, too, including the [Program of General Caregiver Support Services](#).

Dedicated staff at every VA medical center meet with caregivers, help identify their Veterans' needs, and come up with a plan to address them.

VA's "vitally important" [Peer Support Program for caregivers](#)

strengthens relationships between caregivers, providing an opportunity for networking and empowering caregivers to help one another.

"Because as you know, the health and happiness of caregivers is inextricably tied to the health and happiness of the Veterans they serve," McDonough said. "In other words, by improving caregiver outcomes, we improve Veteran outcomes – and we at VA are going to

stop at nothing to do both."

The secretary cited a story of a Veteran who is a quadruple amputee and whose wife is his primary caregiver. He said the Veteran needs daily help, from brushing his teeth to putting on his prosthetics. The Veteran appreciates when people come up to him and thank him for his service, but noted that nobody comes up to his wife to thank her for the service she's given to the country by being a caregiver. The secretary said that's wrong and he's out to fix it.

"I know that at times, throughout VA's history, caregivers have been overlooked," he said. "Or not included. Or not appreciated for the back-breaking work they do, and the incredible service that they provide. But I'm here today to say, to any caregiver watching, that those days are over. <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntag/96666/caregivers-have-been-overlooked-those-days-are-over-va-secretary-says/>

Submitted by veteran
George Mathews

**From Editor's Corner
G Adams-Square**

To all of our contributors thank you. To all of our readers keep reading. As we work through the pandemic, let's continue to remember our troops: those who are currently serving. You may not be able to send a care package but a card or a letter of kind words and encouragement speaks volumes, Always remember those who have served and those who gave their lives for us to enjoy life and the pursuit of happiness. We hope our tribute during fall Holiday Season, 2021 is a reminder to veteran students how valuable to MGA each of you enriches us. Our mission is to assure you that we are here for you. May peace, safety and wellness surround each of you and your families! Thank you for your service. We look forward to serving you in our next edition November 2022.

This spot is for you! If you were missing in the November edition, 2021, we can help. We invite you to share your military to college experience with us. For consideration in the Fall 2022 issue, please submit your story and pictures to

grace.adamssquare@mga.edu

**In Memory of a Fallen Veteran
Duty, Honor,
Service, In
Service and
Serving MGA
Eastman Campus**

Lisa M. Henry



The things I remember most about Lisa are her smile, her patience, her dedication and commitment to students. Lisa was a gentle soul, *from Grace Adams-Square*

Goodbye to one of our own. Senior Master Sergeant Lisa Henry, USAF Retired. School of Aviation. Dept. of Air Traffic Management (2014 - 2021).

The Lisa M. Henry Memorial Scholarship has been established in her honor.

Ms. Lisa Henry, who served as an Air Traffic Control Assistant Professor in the School of Aviation. Ms. Henry, an icon in the School of Aviation, will be sorely missed by faculty, staff, and students.

Having served our country for over 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, Ms. Henry selected Arlington National Cemetery, as her final resting place.



Honoring the Life and Legacy of
LISA MARIA HENRY
MAY 24, 1962 - AUGUST 22, 2021