

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



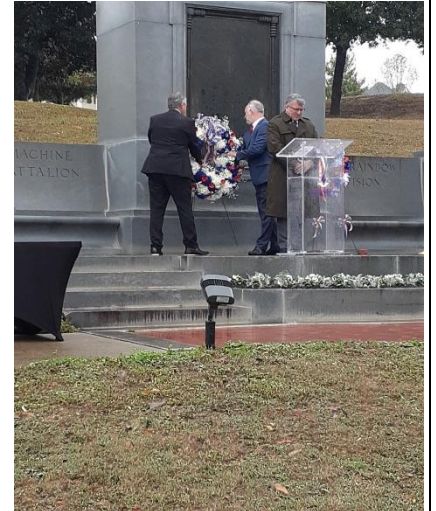
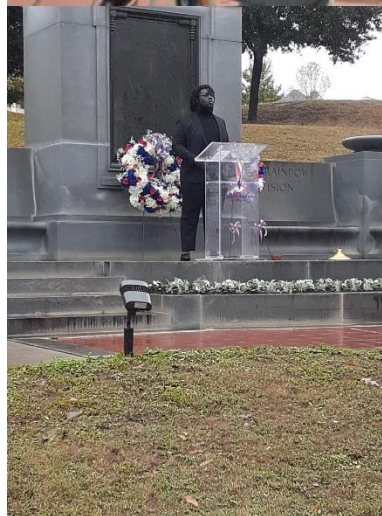
**MGA President Chris Blake  
& army veteran Bill Square**

***To our student  
veterans, after  
enduring a year of  
many challenges we  
conclude 2022  
celebrating our  
veterans***

To continue the tradition at MGA, our December 2022 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 2022 Veterans' Day remembrance.

**Macon Campus**

**Middle Georgia State  
University and the  
Macon-Bibb County  
government jointly  
observed Veterans Day  
at Coleman Hill.  
Ceremony was  
conducted November  
11, 2022 | 11 AM**







**EASTMAN CAMPUS**  
**MGA Christy Faulk**  
**Student Services**  
**Coordinator**



*The student in the middle of this photo is a Veteran. His name is Gunnar Bentrud.*



*From Left to Right:  
Adon Clark – Dean, School of  
Aviation; Steve Steckowski –  
AMT Instructor;  
Robert Torres – AMT  
Instructor; Gunnar Bentrud –  
Student, Aviation Hall RA*



**This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.**

**Warner Robins Campus  
MGA Student Veteran  
Justin Greene**



*Photo of Justin Greene attending a wedding with his father.*

Justin Greene is a MGA student veteran, having served in the United State Air Force. Greene served 6 years and 11 months. Justin was 3D1X3. He worked with Radio Frequency equipment, including radios and antennas. Greene was never deployed. Greene assessed his experience at MGA as good and has enjoyed the ability to continue education in-person. As for being called back for active duty, Justin stated, "I do believe at this point I could only be called back

due to a draft due to my time commitment being served".

**Dublin Community**

**From The Georgia  
Department of Veterans**



The Carl Vinson VA Medical Center will host a public forum for Women Veterans on Thursday, December 8, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Topics include women, mental, and whole healthcare; social work; caregiver support; and more!

Interested veterans can attend the session in person or by joining the Dublin VA Medical Center on Microsoft Teams!

The next Women Veteran Forum Meeting in Dublin. We would be honored if you could join us.

Please share with any Women Veterans in your area.

**How to Find Your Old  
Military Buddies After  
You Get Out**

While the government and military branches won't provide contact information for veterans or active-duty personnel except for official business, they do offer a lot of good starting points for locating people who served at various commands, including lists of reunions.

The Department of Veterans Affairs can forward a message to a veteran, providing the veteran has filed a claim with VA and their current address is on record.

The Army's SoldierForLife program offers a lot of helpful information for both retired and veteran

soldiers, including access to the magazine "Echoes."

Navy Retired Activities offers a wealth of information for retirees and veterans, as well as a link to reunions and access to the "Shift Colors" magazine.

Air Force Retiree Services has a website that provides several helpful links, including information about reunions as well as access to the "Afterburner" magazine for Air Force retirees.

The Marine Corps' "Leatherneck" magazine has links to unit reunions, as well as helpful information for retirees and veterans

The Coast Guard, United States Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have an official retiree magazine, the "Long Blue Line", for all three. It lists reunions, as well as more information for retirees.



### **Raising Your VA Compensation Rates**

As the cost of living goes up, VA ensures that your benefit rates do too! Starting Jan. 1, 2023, all compensation benefit rates have increased by 8.7% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), as well as other VA assistance programs. If you receive VA compensation benefits, learn your new rates today.

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

### **Track Your VA Claim**

Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans have set an all-time record for filing online disability compensation claims. VA will begin to process all PACT-related claims on Jan. 1, 2023. If you have a pending claim or appeal, use VA's online tool to stay up-to-date on its status.



### **Supplement Your Pension with Aid and Attendance**

Did you know that VA's Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits can increase your pension payments to support the additional care you need? If you need help with daily activities, or if you are housebound, you may qualify for an increased VA pension to help pay for in-home care, assisted living, or a nursing home.



## Wreaths Across America

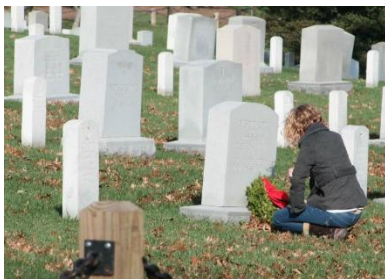
On Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, Wreaths Across America will remember and honor our fallen heroes by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 2,500 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Learn how you can sponsor a wreath or volunteer online



## Shop Military Discounts this Holiday Season

Save money this holiday season with a variety of discounts. Enjoy deals on clothing, electronics, fitness, food, and more—all available to Veterans, service members, and their families and caregivers. Check out these year-round discounts before your next purchase.

<https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>



## Simplifying the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill application process

Applicants to receive an immediate decision after submitting application

For the first time in 78 years, G.I. Bill® applicants can receive an

immediate, real-time education benefits decision, thanks to the simplified Post-9/11 G.I. Bill application experience.

Since 1944, over 25 million beneficiaries have taken advantage of G.I. Bill benefits. Many of these individuals waited up to a month to receive an eligibility decision—a month of waiting to plan their future, a month of waiting to take the next step toward their educational goals. But not anymore, thanks to VA's most recent modernization updates, through the Digital G.I. Bill (DGIB) initiative.

VA made updates to its application process in August 2022, allowing eligible Veterans and service members to apply for and receive their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits decision within minutes. The first Veteran to receive an automated decision was surprised and excited about the new process:

“I honestly didn't even realize the process had changed. It was so smooth and instantaneous!

I've already told a few of my friends who are out or getting out soon how easy the process was to apply for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and get the go ahead to apply for classes. I appreciate the efforts VA has made to ease the process for [Veterans]. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill is basically an automatic benefit for those who serve out their contracts in the military and the process for applying may have been a deterrent in the past, but that was so easy! I hope this helps more [Veterans] utilize this benefit in the future!”

By simplifying the education benefits experience, VA is helping Veterans use the benefits they have earned and deserve. VA is making a difference in the lives of Veterans, their families, and the nation as a whole.

If you are a Veteran or service member who is ready to apply for VA education benefits, here's how to get started:

Go to the VA website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). Click the blue Sign in button at the top right of the page.

If you don't already have a VA.gov account, you will need to create one. You can create an account using ID.me or Login.gov. Pro tip: watch our video for easy step by step instructions on to create an account using ID.me.

After you have created your account, be sure to follow the prompts to verify your identity. This will provide you full access to VA.gov.

Once you have created your account and verified your identity, you're ready to apply for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits!

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. 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, 2022 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 March 2023.**

**This spot is for you! If you were missing in our December edition, 2022, we can help. We invite you to share your military to college experience with us. For consideration in the Spring 2023 issue, please submit your story and pictures to [grace.adamssquare@mga.edu](mailto:grace.adamssquare@mga.edu)**

