This year the Veterans' Services Office “Entrepreneurship and the 21st Century Veteran Program” took place at the University of Houston (UH) University Center in the Houston Room. Despite having to compete with the Department of Defense procurement program on campus and another business seminar at the George R. Brown Convention Center on the same day, some exciting things took place. The lineup of speakers was superb, and for the first time we were generously underwritten by New York Life Insurance. We would like to thank the UH Small Business Development Center and the UH Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation for their untiring efforts and for partnering with us in this program.

By Allen Grundy

THIRD ANNUAL VETERANS’ BUSINESS SEMINAR

This past summer, Mayor Bill White attempted to bring together every military veteran agency from local, state, and federal levels to act as a resource for the disabled veterans of Houston. Out of this initiative came the Veterans Summit. One-stop shopping will soon be available in a resource manual to, hopefully, shorten the access to benefits that are available for disabled veterans. Since its inception, the UH Veterans’ Services Office has focused on the education and career sector of the initiative. Disabled veterans with immediate medical conditions should contact the Veterans Administration Hospital at (713) 791-1414.

MAYOR’S VETERANS INITIATIVE

On November 5, 2007, Congressman Nick Lampson and Clear Channel Communications partnered with the UH Veterans’ Services Office to capture the stories of WWII and Iraqi Freedom veterans from the 22nd district. This includes parts of Harris County, Fort Bend, Sugar Land, Pearland, Richmond, and Galveston. This project includes the University of Houston School of Communication as a resource for manpower and training to interview veterans for videotaping their oral histories. The Library of Congress in Washington D.C. stores these videotapes in its archives. For more information, call Allen Grundy at (713) 743-5490 or John Boerstler at 281-240-3700.

UH VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

On Veterans Day 2007, the Houston Cougar Volleyball Team and the UH Athletics Department presented a certificate to the University of Houston Veterans in appreciation for their service to the United States and its people. The certificate is displayed in the VSO.
The Veterans Collegiate Society (VCS) was created in an effort to unite the student veterans at the University of Houston. In addition to being an apparatus to voice veteran concerns to the Student Government and School Administration, it is also an organization that provides support and guidance to those who have served. Come share your experience with us and be part of the only student organization that has been there and done that. For questions concerning the VCS, please contact UHVETS@uh.edu.

The following scenes are from a VCS sponsored paintball competition between the VSO and various branches of the UHROTC.

"...these benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs,..."

The last issue of The Reveille covered aspects of the Montgomery GI Bill program as it relates to former active duty military personnel, or Chapter 30. However, if you are a member of the Selected Reserve, you may be eligible to receive educational benefits under MGIB-SR, otherwise known as Chapter 1606. This number refers to Title 10, Chapter 1606 of the United States Code. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard.

The program provides up to 36 months of educational benefits. According to the Veterans Administration website, these benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship or on-the-job training, correspondence courses, and programs overseas that lead to a college degree. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses are approved under certain circumstances. VA Pamphlet 22-90-3 says you can be eligible for chapter 1606 benefits if you meet the following requirements:

- Incurred a six-year Selected Reserve Obligation. You must enter into a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve. If you’re an officer, you must agree to serve six years in addition to your current obligation.
- Complete your IADT (Initial Active Duty for Training).
- Maintain Selected Reserve Status. Serve in a drilling Selected Reserve unit and remain in good standing.
- Complete High School. You must obtain a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before you apply for benefits.

If you would like more detailed information about your eligibility for Chapter 1606 or any other Montgomery GI Bill program, go to http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm or call a Veterans Administration Regional Office.

1-800-827-1000
1-888-GI-BILL-1
1-888-442-4551
Student-Veteran Addresses DAR

On the thirteenth of November, I had the pleasure of speaking to a great group of Americans—special ladies who help preserve the heritage of our great nation. These are the ladies of the Lady Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They generously asked me to be their guest speaker for their Veteran’s Day meeting.

The meeting was held at St Luke’s United Methodist Church in River Oaks. As I walked into the meeting room, I was greeted with smiles and adoring looks. Despite the great welcome I received during the pre-meeting setup, I was still a bit nervous. I knew what I wanted to talk about, but I didn’t know if they would like it.

As 10:30 rolled around, the meeting began. We all stood up and said the pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags. Then we sang the national anthem, followed by a recitation of the preamble to the Constitution. Then the ladies recited the mission statement of the Daughters of the American Revolution. After a few minutes of member business and awards, I was called to speak.

I spoke about the diversity of our armed forces and how that is one of its greatest attributes. I spoke about how for many years the U. S. military has made the world a smaller place by exposing its members and civilians from across the globe to different cultures. I said a little bit about my experience in Iraq. At the end of my speech, I talked about veterans’ educational benefits. I encouraged the audience to contact their representatives and ask them to support any increases in the G.I. Bill and to support organizations which provide scholarships to veterans, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Horatio Alger Society. At the conclusion of my speech, they gave me an American flag lapel pin, and they are going to donate fifty dollars to the VFW in my name.

Once again, I thank these wonderful ladies for allowing me to speak and for the great work they do for our national heritage.

Veterans Alumni Association

For the 2007 fall semester, the Veterans’ Services Office is breaking new ground by revitalizing the Veterans Alumni Association (VAA). We received collective interest in the program and are happy to announce its return. Veteran alumni will have the opportunity to participate in campus functions, organizational studies, and scheduled activities designed specifically to cater to veterans’ needs. The first organizational meeting will be announced soon and will take place in the Veterans’ Services Office, located in room 268 on the second floor of the University Center. Come and be a part of this revolutionary association of established and accomplished veterans whose goal is to continue the traditions of veterans with innovative ideas and positive energy. If you know other UH alumni veterans, please pass the word on to them about upcoming VAA activities as they are announced.
Congratulations to navy veteran and UH alumna, Tiffany Tuncle, for being accepted into the Texas Woman’s University master's program in Speech-Language Pathology.

We’d like to help you celebrate this milestone in your life. If you’re graduating this semester, let us know so that we can recognize you in the next issue of The Reveille. In addition, do you have words of wisdom that you’d like to pass on to the student-veterans you are leaving behind? If so, let us know in 100 words or less. Suggested topics:

- If I Knew Then What I Know Now
- What I Learned in the Military That Has Helped in College and Civilian Life
- How the UH Veterans’ Services Office Has Assisted Me

Keep in touch with the VSO after graduation. We’d like to know how you’re progressing with your career so that we can spotlight your successes and use them to encourage others.

To be considered for inclusion in the next issue, submit article at least three weeks prior to the first day of the scheduled publication month. Article should be in MS Word format and sent to the Veterans’ Services Office e-mail address.

The Reveille is published three times each year in April, August, and December. The editor reserves the right to select and edit articles for publication. Send comments regarding this newsletter to vets@mail.uh.edu.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Veterans’ Services Office