

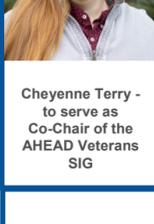
AHEAD-VETERANS NEWSFEED

A tri-annual newsletter brought to you by the AHEAD—Veterans Special Interest Group

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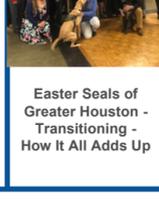
Top stories:



Cheyenne Terry - to serve as Co-Chair of the AHEAD Veterans SIG



Lesley University opens new Veterans Center for Students



Easter Seals of Greater Houston - Transitioning - How It All Adds Up



UNLV "Rebel Vets" to host 3rd annual Operation Battle Born

On the Home Front:



CHEYENNE TERRY OF WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY JOINS THE AHEAD VETERAN SIG TEAM

Cheyenne grew up on a cattle farm in Yell County, Arkansas, with her parents and an older brother. She is a proud parent of one daughter who is interested in pursuing a career in the military. Her family has a long history of military service in which both of her grandfathers served during WWII. Cheyenne's paternal grandfather, Hollis Terry, served in the United States Air Force during WWII and the Korean War. He also helped to establish the Oklahoma Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which is now known as the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Her maternal grandfather, Joe Apple, served in the US Navy during WWII and was a construction worker.

Cheyenne currently serves as the Disability Services Coordinator at Western Colorado University, which is a small public liberal arts institution. Based on her life experiences, she has been able to empathize with students from many walks of life and a wide range of disabilities. Due to her family's history of active military service, she has developed a soft spot for veteran students.

Cheyenne enjoys working with all of her students and is willing to go above and beyond to make sure they have equitable access to educational opportunities.

By Cheyenne Terry

Best Practices in Campus Strategies:



LESLEY UNIVERSITY OPENS NEW VETERANS CENTER—AND IS FEATURED IN THE LESLEY PUBLIC POST:

About 10 years ago, I met a wonderful young man, a veteran named Erik, and my whole life changed. He taught me what it meant to be a veteran, including all of the trials and tribulations of being in a war zone, but also, what it was like to come back, start all over again, and have to reinvent yourself. Erik graduated a few years ago, and will earn his Master's degree in May from the Rhode Island School of Design. We became, are and will remain great friends forever. It was because of what my student was able to teach me about the plight of the veteran that I worked so hard to get this veterans' resource center and lounge up and running.

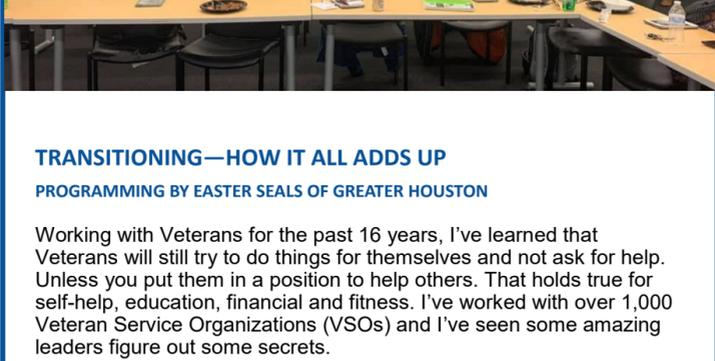
Lesley Public Post recently ran an article on the opening of the Veterans Center. The author, Meg McCarney, is a sophomore, majoring in Creative Writing and Communications. Her interviewing techniques are marvelous, and her written word is impeccable! I predict that we will be reading a lot of what this young woman has to offer as time passes!

[LCAL Advisor is Advocate for New Campus Veterans' Center](#)

[Lesley Veterans Center](#)

By Gene Ferraro - Lesley University

Our Collaborative Partners, other National Liaisons, and other great work for Supporting Student Veterans with Disabilities



TRANSITIONING—HOW IT ALL ADDS UP

PROGRAMMING BY EASTER SEALS OF GREATER HOUSTON

Working with Veterans for the past 16 years, I've learned that Veterans will still try to do things for themselves and not ask for help. Unless you put them in a position to help others. That holds true for self-help, education, financial and fitness. I've worked with over 1,000 Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and I've seen some amazing leaders figure out some secrets.

Here is one of the secrets to helping Veterans: Quit trying to figure out what they need and simply ask them. It doesn't matter how many degrees you have on your office wall or what award you recently received if you can't relate to those who have served in uniform. I saw first-hand how the Veterans Administration (VA) has changed the way they offer programs and assistance in Houston by asking Veterans and VSOs what support they need from them.

In Houston, we have monthly meetings with the leaders of 40 organizations at the VA where we talk about how we can collaborate and be professional problem solvers. This past year, it was discussed of how much money Disabled Veterans were being awarded in the greater Houston area each month but no one was teaching them how to budget properly. We brain stormed and came up with a plan that actually worked.

The VA did a global search and found some unclaimed electronic property that was being stored in a warehouse. Materials originally used for telehealth were wiped clean of information and put back in boxes. We repurposed over \$1,000,000 worth of iPad minis in Life Proof cases and uploaded thousands of links of the VA and other supportive services like Easter Seals of Greater Houston and gave them away.

We repurposed over 900 iPad minis last year and gifted them to Veterans who attended a two hour, intensive class on budgeting, replacing their military benefits and financial technology (FinTech). We collaborated with over 50 VSOs to offer classes at their location, shared spaces, coffee shops and universities. The last location should have been our first but it took some foot work to get accepted into some of the campuses due to red tape.

Once we showed that we were supporting the Veterans and the college/school, the doors opened quickly. Groups like Student Veterans of America (SVA) and colleges with other Veteran Programs actually reached out to us. We made the classes fun and interactive so Veterans would tell others about the content – not just the free iPad mini. Our classes included a section on how to "line item" budget for everything you spend each month and how to find bargains and discounts. This last section was especially fun since we showed Veterans how to live like a Captain on a Corporal's budget!

Our brief follow up shows that the classes were effective by helping Veterans improve their credit scores, get qualified for purchasing vehicles, homes and creating budgets that they and their spouses could follow.

We teamed up with companies that specialize in VA home loans, Realtors that taught how to put yourself in a position to own the right home for their family, the Veterans Land Board for education on owning land and the Veterans asked for more. We expanded the classes to accommodate those who were looking to purchase a home in the next year and those who were looking to buy a car in the next 90 days. Companies were invited in with the strict rule that they could not sell anything during the class to the attendees. The information had to be factual and have real life applications as well as information on discounts.

Veterans followed up with us and showed us pictures of them in their "new" pre-owned car (we taught them how to skip paying the depreciation on vehicles) and their families in front of their new homes. We share our success stories with other non-profits that want to collaborate and have seen an exponential growth of volunteers and activity in our area.

By Tim Stroud - US Army Combat Medic Veteran - Easter Seals of Greater Houston

WE CARRY. WE HONOR. WE REMEMBER.

AN INVITATION TO OPERATION BATTLE BORN

[Nevada Department of Veterans Services](#) announces the 3rd annual Operation Battle Born scheduled for this May.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Student veteran organization, the "Rebel Vets," in collaboration with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), will host the 3rd annual Operation Battle Born endurance event to honor the memory of service members who have fallen since 9/11. During this event, from May 16 to Memorial Day, May 25, veterans and community members will march a total of 370 miles in 10-mile increments with nearly 7,000 dog tags, including tags of 58 Nevada Veterans, divided into four 30-pound rucksacks.

Each year, the route for Operation Battle Born alternates starting and finishing points between Northern and Southern Nevada. Southern Nevada will host this year's opening ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada and the route will conclude with a Memorial Day ceremony in Fernley, Nevada. The Rebel Vets will hand off the tags to the TMCC in Tonopah, Nevada.

Last year, about 250 Southern Nevadans participated in the march after relieving TMCC veterans who set out from the Battle Born Memorial in Carson City.

The event will be sponsored by the UNLV Military & Veteran Services Center, CSUN Rebel Vet Support, Wynn Resort, Caesar's Entertainment and VFW Post 12101.

By Retired Army Colonel Ross Bryant, UNLV Veterans' Center Director

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY VETERAN RE-ENROLLED 2018

Michael Compton '67 is a student who first attended TAMU in 1963. He left TAMU to join the military and served during the Vietnam War. He was in the Corps of Cadets and still keeps up with the buddies from his Corps unit and attends reunions. When he left TAMU in 1966, he was on academic probation. With encouragement from his Corps buddies he re-enrolled in the Spring of 2018 with the goal to complete enough credits to get his Aggie ring (his buddies said they would buy it for him). But Michael is determined not just to get his ring. He plans to graduate and walk across the stage. He also talks about how much he has enjoyed learning that he might even look to complete a graduate degree.

He recently connected with Disability Resources due to need for video captioning for his online classes due to military-related hearing loss (from working in artillery). He talked with me about challenges with poorly done captioning and how that impacts his ability to learn and perform well on exams. This past spring he earned a 4.0 taking 2 online classes where captioning was a key need. He continues to work towards getting off of academic probation and meeting his goals of his ring and diploma.

Michael has a lot of character. He tells great stories of his life experiences. He lives in Gainesville, TX and is a retired sheriff. He has children/grandchildren that have attended TAMU. He did finally order his ring just which is the story that was picked up by local media before my communication group worked on his story.

[BETTER LATE THAN NEVER - Online classes help Aggie earn long-overdue senior ring](#)

By Tracey Foreman

We are always seeking articles or information of interest pertaining to supporting student veterans with disabilities in the higher education landscape. If you are interested in submitting information for publication in the AHEAD-Veterans Newsfeed please contact:

Jorja Waybrant at waybrantj@uncsa.edu.

AHEAD—Veterans Special Interest Group
<https://www.ahead.org/SIGs/veterans>