



Concord University  
Student Veterans Newsletter  
Volume 1 Edition 3

# Message from the President

Dear Service Men and Women,

Let me begin by saying how honored I am that you chose Concord University to pursue your college education. As members of the armed forces, you placed your lives in danger to protect the freedoms that Americans hold dear. I am grateful for the sacrifice you made, and the CU faculty and staff will do all we can to repay that debt by supporting your educational goals and extending this support to your families as well.

It is our mission to help you understand every benefit available to you as a college student, and one way we do this is by providing a support staff to walk with you each step of the way to graduation. Robin Rutherford, our Veteran Certifying Official, is located in the Registrar's office. When it comes to navigating your GI benefits and dealing with the financial obligations of college, Robin will guide you to the information you need. Dr. George Williams, a professor in the English department, is also your Veteran's Advocate. He is here to speak on your behalf should you need him to. Dr. Williams also maintains a lounge just for our veterans, where you have access to a kitchen, coffee, snacks, a private restroom, computers, and much more. For a complete list of benefits available to you, contact information for our support staff, plus links for additional resources, visit the website at [concord.edu/veterans](http://concord.edu/veterans).

My late husband, Ted Boggess, served in the military, so I understand the impact military life can have on you and your loved ones. Know that my door is always open to you, and that the faculty and staff of Concord University will do all we can to help you succeed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kendra S. Boggess

President

# Message from our Advocate

To all Service Members and their Families,

I am truly honored to be Concord University's new Veterans Advocate. I feel as though I am uniquely qualified to assume the role of advocating for Veterans and their families at CU because I am a veteran (9 years Navy, 2 Years WVANG), I am a CU alum ('10) as is my daughter ('13 BSW, '15 MSW), and I am CU Faculty (Assistant Professor of English).

I look forward to meeting all of our Veterans and their families over the semester. My doors are always open if you have any issues or if you just want to chat. I have an office in Marsh Hall room A328. My office hours there are 9:30-10:30 am Monday through Friday, though I am often there much earlier. I also maintain an office and office hours in the Office of Veteran Services on the 2nd floor of the Rahall Building. I typically spend the afternoons there. I can be reached by phone at either 304-384-5171 or 304-384-6300. As a last resort, you can also reach me by email at [gwilliams@concord.edu](mailto:gwilliams@concord.edu). I check my email often throughout the day.

I invite all of our veterans, spouses, and dependents to come enjoy the amenities we offer in the Veterans Lounge. It truly is a comfortable space where you can relax, have a snack, or work on your English essay!

I look forward to meeting you all or seeing you again if we have already met!

Sincerely,

Dr. George S. Williams  
CU Veterans Advocate

# Future for Concord's Veterans Program

## CAC Card Reader

The Veterans Lounge has had many veterans and active duty members coming in needing a CAC Card reader. Many service members that attend here have to travel great distances to go to their unit so they can use a CAC card reader. The Veteran's Lounge has now obtained one so that any service member can use it at his or her discretion. It is available for all to use.

## Veteran's Lounge

A common misconception about the Veteran's Lounge here at Concord is that it is only available to Veterans. However, the Lounge is available to everyone who has GI Benefits, who is currently serving, or who has served. The lounge is also open to all persons including current dependents,

current service members, spouses of deceased service members, and of course, veterans.

The Lounge offers a relaxing area and includes a television, a fridge full of snacks and beverages, and computer stations. The Lounge is a good place for you to do your homework as well, and we have free printing!

## Veterans Take Over CU Food

### Pantry

The Veterans Lounge has been located across from ASC since 2014, and we are disheartened to see our neighbors move, but due to their move, we will be taking over the CU Food Pantry. The food pantry, originally managed by the ASC, is one of many resources that help our student population. We will do our best to manage it well and see if we can make an already great program better!

## Leadership

Although we are sad to see Teresa Frey, our previous Certifying Official, move on, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Rutherford as our new Certifying Official.

Also, Chuck Elliot, who has been actively involved with Concord's Veterans for many years, retired in September. As a veteran, Chuck participated in events, helped plan fundraisers, and even donated his own money for these fundraisers. He will be missed by CU Veterans and the entire Concord Community.

With Chuck absent, Dr. George Williams will be taking over as the Advocate of our Veteran's. Dr. Williams is a veteran and an Assistant Professor of English.

Both Mrs. Rutherford and Dr. Williams have been involved profusely since the start of the semester with our program! We are grateful to welcome them to lead our program!

## Jessica Lynch

On Veteran's Day, Concord will be hosting Jessica Lynch, who enlisted when 9/11 happened and was a POW. As a native of WV and a teacher, she is one of the first ever female POWs. It will be an honor to have her at Concord!

### **JESSICA LYNCH TO KEYNOTE CONCORD UNIVERSITY'S VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE**

**ATHENS, W.Va.** - Former American Prisoner of War (POW) Jessica Lynch will be the keynote speaker for Concord University's Veterans Day observance on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019. The program will begin at 11 a.m. in University Point's Wilkes Family Chapel on the Athens campus.

Lynch, a former Private First Class (PFC) with the United States Army, was injured and captured by Iraqi forces after her unit was ambushed in Iraq on March 23, 2003. Jessica's recovery by U.S. Special Operations Forces on April 1, 2003 is

recognized as the first successful rescue of an American POW since World War II and the first ever of an American female.

She is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Today, Jessica speaks to various groups around the United States about overcoming her obstacles and how perseverance helped her survive. She further explains that despite the most difficult circumstances - whatever they might be - a positive outlook and determination can truly help individuals live fulfilling lives and accomplish their goals.

Jessica has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education K-6 and a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies. She is a native West Virginian.

“It really is an honor to have Jessica Lynch come speak at Concord,” Veterans Advocate George Williams said. “She is an American hero who exemplifies honor, integrity, and strength. She has a powerful message that we all certainly could hear.”

Williams, who is a veteran of the United States Navy and an assistant professor at Concord University, said the Veterans Day observance is a way to recognize the service and sacrifice of all veterans. He encourages student veterans at Concord, veterans from across the region and members of the community to attend the upcoming program.

There is no admission charge and the general public is invited to join the Concord campus community in attending. The Concord University Foundation is sponsoring this event.

## Our New Concord's Student Veteran Advocates



### George Myers

I was born in Toledo, Ohio, but I have called the two Virginias home since 1996.

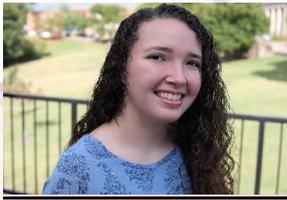
My Military career first started when I was still in high school. I signed my contract in May 1985, for the Ohio Army National Guard as an 11B, which is Infantry. I did Split Op training because I was still in high school, where I did my Basic training at Fort Benning in Harmony Church, GA in June 1985. After graduation from high school, I shipped out once again for Fort Benning Sand Hill in June 1986 for AIT training. In September of 1987 I changed branches and shipped off to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas for Basic training (again at #2), but I was only required to complete 3 of the 6 weeks of training. My Tech school was right there on Lackland

for the training as a Security Police Specialist or an 81150 AFSC. I served in the Air Force until 1991 after returning home from Desert Shield/ Desert Storm.

I re-entered the US Army in November 2001, and went to BASIC training (#3), and went right back to Fort Benning, GA at Sand Hill. I went on to AIT in Huntsville, AL to learn Electrical, Mechanical and Hydraulics Systems repair at part one of training. To complete my training, I moved on to part two, where I learned how to repair the Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) and Hi-MARS. I reclassified my MOS to Radar Repair, which had a greater knowledge of training within the electrical systems, APU's, and circuit cards and troubleshooting. I have had a total of 4 deployments into war zones and was severely injured in 2010. I have had

many tours, including Korea, Japan, and temporary duty assignments around the world. My total time in the Military is 18 and a half years of service to our great Nation. Since my retirement in 2013, I have earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political

Science and a minor in Legal Study from Concord University. I am currently attending Concord to earn a second Bachelor's of Social Work (BSW), with the goal of also earning my Master of Social Work (MSW).



### **Makayla Kelly**

Makayla is a Secondary Education Major English 5-Adult from Princeton, WV who aspires to be a middle school English teacher one day. She also currently studying to become an ordained minister and hopes to be in ministry as well. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, reading, and visiting coffee shops.



## **Michael Shrader**

I enlisted in the military when I was 18, in 2013. I am currently 24. Although I am still young, I have spent most of my adult life serving in the military. I was stationed in South Korea and Fort Hood, Texas. I left active duty military in 2017 to pursue a college education. After a while, I began to miss serving, so I enlisted in the Army Reserves. Here at Concord, I am studying Business Administration and am one of the Student Veteran Advocates. I hope to be a teacher one day and become more involved with Veteran oriented help groups because even though I have served, I have only given a little bit of my time for this country, but some have given more than just their time.

# Good Bye from Chuck Elliott

Dear Concord Veterans,

Time and tide wait for no one. Veterans especially know this. The time has come for me to acknowledge it and to plan for a true retirement, one that includes travel, seeing old shipmates and colleagues, spoiling grandchildren, and learning some new handyman skills around the home.

During my 7+ years here at Concord University this place has become like a second home, and the people here more like family. We have something special here at Concord. When I first started here in the summer of 2012, I was immediately grateful for the visible support I saw being provided to Veterans in our area. I found the students, faculty, and staff to be so supportive of our Veterans and military, and to be without the negative sentiment that sometimes manifests itself elsewhere in higher education. It suits me and I've always appreciated it. I hope it persists for many years to come.

I want to personally thank Dr. Kendra Boggess for the support she and other leaders have provided to the Veterans community which includes our students, faculty, staff, and the citizens in our area. I want to thank Ms. Teresa Frey and every Veteran and the supporters that have stepped up over the years and given of themselves to make something just a little bit better for others. I also want to thank Dr. George Williams for his support in this time of transition. Dr. Williams has already done a great job in his new role as Veterans Committee Chair and there are more good things to come.

I've learned today that as a retiree I will be keeping my e-mail address, [celliott@concord.edu](mailto:celliott@concord.edu), so it will remain easy to find me and reach out. If I can be of help, I hope you will do so.

My sincere "thank you" to everyone that helped make my Concord experience even better. God bless you all!

Sincerely,  
Chuck

# Resources

Concord's Veterans Advocate: 304-384-5171 / 304-384-6300

[gwilliams@concord.edu](mailto:gwilliams@concord.edu)

Concord's Certifying Official: 304-384-5323 / [rrutherford@concord.edu](mailto:rrutherford@concord.edu)

VA Benefits: 1-844-698-2311

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255

Wounded Warrior Project: 1-877-832-6997

National Veterans Foundation: 1-888-777-4443