

The Husky Vet Gazette

JANUARY 2024

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EVENT

Superbowl Party Veteran Students Organization

When? Sunday, Feb. 11th at 6:00p.m.

Where? Hawley Armory (Storrs)

Join the VSO (Veteran Students Organization) to watch the SuperBowl. Food and beverages will be provided (FREE). Just bring yourself and be ready to cheer on your team!

Questions? Contact Derek Mockalis at:
derek.mockalis@uconn.edu

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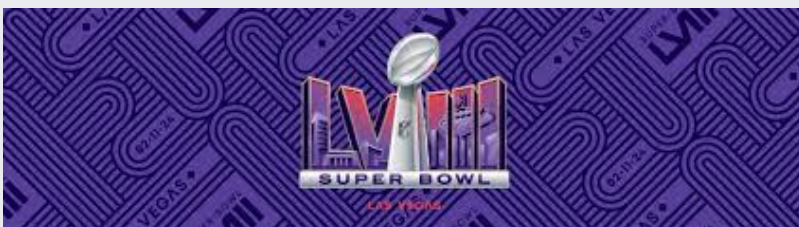
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UConn
VETERANS AFFAIRS &
MILITARY PROGRAMS



RESOURCES

Vet Center Visit

February 27th 12pm to 3pm

Veterans Oasis (Storrs)

The Vet Center offers confidential help for Veterans, Service members, and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting. Their services including counseling for needs such as depression, PTSD, and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma (MST). Aaron Costa the Veteran Outreach Program Specialist, will be available to answer questions and offer support on the services that the Vet Center offers. He will also be available to meet virtually! Please email Aaron at aaron.costa@va.gov to schedule a virtual meeting during his campus visit or any other time that works with your schedule.

OPPORTUNITIES

Veterans Housing

On-Campus Veterans Community

Interested in living in the Veterans Community on-campus for Fall 2024 - Spring 2025? Please email nikki.eberly@uconn.edu by **February 29th** with your full name, student ID number (PeopleSoft) and indicate any roommate requests.

FUN

Game Day

Join the Fun!

When? Every Thursday at 3:00p.m. in Hawley Armory (Storrs)

These are not your everyday board games and it's open for anyone interested in joining the fun. Different games will be played each week with the rules explained by the Game Master!

Questions? Contact Jon Ramos (a.k.a. the Game Master) at: jonathan.ramos@uconn.edu

VA RESOURCES

VR&E Visit (Storrs)

February 15th 9am to 3pm

Hawley Armory 105 (Storrs)

If you're a Veteran or service member with a service-connected disability that impacts your work, then you'll want to find out more about the VR&E program through the VA. Alexander Fernandez, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will be available to meet in person on Feb. 15th with anyone interested in learning more.

RESOURCES

Post 9/11 Military2VA Visit

March 5th 10:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. - Veterans Oasis (Storrs)

Answering questions and offering support on:

- Healthcare enrollment/accessing services
- Reporting problems with coordinating healthcare services or the system overall
- Burn pit exposures/registry information
- Access to mental health care
- VA benefits and other general information

HARTFORD

Visits in Hartford

VR&E Visit (Hartford):

Veterans Oasis HTB 207

March 7th 9a.m. - 3p.m.

Alexander Fernandez from the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program will be available to meet with students in the Oasis in Hartford March 7th. For students using this benefit, this is a great opportunity to check in and discuss goals/planning for the future. Please reach out to Alex via email at alexander.fernandez@va.gov to make an appointment.

SCHOOL OF LAW

VAMP Campus Visit

January 31st 9a.m. - 11a.m.

VALOR Bunker (Veterans Lounge) Hosmer Basement

Staff from the UConn VAMP team will be at the School of Law to answer questions about benefits and provide any support you may need. Please stop by the VALOR Bunker to chat and maybe grab a cup of coffee. Hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS

Veteran of the Month

Christian Piscopo

The Office of Veterans & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to recognize Christian Piscopo as UConn's Veteran of the Month. He is currently a graduate student at UConn and has been

coordinating role playing games out of Hawley Armory the past few semesters in addition to assisting the team of UConn's Veterans and Military Programs with rebranding efforts.

Christian Piscopo was a US Army Cavalry Scout (19D) who acted as reconnaissance assets for regular infantry and armor elements. He joined the Army shortly after turning 34 and served for six years. Christian was stationed at Fort Cavazos (Fort Hood), TX, and Joint Base Lewis-McCord, WA. Because of his age, he shares "I was the platoon 'dad' most of the time and did my best to keep my fellow soldiers out of trouble. As big of a pain as my fellow soldiers were, many of them are now my life-long friends, and I look fondly back at the time I spent with them."

Christian is attending UConn to earn his Ph. D. in industrial/organizational psychology. Industrial/organizational psychology studies human behavior in organizations and the workplace. While at UConn, Christian says he would also like to develop meaningful friendships and enjoy his time here. Even though his coursework is demanding, Christian says what he most enjoys about being a graduate student is learning.

Christian recommends to his fellow colleagues who are Veterans or otherwise affiliated with the military to go to graduate school, and he adds, "if you think it isn't for you, at least spend some time thinking about it. Practical experience in all fields is needed. Most Ph.D. programs waive tuition and pay you to be a research assistant while you earn the degree. On average, master's degrees pay 20% more than a bachelor's degree, and you're more likely to be in positions of leadership and autonomy. Apply to a graduate program."

We always welcome nominations for Veteran of the Month. If you know someone you'd like to nominate (including a student, staff, or faculty member) please contact **Nikki Eberly** at nikki.eberly@uconn.edu with the name of the person and reason for your nomination.



CALENDAR

Spring 2024

January 29th

Last day to Drop classes

January 31st

VAMP Visit to School of Law

February 11th

Superbowl Party

February 15th

VR&E Visit (Storrs)

February 27th

Vet Center Visit (Storrs)

March 5th

Post 9/11 Military2VA Visit

March 7th

VR&E Visit (Hartford)