

# Student Veterans Resource Guide



November 2013

## **Virginia Tech Student Veterans Resource Guide**

Welcome to Virginia Tech, where your service to our country is recognized and appreciated. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service and the sacrifices you and your families have made, and continue to make so as to ensure our freedom and way of life. This guide was compiled to ensure that our veterans are able to succeed academically, professionally, and personally on our campus.

The Virginia Tech Student Veterans Resource Guide is a compilation of different offices on campus that offer services that can assist student veterans as well as information on available regional and national resources. Included in this guide are the offices that provide specific assistance to student veterans as well as the contact information for individuals who can be contacted directly. These offices offer services that will be helpful in facilitating smooth and successful transition to higher education for student veterans.

This guide can also be accessed on the VT Student Veterans website:

[http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Undergraduate\\_Students/index.html](http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Undergraduate_Students/index.html)

### **How to Use VT Student Veteran Resource Guide**

This VT Student Veterans Resource Guide is an introduction to the services available to veteran students. It provides the contact information of the [individuals](#) in various offices who are committed to working with student veterans at Virginia Tech. The guide is designed to help you quickly identify various departments on campus that can assist you as you transition to life on campus. In addition, the guide also provides information on regional and national resources that are available to veteran students. This guide is not a complete list of all the services offered on campus; it should be used as a starting point to utilize the services available. The guide will be continuously updated as more programs and services are identified or as they become available.

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## **Office of Veterans Services**

The Office of Veterans Services is the primary resource for Virginia Tech veterans and their dependents. Staff work closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive and process all documentation related to veteran and military student educational benefits. The Office of Veterans Services, in collaboration with the Office of the University Registrar and The Student Success Center, ensures that veterans, military students and dependents are connected to the resources necessary for a successful transition to and through their course of study at Virginia Tech. Students served by the Office of Veterans Services have access to tutoring, mentoring, assistance navigating the VA system, and the Veterans@VT student organization.

### Contact Information:

130 Student Services Building (mc 0548)

800 Washington Street SW

Blacksburg, VA 24061

540-231-5815

E-mail: [veteran@vt.edu](mailto:veteran@vt.edu)

Web: [www.veterans.vt.edu](http://www.veterans.vt.edu)

[http://www.studentsuccess.vt.edu/Office\\_of\\_Veterans\\_Services/index.html](http://www.studentsuccess.vt.edu/Office_of_Veterans_Services/index.html)

## **Student Veterans Organization**

### **Veterans@VT**

Veterans@VT is Virginia Tech's chapter of Student Veterans of America. The organization aims to provide transition assistance for incoming and current student veterans in a social and academic role. Main objectives are to help smooth over the veteran's transition into college life and to make it as stress-free and enjoyable as possible, to help with maximizing VA benefits, and to serve as advocates for any university issues veterans may have.

[http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Student\\_Veterans\\_Grou/index.html](http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Student_Veterans_Grou/index.html)

## **Campus Academic Support Offices**

### **The Student Success Center**

The Student Success Center offers free academic support, such as tutoring and study skills seminars, to undergraduate students at Virginia Tech. Student Success has services for students who are already succeeding academically or for those who simply want to enrich their educational experiences.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Barbara Weimerskirch, Associate Director  
bmweimer@vt.edu  
110 Femoyer Hall  
540-231-5499

### **Undergraduate Admissions**

Interested in applying to one of Virginia Tech's outstanding undergraduate programs? Check out the link below for information on application procedures and deadlines, potential academic majors, costs, and campus-life.

<http://www.admiss.vt.edu/etc>

Contact Information:

Lt. Col Gary Jackson, USA (retired), Assistant Director of Admissions, Military Affairs  
201 Burruss Hall  
540/231-6267  
[gjackson@vt.edu](mailto:gjackson@vt.edu)

### **Undergraduate Academic Advising**

Advising at Virginia Tech is a collaborative process between student and advisor leading to the exchange of information that encourages the individual student to make responsible academic and career decisions.

Contact Information:

Dr. Kimberly Smith-kimberly.smith@vt.edu  
117 Femoyer Hall  
540-231-8440  
<http://www.advising.vt.edu/>

## **Office of the Registrar (Transfer Credit)**

Undergraduates, who have academic credits from other institutions of higher education, including community colleges and universities, may submit their transcripts to Virginia Tech for transfer-credit evaluation. The University Registrar has rules that govern the transfer of credit on a university level. However, some colleges at Virginia Tech have additional policies and procedures regarding transfer credit. Students are responsible for consulting with the transfer coordinator (see below) in the appropriate college to discuss their plans to transfer credit, and to request information on the college's specific policies and procedures regarding transfer.

It may also be possible to obtain academic credit for training received while in the armed forces. However, each college/department may have individual policies regarding military credit, and may choose to accept it or not at their discretion. Undergraduate applicants desiring credit for military training should contact the transfer coordinator in the college to which they are applying to find out specific policies and details. Graduate applicants should contact the department to which they are applying.

Office of the Registrar  
Student Services Building  
[www.registrar.vt.edu](http://www.registrar.vt.edu)

Click below for information on different colleges:

[http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Undergraduate\\_Students/Transfer\\_Credit.html](http://www.veterans.vt.edu/Undergraduate_Students/Transfer_Credit.html)

## **University Scholarships and Financial Aid**

The mission of the Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid (USFA) is to support the University's student access, enrollment, and retention goals by providing the financial means to encourage economic, social, cultural, and academic diversity in the student body.

Contact Information  
200 Student Services Building  
540/231-5179  
<http://www.finaid.vt.edu/about/index.html>

## Graduate Admissions

If you are interested in attending graduate school at Virginia Tech check out the link below for information on application procedures and deadlines.

Janice Austin

120 GLC @ Donaldson Brown

231-8636

[jema@vt.edu](mailto:jema@vt.edu)

<http://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/applying/index.html#nogo>

## Newman Library Resources

These are the available resources in the Newman library on campus:

- [Afghan War, 2001-](#)
- [Iraq War, 2003-](#)
- [Soldiers -- Mental health](#)
- [Post-traumatic stress disorder](#)
- [Retired military personnel -- Employment -- United States.](#)
- [Disabled veterans -- Services for -- United States -- Handbooks, manuals, etc](#)
- [Veterans -- Employment -- United States](#)
- [Veterans -- Mental health](#)
- [Veterans -- Services for -- United States -- Handbooks, manuals, etc](#)
- [Veterans -- United States -- Handbooks, manuals, etc](#)
- [United States -- Armed Forces -- Military life](#)
- [Military spouses -- United States](#)
- [Veterans' families -- United States -- Handbooks, manuals, etc](#)

New books page (archives are at - <http://dsp.lib.vt.edu/newbooks/archive.php>)

Our databases supporting military/naval/aerospace studies -

<http://dsp.lib.vt.edu/dsp/index.php?subject=532>

Contact Information:

- Reference Desk on 2nd floor Newman - specializing in Business, Humanities & Social Sciences questions (including government documents). Telephone: 540-231-9232

- Reference Desk on 4th floor Newman - specializing in Science & Technology questions (including agriculture, engineering, and medicine). Telephone: 540-231-4122
- Information Desk near Torgersen Bridge (4th floor Newman). Telephone: 540-231-5532
- Special Collections on 1st floor Newman (entrance in Lobby). Telephone: 540-231-6308 <http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/extended/extproxy.html>

### **Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity**

The Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED) at Virginia Tech is dedicated to enriching the engineering profession through increased diversity. CEED programs are targeted to current engineering students at Virginia Tech, prospective students, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's pre-college community. The goals of CEED include: increasing the diversity of students who apply to, enroll, and graduate from the College of Engineering; increasing the awareness of engineering and other technical fields as an exciting and rewarding career path to a diverse population; providing academic, professional and personal support programs; providing support to student organizations that support our mission; and fostering collaboration between the CEED, the University, industry, and the local community to support our mission.

#### **Contact Information:**

Dr. Bevlee Watford  
215 Hancock Hall  
540-231-3244

<http://www.eng.vt.edu/ceed>

### **Smith Career Center**

The Career Center assists students with a variety of career concerns, from searching for a major to gaining career-related experience to conducting a job search or applying to graduate/professional schools. Students from all backgrounds

are encouraged to take advantage of all the resources and services provided in Smith

Contact Information:

Ms. Ali Woodworth

[aliw@vt.edu](mailto:aliw@vt.edu)

Corner of Washington Street & West Campus Drive.

540-231-6241

<http://www.career.vt.edu/>

### **Dean of Students Office**

In support of the Division of Student Affairs Mission Statement, and in keeping with the Virginia Tech Principles of Community, the Dean of Students Office:

- supports and empowers students and families in crisis and/or challenging situation,
- leads campus-wide collaborative orientation programs for new students and families as they make their transition to the university
- facilitates communication and connections for Hokie Parents and families, and
- nurtures a welcoming campus climate through proactive programming, oversight for bias incident protocol, and ongoing discussion.

Contact Information:

109 East Eggleston Hall

540-231-3787

<http://www.dos.vt.edu/>

### **Cook Counseling Center**

Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center provides individual counseling and group to enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at Virginia Tech. Consultation and outreach services are provided for Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and student organizations.

Contact Information:

240 McComas Hall  
540-231-6557  
107 East Eggleston Hall  
540-231-7809  
<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/>

### **Schiffert Health Center**

Schiffert Health Center is part of the Division of Student Affairs at Virginia Tech. We offer a wide variety of services to Virginia Tech Students.

Contact Information:

540-231-6444

<http://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/>

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Services for Students with Disabilities exists to assist the university with its mission of creating an inclusive and welcoming community for all students. SSD works to ensure that students with disabilities receive equal access to education and opportunities in this academic community.

Contact Information

Contact: Dr. Susan Angle [spangle@vt.edu](mailto:spangle@vt.edu)

250 S. Main Street, Suite 300

540 231-0858 Voice

[http://www.ssd.vt.edu/student\\_veterans.html](http://www.ssd.vt.edu/student_veterans.html)

### **The Women's Center**

The Women's Center provides counseling and advocacy services to students, faculty and staff who have been affected by sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and or harassment. The Women's Center also works to support women on campus and advocate for their needs.

Contact information:

Christine DennisSmith - [cdennis@vt.edu](mailto:cdennis@vt.edu)

Anna LoMascolo - [alomasco@vt.edu](mailto:alomasco@vt.edu).

206 Washington Street (0270)

(540) 231-7806

<http://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/contact.html>

## **Virginia Tech Off-Campus Housing**

The Virginia Tech Off-Campus Housing (VTOCH) is located at the Information Desk in Squires Student Center.

Contact Information

Monday -Thursday 10:00 am-8:00 pm

Friday – 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 540—231-3446

E-mail: [vtoch@vt.edu](mailto:vtoch@vt.edu)

## **Local and Regional Resources**

### **New River Community Services**

<http://www.nrvcs.org/about.htm>

New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) is a public provider of behavioral health services to residents of the New River Valley. The agency serves children, adults and families by providing community-based programs for mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse and prevention services.

#### **For emergencies, referrals and first appointments:**

Call ACCESS Services at 961-8400

or toll-free at 1-888-717-3333

(24 hours a day, seven days a week)

### **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program**

Leanna Craig

## **Transportation Services**

## **Blacksburg Transit**

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Phone:** 540-961-1185

**Fax:** 540-951-3142

**Email:** [btransit@blacksburg.gov](mailto:btransit@blacksburg.gov)

<http://www.blacksburg.gov/index.aspx?page=791>

## **Public Transportation (Radford)**

Community Transit provides safe and reliable fixed route services as well as medical trips for individuals with disabilities and/or special needs.

<http://www.nrvcs.org/communitytransit/default.htm>

## **Radford Transit**

540-831-5911

[info@radfordtransit.com](mailto:info@radfordtransit.com)

<http://www.radfordtransit.com/>

## **Valley Metro Roanoke, VA**

540-982-2222

## **Smart Way Bus**

<http://www.smartwaybus.com/>

**Schedule:**

<http://www.smartwaybus.com/schedule.htm>

## **Local Taxi Services:**

### **Blacksburg**

Blacksburg Taxi

Contact: 540-552-6671

Blacksburg Hooptie Ride

Contact: 540-552-3748

### **Christiansburg**

Christiansburg Cab Service

Contact: 540-382-8037

## **Medical Transportation**

**S.T.A.R.** -- Valley Metro (Roanoke)

540-982-2222

<http://www.valleymetro.com/star.htm>

**Medical Transportation – New River Valley Senior Services**

Contact: Monica Musick 540-980-7780

**Disability Transportation – New River Valley Senior Services (Pulaski)**

Contact: 540-980-7780

**MedRide NRV**

Peggy Akers

1-888-633-7433

<http://volunteer.truist.com/uwmrf/org/15389850.html>

**LogistiCare**

LogistiCare Call Center in Norton, VA

866-386-8331.

**Women Veteran Resources**

**Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley**

540-630-1123

[www.wrcnrv.org](http://www.wrcnrv.org)

The Women’s Resource Center provides programs and services to adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence in the New River Valley. They have a 24 hour hotline and an emergency shelter.

**On line resources:**

**Center for Women Veterans**

<http://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

**Women’s Veterans Health Care**

Salem VA Medical Center

<http://www.salem.va.gov/services/women/>

**Wounded Warrior Project**

<http://woundedwarriorproject.org/>

## Employment Resources

### **Department of Rehabilitative Services**

540-381-7122

### **Virginia Employment Commission**

#### **Veterans Representative**

Johnny Rupe

540-831-4115

[johnny.rupe@vec.virginia.gov](mailto:johnny.rupe@vec.virginia.gov)

#### **Disabled Veterans Representative**

David Rowland

540-831-4112

## Crisis Resources for Student Veterans, Family and Friends

### **Dean of Student's Office**

540-231-3787

[www.dos.vt.edu](http://www.dos.vt.edu)

The Dean of Student's Office provides support to students and families in crisis and/or challenging situations and facilitates communication and connections for Hokie parents and families.

### **On Line Resources:**

<http://wearevirginiaveterans.org/Resources/For-Family---Friends.aspx>

<http://wearevirginiaveterans.org/Resources/For-Military-Parents.aspx>

<http://wearevirginiaveterans.org/Resources/For-Spouses.aspx>

## Homeless Shelters

### **New River Family Shelter**

(540)-633-2980

P.O. Box 2308

Christiansburg, Virginia 24068

\* Takes up to *three families* for temporary shelter.

### **Crossroads Shelter Incorporated**

(540)-228-9270

240 Calhoun Street  
Wytheville, VA 24382

**Trust- Roanoke Valley Trouble**  
(540) 344-1948  
404 Elm Ave., SW  
Roanoke, VA 24061

**Salvation Army Lodge-  
Homeless Shelter**  
(540)342-7398  
821 Salem Ave., SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016

**Rescue Mission of Roanoke**  
(540)343-7227  
402 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Roanoke, VA 24031

**RAM House- Day Center**  
(540)343-3753  
824 Cambell Ave., SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016

**Women's Resource Center of the  
New River Valley**  
(540)639-1123  
P.O. box 306  
Radford, VA 24141

**YWCA of Roanoke Valley**  
(540)345-9922  
605 First Street SW  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
CONTACT: Gwea Smith

**Transitional Living Center**  
(540)345-7537

23 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Roanoke, VA 24011

**Turning Point- Salvation Army**  
(540)345-0400  
Roanoke, VA

**New River Family Shelter- THE  
HAVEN**  
(540)382-6188  
110 Roanoke Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

**Total Action Against Poverty**  
(540)345-6781  
P.O Box 2868  
Roanoke, VA 24001

**Day Shelter**  
(540)343-3753  
824 Cambell Ave  
(540)345-8850  
Roanoke, VA 24011

**Interfaith Hospitality Network**  
(540)343-9982  
P.O. Box 21054  
Roanoke, VA 24018

**House of Good Shepard**  
(540)236-7573  
408 West Center Street  
Galax, VA 24333

**Union Mission**  
(340)327-8167  
2200 Bluefield Ave.  
Bluefield, W, VA. 24741

**Salvation Army**

(423)764-6156  
137 Edgemont Ave.  
Bristol, TN. 37620

**The Haven of Rest**  
(423)968-2011  
P.O. Box 372

Bristol, TN. 37620

**Pine Haven Homeless Service**  
(304)255-9138  
Drawer 99  
Lanark, WVA. 255-9138

### Local Veterans' Organizations

#### VFW

**Christiansburg**  
Contact Information:  
Charlie Elgin - 382-3867

**Elliston**  
Contact Information:  
PO Box 281 24087

**Radford**  
Contact Information:  
Gary Harris  
641-2590

**Floyd**  
Contact Information:  
David Poff  
651-3921

**Narrows**  
Contact Information:  
Randall Fletcher  
726-3123/3274

**Pulaski**  
Contact Information:  
Bobby Ward  
PO Box 2005 24301      980-8542

## American Legion

**Blacksburg**  
George Blume  
552-2909

**Christiansburg**  
Robert Job  
[bojob@nrvunwired.net](mailto:bojob@nrvunwired.net)  
381-5853

**Radford**  
Dana Jackson  
633-5666

## AmVets

**Pulaski**  
Contact Information:  
Clayton McGrady  
994-6006/577-4469

## Disabled Veterans of America

**Pulaski**  
Contact Information:  
Chuck Nelson  
381-1769

**Pembroke**  
PO Box 561 24136

**Floyd**  
533 Laurel Branch Rd/PO Box 8  
24091

**Narrows**  
Contact Information:  
726-7281

**Pulaski**  
[svaughn43@verizon.net](mailto:svaughn43@verizon.net)  
P O Box 545 24301

**Salem**  
Contact Information:  
Francis Kristoff  
982-2462 ext 3330

## National Organizations Offering Assistance to Veterans

### VA Mental Health

#### **Veterans Crisis Line**

If you're thinking about hurting yourself or others, call this number:  
(800) 273-8255 (TALK), ext. 1

It's a hotline set up by the Veterans Health Administration, giving you 24/7 access to trained counselors who know what you're going through.

[http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/index.asp](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/index.asp)

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/VAMentalHealthGroup.asp>

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/depression.asp>

### **Women Veterans Health Care**

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

### **Military Sexual Trauma**

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp>

### **Resources for Veteran Students and their Families**

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/College/veteranfamilies.asp>

### **Resources for College Counseling Professionals**

<http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/College/campuscounseling.asp>

## **Assistance: VA Benefits, Health, Continuing Education**

### **Post 9/11 GI Bill**

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

### **Military Scholarships**

<http://financialaid.unt.edu/military-scholarships>

### **Campus Students GI JOBS**

[www.GIJOBS.COM](http://www.GIJOBS.COM)

### **Student Work-study Allowance Program**

[www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm)

### **Wounded Warrior Project**

877-832-6997

[alumni@woundedwarriorproject.org](mailto:alumni@woundedwarriorproject.org)

[www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

The Wounded Warrior Project offers a wide range of assistance, from help collecting disability benefits, to help in healing PTSD wounds, to continuing

education for a post-military life. WWP can connect you with benefits counselors who can guide you through the VA maze. And their programs include Project Odyssey, a retreat with fellow vets that involves hiking, kayaking and whitewater rafting. With the WWP's Track program, vets receive a scholarship to attend Florida State College at Jacksonville or The Alamo Colleges in San Antonio.

If you call the organization's phone number and explain your situation, the advisor will tell you about the WWP programs that are right for you. Their staff also replies to email and to messages left on their Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/wwpfacebook>.

### **National Veterans Foundation**

888-777-4443

[www.nvf.org](http://www.nvf.org)

Like the Wounded Warrior Project, the National Veterans Foundation offers an impressive range of free services to vets. Call their number and speak to a NVF staff member about your situation. You can also use this link ([www.nvf.org/livehelp](http://www.nvf.org/livehelp)) to chat with a staff member online.

NVF will help you if you're in crisis, need legal help, assistance with a disability claim, help finding a job, treatment for PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury, or simply want to connect with other vets. The organization also helps military families who are having a hard time affording groceries.

### **Career Training**

#### **NextGenVets**

424-259-3803

[info@nextgenvets.org](mailto:info@nextgenvets.org)

[www.nextgenvets.org/contact.html](http://www.nextgenvets.org/contact.html)

NextGenVets is a job placement organization. Go to their contact page, fill out their form, and answer questions about your education and military rank. You'll be placing your profile in the organization's database. A case worker at NextGenVets will then contact you and reach out to companies that are hiring so that they can match the right vet with the right company.

### **Wall Street WarFighters**

888-439-3935

[info@wallstreetwarfighters.org](mailto:info@wallstreetwarfighters.org)

[www.wallstreetwarfighters.org](http://www.wallstreetwarfighters.org)

If you're interested in pursuing a career in finance, Wall Street WarFighters can help. The organization provides education and training to wounded vets, so they can make the transition from the battlefield to Wall Street. Even if you don't have a college degree, you can still call them.

The organization is designed to assist wounded soldiers. Veterans interested in the program need at least a 10 percent disability rating from the VA to participate.

### **Farmer-Veteran Coalition**

530-756-1395

[info@farmvetco.org](mailto:info@farmvetco.org)

[www.farmvetco.org](http://www.farmvetco.org)

The FVC offers veterans training in becoming farmers. For many vets, training on the organization's Sacramento Valley farm is a pathway to a new career in agriculture. For others who just need some peace after the chaos of war, the organization's weekend retreats offer some much needed calm.

The coalition has partnered with Air Compassion to fly any Iraq/Afghanistan vet to the farm for free. For more info, check out this article from the NY Times: <http://bit.ly/tradingswordsforplows>.

## **Healing Your Body, Mind and Family**

### **Combat Paper Project**

Drew Cameron, project co-director: [drewcameron@combatpaper.org](mailto:drewcameron@combatpaper.org)

[www.combatpaper.org](http://www.combatpaper.org)

The Combat Paper Project conducts hands-on workshops across the country where veterans take their uniforms, cut them up, process them into pulp, and use that pulp to create art. While molding their old uniforms into something new, veterans get a chance to talk about their battlefield experiences with other vets who have been there and understand.

For many soldiers, these workshops have been transformative experiences, helping them process the pain lingering from their war-time tours while reshaping their identity: from warrior to artist. The healing power of the workshops was captured in director Sara Nesson's Oscar - nominated documentary "Poster Girl" (trailer: <http://bit.ly/postergirltrailer>) and will be explored in her upcoming film "Iraq Paper Scissors" (trailer: <http://bit.ly/IraqPaperScissorsTrailer>).

For the locations of upcoming workshops, click here: [www.combatpaper.org/tour.html](http://www.combatpaper.org/tour.html).

### **Warrior Writers Project**

Lovella Calica, project director: [lovella@warriorwriters.org](mailto:lovella@warriorwriters.org)  
[www.warriorwriters.org](http://www.warriorwriters.org)

The Warrior Writers Project brings together recent veterans and current soldiers to express themselves through art. The organization holds workshops across the country, where soldiers write stories, create poetry, and develop art projects through photography, drawing and music.

Like the Combat Paper Project, the Warrior Writers workshops have proved to be powerful experiences for many soldiers who, through art, find a way to express their feelings about their time at war. For the locations of upcoming workshops, click here: [www.warriorwriters.org/happening.html](http://www.warriorwriters.org/happening.html).

### **New Directions**

310-914-5966  
[www.newdirectionsinc.org](http://www.newdirectionsinc.org)

New Directions is a resource center for veterans, located in Los Angeles. It provides an array of services, including substance abuse treatment, counseling, remedial education, job training and placement, as well as parenting and money management classes.

### **The Pathway Home**

800-404-8387

Admission and further info: [Kathy.Loughry@thepathwayhome.org](mailto:Kathy.Loughry@thepathwayhome.org)  
[www.thepathwayhome.org](http://www.thepathwayhome.org)

The Pathway Home is a recovery facility for traumatized veterans, located in a scenic stretch of California's Napa Valley. At the facility, soldiers get a chance to cool down, learn about PTSD, develop relaxation techniques, get treatment for insomnia, depression, nightmares as well as anger, guilt and other war-related emotions. The Pathway Home also offers couples therapy and family therapy.

### **Home Base Program**

617-724-5202

[homebaseprogram@partners.org](mailto:homebaseprogram@partners.org)  
[www.homebaseprogram.org](http://www.homebaseprogram.org)

The Home Base Program provides care to vets who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and are now suffering from PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury. The program, which is located in Boston and sponsored by Massachusetts General Hospital, offers high-quality medical and psychological care.

Home Base also has programs for the families of wounded soldiers, helping children who are adjusting to a parent's return and spouses who are dealing with the challenges of PTSD and TBI.

### **Operation Home and Healing**

215-382-6680

[www.operationhomeandhealing.org](http://www.operationhomeandhealing.org)

Operation Home and Healing reaches out to vets shaken by the trauma of war. The group has 140 therapists across 13 offices providing counseling to vets struggling with grief, depression, PTSD and chronic pain. The group also provides couples therapy.

Note: The organization is based in Philadelphia and designed for families in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

## Goods and Services for Vets

### **USA Together**

info@USAtogether.org

[www.usatogether.org](http://www.usatogether.org)

USA Together is a wonderful way to connect veterans in need with civilians interested in helping them. Think of it like a Craigslist for soldiers: military families go to the USA Together website and post a note about something they need. Then civilians visit the site and fill the need.

Reading from posts currently on the site: one wounded veteran needs help with his electric bill, other needs to purchase a printer for his new business, and the mother of a deceased Marine needs help moving across the country to be with her surviving son. The organization's founder, Dave Mahler, says that in the years his site has been up, virtually every request has been filled.

If you need assistance, click here:  
<https://app01.usatogether.org/newapplicant.html> and tell readers how they can help you.

### **Gathering of Eagles — Laptops for Wounded Warriors**

Dawn West, program coordinator: [eaglesvt@gmail.com](mailto:eaglesvt@gmail.com)

Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/gatheringofeagles>

The Gathering of Eagles provides laptops to soldiers recovering at medical treatment centers. Wounded soldiers can then use email and Skype to connect with family and friends while they recover from their injuries.

If you are recovering in a military medical center and need a laptop, email the organization or post a message on its Facebook page. For more info on the program, check out this excellent piece by reporter Eric Levy of WTKR, a CBS affiliate in Virginia: <http://bit.ly/gatheringofeaglesvideo>.

## Lawyers Assisting Veterans

### **National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA)**

[www.vetadvocates.com/directory.html](http://www.vetadvocates.com/directory.html)

The non-profit group NOVA maintains this excellent directory of lawyers who practice veterans law. Their easy-to-navigate directory is organized by state. Simply visit the directory, click on your state and scroll through the names, numbers and email addresses of the lawyers in your area.

### Law Firms Offering Pro Bono Assistance

#### **Foley & Lardner LLP**

Steve Lambert  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite  
500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-  
5109  
(202) 672-5300  
[slambert@foley.com](mailto:slambert@foley.com)

#### **King & Spalding LLP**

Aaron Holstromberg  
1700 Pennsylvania Ave,  
N.W.  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20006-  
4706  
(202) 737-0500

### Other Attorneys Specializing in Veterans Law

#### **R. Edward Bates**

1801 N. Mill Street, Suite J  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(708) 355-2090

#### **Joseph Nathaniel Baron**

(800) 338-6074  
[jnbaron@aol.com](mailto:jnbaron@aol.com),

#### **Louis M. DiDonato**

245 E. Liberty, Suite  
250  
Reno, Nevada 89501  
(775) 322-7877  
[lmdatacls@aol.com](mailto:lmdatacls@aol.com)

## **VA Benefits Assistance and Legal Counsel**

### **National Veterans Legal Services Program**

PO Box 65762  
Washington, D.C. 20035  
202-265-8305  
[www.nvlsp.org](http://www.nvlsp.org)  
[info@nvlsp.org](mailto:info@nvlsp.org)

NVLSP provides legal information and assistance for veterans, survivors of veterans and veterans advocates who are seeking service-related VA benefits.

### **Lawyers Serving Warriors**

[www.LawyersServingWarriors.org](http://www.LawyersServingWarriors.org)  
[LawyersServing@nvlsp.org](mailto:LawyersServing@nvlsp.org)  
(202) 265-8305, ext. 152

LSW is a project of National Veterans Legal Services Program that provides free legal services to U.S. military personnel and veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, and who need help with disability, discharge or veterans benefits cases.

### **Disposable Warriors**

Sgt. Chuck Luther, Director  
202-465-2059  
[chuckluther@disposablewarriors.com](mailto:chuckluther@disposablewarriors.com)

Many know Sgt. Chuck Luther from news coverage of his brave service ([www.joshuakors.com/part3](http://www.joshuakors.com/part3)) and from his powerful Congressional testimony (<http://bit.ly/torturehearings>). Luther's organization, Disposable Warriors, assists soldiers who are being wrongfully discharged and denied benefits. Currently he works at Fort Hood in Texas, where he has been able to take rapid action on soldiers' behalves.

**Georg-Andreas Pogany**

202-286-8253

[gapogany@gmail.com](mailto:gapogany@gmail.com)

Andrew Pogany is an independent veterans advocate, helping soldiers receive proper discharges and assisting wounded veterans with their disability claims. A former investigator for the National Veterans Legal Services program, Pogany's work on behalf of soldiers has been highlighted by ABC News, NPR and the Washington Post.

**Vietnam Veterans of America**

The VVA can connect you with a knowledgeable, supportive veteran who can guide you through the VA system. To find a vet assistant in your area, click here: <https://benefitsforum.org/Rep.aspx>.

**The Veterans Pro Bono Consortium**

701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 131

Washington, D.C. 20004

(888) 838-7727

[mail@vetsprobono.org](mailto:mail@vetsprobono.org)

If the VA has rejected your disability claim—or given you a troublingly low disability rating—you can appeal your case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Vets Pro Bono will help you with your appeal.

**Urban Justice Center – Veteran Advocacy Project**

Coco Culhane - Project Coordinator

Veterans and Servicemembers Project

123 William St., 16th Floor

New York, NY 10038

646-602-5620

[cculhane@urbanjustice.org](mailto:cculhane@urbanjustice.org) , [www.facebook.com/VeteranAdvocacy](http://www.facebook.com/VeteranAdvocacy)

[www.twitter.com/VeteranAdvocacy](http://www.twitter.com/VeteranAdvocacy)

The UJC's Veteran Advocacy Project provides veterans with several services. It helps vets find housing, and if a veteran is going to be evicted, it will defend the vet in Housing Court. The organization also helps vets access medical care, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and counseling.

### **The Veterans Legal Support Center**

The John Marshall Law School  
315 S. Plymouth Court  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312 427 2737 ext. 346  
[vlsc@jmls.edu](mailto:vlsc@jmls.edu)  
<http://www.jmls.edu/veterans/>

The VLSC is one of the nation's first law school clinics dedicated solely to addressing the legal needs of veterans seeking their benefits from VA.

### **GI Rights Hotline**

1-877-447-4487  
<http://girightshotline.org/en/contact/>

The hotline provides advice to members of the military seeking information about discharges, grievance and complaint procedures and other civil rights.

### **National Lawyers Guild, Military Law Task Force**

(619) 463-2369, <http://www.nlgmltf.org/>

The NLG assists those working on military law issues as well as military law counselors working directly with GIs.

### **Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic**

(203) 432-4992

Yale's VLSC assists Connecticut's veterans in a range of litigation, including VA benefits, employment and housing. The clinic's mission is to assist the most vulnerable vets.

### **Womble Carlyle Pro Bono Veterans Project**

Karin Lennon  
[kalennon@wcsr.com](mailto:kalennon@wcsr.com), (919) 755-2100

Womble Carlyle assists veterans in North Carolina with the first stage of VA benefits applications.

## **How to Obtain Assistance from Congressional Representatives**

You can find all of your Congressional representatives by entering your address here: [www.contactingthecongress.org](http://www.contactingthecongress.org). Start by calling your senior senator. Call the senator's D.C. office; ask who handles veterans' issues there; then ask to speak to that person.

Having a high-ranking senator and his staff working on your side can open previously closed doors and fix once broken situations. Note, though, that these people are extremely short on time. Before calling, make sure you can summarize your entire situation in 30 seconds or less, ending with the question: "Can you help me?" If you can't do it in 30 seconds, practice in front of a mirror until you can. Let the senator's veterans' advocate ask the follow-up questions. If you ramble, they will not assist you. Note, too, that one of the first questions will be: "Do you have all of your military and VA papers, including your medical, discharge and military performance papers?" Do not call until the answer to that question is yes. Also, once you obtain your papers, never send the originals to anyone.

List compiled by Bob Handy of Veterans United for Truth ([bhandy@vuft.org](mailto:bhandy@vuft.org), [www.vuft.org](http://www.vuft.org)) and reporter Joshua Kors ([joshua@joshuakors.com](mailto:joshua@joshuakors.com), [www.joshuakors.com](http://www.joshuakors.com)).