

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear Tribe fans,

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month. As a country, in 2023, we also celebrate 50 years of an all-volunteer force. That fighting force—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force—has been and continues to be the greatest in the world.

Here at William & Mary we mark November with a series of events, activities, and proclamations to honor our military, our veterans, and their families, and we also maintain our daily work of empowering veterans to continue their journeys leading lives of impact.

The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs is made up of veterans, military-connected family members, and military and veteran advocates. None of us can do the work alone. Military service is built on and depends on teamwork. Supporting military families and veterans likewise requires a team. We are fortunate here at William & Mary because we have a team and a Tribe. The efforts of university leadership, alumni and our Advisory Group volunteer members are critical to everything we do, and we are grateful for the ongoing generosity of time and talent.

The national theme for Veterans Day 2023 is “Service.” What better word to align with William & Mary. A passion for service and leadership has been a hallmark of William & Mary since its founding in 1693. History and tradition are balanced with a focus on developing leaders to address twenty-first century challenges. Integrating military and veterans into the fabric of the university and its future vision are key components of the educational philosophy and embedded deep in W&M’s DNA. We are transforming the veteran transition experience, and we continue to add partners in these vital efforts. We’re excited about the growth we continue to see.

In this issue, we lay out all the Veterans Day celebrations across campus, and we invite you to join us for any or all of them as your schedules allow. We also highlight one of our Law School students in the Student Spotlight, feature our own Lindsay Blount on the cover of Military Spouse magazine, and provide a snapshot of some of the incredible internship opportunities for our students.

Thank you all for your service and for being military and veteran advocates,

Kathleen

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Events Recap

9/23: Military Appreciation Day Tailgate & Football Game

W&M Military & Veteran Affairs and Association of 1775 hosted a Military Appreciation Tailgate before the Tribe defeated Maine by a score of 28-3. The tailgate was free and welcomed 200 alumni, W&M ROTC, student veterans, parents, family and friends. The Ground Zero Flag, the U.S. Flag that flew at Ground Zero after the attacks of 9/11 and served three tours in Iraq, was also on display at the tailgate as it makes its way around the country before being officially retired on 11/2/2026 - the 25th Anniversary of the last time it flew in the rubble at Ground Zero. The flag can be seen in the photograph below and W&M attendees had the chance to sign the book documenting the flag's journey. Special thank you to Flip DeCamp for organizing the flag's display.

At the game, Army Commanding General Brito, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, performed the coin toss, pictured below.



Photo by Jim Agnew



10/21: W&M Military & Veterans Breakfast

The Association of 1775 and W&M Military & Veteran Affairs hosted the Military & Veterans Breakfast during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend with hearty breakfast for the whole family to honor W&M military service members and veterans. The event featured guest speaker Brian Jenkins '16, executive director of the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP). The full gallery of photos are available for digital or print purchase .



Photo by Skip Rowland Photography



Photo by Skip Rowland Photography

Military and Veteran Student Spotlight



Patrick Roberts, '25

IN HIS OWN WORDS

The decision to pursue a legal career began when I had the opportunity to work alongside a Navy JAG on deployment. I found their work fascinating and decided to learn more about law school. After that deployment, I scheduled a visit with the closest law school, William & Mary Law. During my visit, I was struck by just how supportive the students and faculty were, and I knew this was where I wanted to begin my legal career.

However, getting into law school is hard! I applied and was rejected by W&M two years in a row. Despite these setbacks, I continued to engage with students and knew that this was where I wanted to earn my J.D. My journey to W&M took a circuitous route and involved studying for the LSAT between missile tubes on a submarine and writing admissions essays in Afghanistan. After re-taking the LSAT (several times), I was admitted to W&M as a member of the class of 2025.

Leaving the Navy to start law school was intimidating. Having been away from academics for several years, I was nervous about returning to school. However, during summer orientation, Professor Michael Dick organized a meeting to introduce the members of my class to second and third-year law students and the various resources W&M offers to its military and veteran population. Between social gatherings hosted by Professor Dick and networking events organized by the Military and Veterans Law Society, the W&M students, faculty, and alumni have helped ease the transition to law school.

Despite leaving active duty, I continued to have a strong desire to serve. I combined my interest in the law and desire to support fellow servicemembers by working under Professor Dick and Professor Caleb Stone for the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic. In this role, I had the opportunity to represent clients before the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase their compensation for injuries and illnesses they sustained during their military service. My work at the Puller Clinic supporting fellow veterans has been a challenging and rewarding experience. W&M has allowed me to find a new sense of purpose after leaving the Navy by allowing me to utilize my legal education to support veterans through the Puller Clinic.

Patrick Roberts, '25, was a Navy Electronics Technician who served on active duty for seven years. He was stationed in Virginia Beach, VA, where he provided communications support to a Naval Special Warfare (NSW) unit and completed three overseas deployments. At William & Mary Law, he seeks to combine his professional experience in cybersecurity with his legal career.

Announcements

W&M VET Staff Member Wins Military Spouse Student Leadership Award



Lindsay Blount, Project & Business Manager for W&M Military & Veteran Affairs, was awarded the Military Spouse Student Leadership Award. She was also chosen to be on the cover of Military Spouse Magazine with a featured article and interview about her journey as a military spouse student pursuing a doctorate at William & Mary while working full time. Click below to watch the interview and follow the link to read the full article on pages 10-12:

<https://www.militaryspouse.com/magazine/fall-2023/>



November Wellness for Student Veterans

Student Veterans now have free access to our Therapeutic Modalities at the McLeod Tyler Wellness Center. This includes Acupuncture, Reiki, Yoga Therapy, and Massage. Specifically, the code is VET2023. Appointments are limited by availability; questions can be sent to wellness@wm.edu.



Scan the QR code for more information and to schedule an appointment



Veterans Day Events

Veterans Day Ceremonies & Events Across Campus

November 6th: Veterans Expressions Exhibit Opening, 4-6pm Hart Family Gallery (Sadler): Honor our veterans through the exhibition Veterans Expressions: An Exhibition of Art from W&M's Veteran-to-Executive in Transition program. The paintings on display were created during an art therapy session by American and Ukrainian Veterans with a particular focus on the war in Ukraine. Art Therapy can be a valuable tool for processing feelings, especially in contexts as emotionally charged as conflicts and war, and the potential to bridge gaps and communicate across cultural divides. The artwork will be on display until December.

November 8th: Veterans Day Reception & Book Talk with Brian Morra '78: Brian will be discussing his book "The Able Archers." A reception and book signing will follow the talk, and the library's Special Collections Research Center will have select military collections on display. [Register here](#)

November 9th: The W&M Law School Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 1:00 pm at the Law School flagpole (fair weather) or lobby (inclement weather).

November 10th: The Raymond A. Mason School of Business, the Center for Military Transition, the MBA Programs Team, and the Mason Military Association will recognize our military and veteran students, faculty, staff, and executive partners who have served our Republic and our allies in uniform. Attendees who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces are encouraged to wear uniforms or other attire representative of their branch. There will be a group photo at the end of the event for all military students, executive partners, faculty, and staff. Light refreshments will be served. [RSVP to attend by Wednesday, November 8.](#)

November 11th: The ringing of the Wren Bell is a Veterans Day tradition at W&M. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a student veteran will ring the Wren Bell slowly to commemorate Armistice Day, the original inspiration for Veterans Day.

November 12th: Military Appreciation Basketball: Women's Basketball vs. George Mason: 1pm: Come out to support our women's basketball team as they take on George Mason. To honor military and veteran families, discounted tickets can be [purchased by clicking here.](#)

November 13th: Veterans Day Brunch, 9-11am (Sadler Center, James Room)
The Offices of Student Transition Engagement Programs and Student Veteran Engagement are inviting student-, faculty- and staff-veterans to brunch in the Sadler Center's James Room. The James Room is just down the hall from the Office of Student Veteran Engagement (OSVE). We honor your bravery, your sacrifice, and your service!

November Events

11/3: WMGIC x NATO Countering Disinformation Challenge

The William & Mary Global Innovation Challenge (WMGIC) is pleased to announce the return of the virtual "Countering Disinformation Challenge," co-hosted by NATO. Hundreds of students across the NATO Alliance and Partners Nations will unite for a case challenge to address and propose policy solutions to disinformation. Click the image below to learn more.



11/8: Veterans Day Reception & Book Talk with Brian Morra '78

**RSVP HERE TO BE
GUARANTEED A SEAT**

Please join us for a Veterans Day book talk with W&M alumni Brian J. Morra '78, who will be discussing his book "The Able Archers." The talk will focus on Brian's writing process, the history of the Cold War period depicted in the book, and connections that can be drawn to the present-day Russian invasion of Ukraine.

A reception and book signing will follow the talk, and the library's Special Collections Research Center will have select military collections on display. The W&M Bookstore will be there selling copies of his book. This event is produced in partnership with W&M Libraries, W&M Military and Veteran Affairs, and Association of 1775.

A green-bordered poster for a Veterans Day Book Talk. At the top left is the W&M Association of 1775 logo, and at the top right is the W&M Military & Veteran Affairs logo. The main title is "Veterans Day Book Talk" in large gold letters, followed by "with Brian Morra '78" in black. The date and time are "Wednesday, Nov. 8 6:00-8:00 PM" and the location is "Swem Library, William & Mary". A red circular graphic contains the book title "THE ABLE ARCHERS" and the subtitle "BASED ON REAL EVENTS". A portrait of Brian Morra is on the right. At the bottom, it says "Talk followed by reception & book signing. Materials related to military history from the library's Special Collections Research Center will be on display. Free & open to all!"

W&M ASSOCIATION OF 1775 W&M MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS

Veterans Day Book Talk

with Brian Morra '78

Wednesday, Nov. 8
6:00-8:00 PM
Swem Library,
William & Mary

THE ABLE ARCHERS
BASED ON REAL EVENTS

Talk followed by reception & book signing. Materials related to military history from the library's Special Collections Research Center will be on display. Free & open to all!

November Events (Continued)

11/28: Support W&M Military & Veteran Affairs

Did you know W&M MilVet is exclusively funded by private donations? While other programs may receive state funding, we are supported by the generous and incredible W&M alumni, military veterans, military & veteran students and staff!

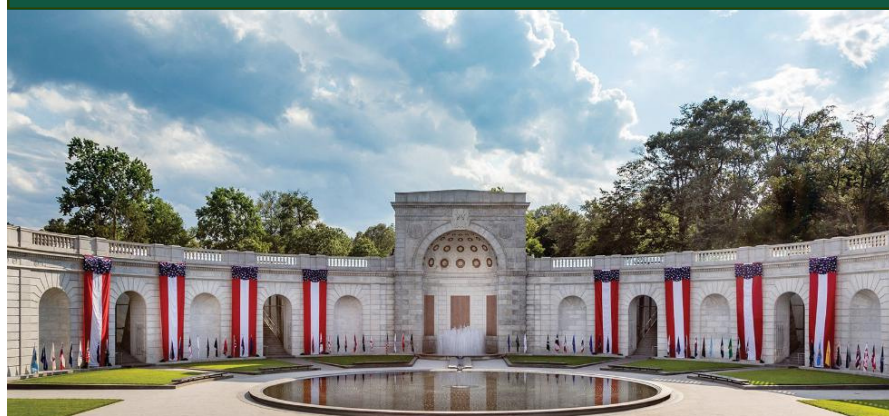
We hope you'll think of us this November 28th by clicking on the Giving Tuesday icon below!



11/29: HERstory at the Military Women's Memorial: A Celebration of W&M Women in the Armed Forces & National Security

Please join us at the Military Women's Memorial for a celebration of women who serve our nation, including those who currently or have previously served in the armed forces or in national security. All members of the W&M community are welcome and encouraged to attend. During this special event, you will hear from a panel of William & Mary servicewomen and leaders in the national security field who will share their insights. Network and connect with members of the W&M community while exploring the Military Women's Memorial's collection. Reception with hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages will follow the discussion. This event is sponsored by the Society of 1918 and underwritten in part by the Alumnae Initiatives Endowment.

[KINDLY RSVP HERE BY NOV. 22, 2023](#)



Military & Veteran Student Opportunities

Internships

AY 2023-24: AVV Unite Internship

Join the American Veterans Vote – Unite internship for the 2023-24 academic year. Work with experienced mentors and practitioners in national security policy to conduct an independent assessment of the war in Ukraine and present findings. Explore opportunities for networking and publishing. Learn more and apply through [TribeCareers](#) or [Handshake](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Sunday, Nov. 26. For questions, contact eintern@wm.edu.

Summer 2024: USINDOPACOM Internship

Don't miss your opportunity to apply by Nov. 16 for the summer 2024 USINDOPACOM Student Volunteer Internship Program (SVIP). Explore career opportunities while interning for 10 weeks in Hawaii to gain experience in the diverse environment of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Learn more about available positions, eligibility criteria, and how to apply on [TribeCareers](#) or [Handshake](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on November 16, 2023. For questions contact eintern@wm.edu.

2025 DoD SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program for STEM now open

The DoD Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity offering scholarships for undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students pursuing a STEM degree. Recipients receive full tuition, annual stipends, internships at one of over 200 DoD facilities at the forefront of innovation, and guaranteed employment with the Department of Defense after graduation. For more information on the 2025 Scholars eligibility requirements and to apply by December 1, 2023, visit [TribeCareers.com](https://www.tribecareers.com)

2025 call for the NATO SHAPE Internship Program now open

Ready to shape your future while making a global impact? NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) is pleased to introduce its six-month internship program in a variety of disciplines, offering current and recent students the opportunity to gain work experience within the SHAPE international community at Mons, Belgium. Apply by Feb. 29, 2024, for January or September 2025 internships. More information on eligibility, conditions, and how to apply is available on [TribeCareers](#).

Scholarships

The Pat Tillman Scholars Application is **now open until February 1, 2024**. The Pat Tillman Foundation unites and empowers remarkable military veterans and spouses as the next generation of public and private sector leaders committed to service beyond self. The fellowship program supports Tillman Scholars with academic scholarships, a national network, and professional development opportunities, so they are empowered to make an impact in the world. For information on the Pat Tillman Foundation, visit pattillmanfoundation.org

