

WILLIAM & MARY



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear Tribe fans,

Students are back, and the campus is overflowing with activities and energy. We've been excited to welcome our new and returning military and veteran students into undergraduate and graduate programs in all five schools.



In the style of military members extending a hand to those coming after them, it was motivating to watch so many of our undergraduate student veterans participate in the Welcome Brunch for new veteran students. Rebecca Dossantos, the current W&M Student Veterans President, was on hand and shares her story in our student spotlight. Similar welcome aboard receptions happened at the Mason School of Business as well as the Law School. Hearing the military and veteran students' stories and watching them begin their transition journeys is a special honor for all of us on the Veteran-to-Executive (VET) team. We are thrilled the veterans have chosen to make William & Mary their educational home and look forward to facilitating meaningful interaction and personal connections. We are so proud of the personalized experience for all W&M students, and we love the way the military and veteran students lean into those opportunities. Please enjoy the pictures and feel free to stop by the offices in the Sadler Center or the Mason School of Business if you are on campus.

Fall means football and the Tribe is ready to fight for the conference title. The Military Appreciation game takes place September 23 when William & Mary takes on Maine at 3:30 pm at Zable Stadium. We'll be hosting a Military and Veteran tailgate prior to the game beginning at 1:00 pm on the alumni lawn. It's not too late to sign up – please ensure you [register by clicking here](#)

We're looking forward to hosting General Brito from Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis to participate in the coin toss to start the game. Halftime will include a special tribute to military children. Veterans and their families can sign up for football game [tickets by clicking here.](#)

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of alumni, sponsors, and our MIL/VET Advisory Group team. We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the incredible military and veteran students who choose to belong to and flourish at William & Mary. Here's to another wonderful year.

Thank you all for your support!

Go Tribe,

Kathleen

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Events Recap

Major General James Wright Scholars “Day in D.C.”

As part of their National Security Law and Policy course, our newest cohort of Major General James Wright Scholars took full advantage of an immersion trip to the National Capital Region. During the trip, the James Wright Scholars visited the Supreme Court, the Capitol (to include a series of sessions with Permanent Staff Members of the Armed Services Committee), and the National African American History Museum. The trip provided additional connections, context, and insight that supports these Scholars’ professional military development prior to future service with the US Army Training and Doctrine Command and US Army Recruiting Command.



New Military & Veteran Student Orientation

Psychology Professor and Coast Guard Veteran Harvey Langholtz welcomed new military and veteran students to W&M during new student orientation, hosted by Charlie Foster in the Office of Student Veteran Engagement. Prof. Langholtz is one of two faculty advisors to the Student Veterans of W&M, the university-recognized organization for military & veteran students. The session was part of a brunch held at the start of each semester to welcome new students, including introduction to information and resources and advice from returning military and veteran students.



Military and Veteran Student Spotlight

Rebecca Dossantos, '24

IN HER OWN WORDS



Like many people, I never knew what I wanted to do when I grew up. I thought if I did well in school, then I could do anything I wanted. Time passed and all of a sudden I was graduating high school. Who was I? What did I believe in? What did I want to do with my life? I still had no idea. So, I enlisted in the Army in hopes of meeting new people, seeing the world, and eventually finding myself.

After completing basic training and my job training, I was sent to Virginia for my first assignment. My job was in Public Health and I really enjoyed it, but it was not what I wanted to do forever. I volunteered whenever I could to do new things outside of my job like going to bus driving school, getting certified to talk to people about their sexually transmitted diseases, and participating in the color guard for the military's special occasions. I tried to volunteer for as many things as possible because I was looking for something that I could do after my service. Although I did not find exactly what I was looking for, I found that I thoroughly enjoyed serving.

After having this revelation, I started searching for jobs that included some type of public service. I thought that the public sector sounded promising. I already completed my associate's degree in social science while I was actively serving, so I felt like I was already on the right track. I applied to William & Mary because I believed W&M is the best at what they do. I was admitted in the fall of 2022 and now I am in my senior year majoring in government with hopes of working in the public sector after graduating.

My time at W&M has been great so far. Since starting school, I have aimed to serve veterans in any way that I can. I was able to conduct faculty-led research on American veterans and their experiences being deployed overseas. By interviewing more than 20 veterans, I was able to help them tell their stories in a way that wouldn't have been possible if not for the research. In addition, I serve as the President for the Student Veterans of W&M. I want to serve other student veterans because it is not easy for everyone to transition from military life to civilian life. It definitely was not easy for me, so I want to help those veterans who are also having a hard time. Lastly, I want student veterans to know that they have someone even if they may feel like they have no one. There are not many student veterans to begin with on the W&M campus, so I want the ones that we do have to feel like they belong.

I am still evaluating what the future brings after graduation. However, serving our country and the Student Veterans of W&M has shown me that whatever I do, I will continue to serve.

Rebecca Dossantos was a U.S. Army Specialist serving as an Environmental Health Technician at Fort Eustis, Virginia. During her service, she conducted over 1000 sanitation inspections and assisted in contact tracing over 200 COVID-19-positive patients. She will graduate from William & Mary (W&M) in Spring '24 with a bachelor's degree in government. At W&M, she is the Student Veterans of W&M President.

Announcements

OSVE Hires New Graduate Assistant



Brandon Parker '25 currently serves as the graduate assistant for the Office of Student Veteran Engagement. Brandon is a Marine Corps veteran who served from 2011-2015 during the Global War on Terror. He hopes to use his knowledge and experience as a student veteran himself to support military-connected William & Mary students.

Brandon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Communication and minor in Writing from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. Before coming to W&M, Brandon taught high school English both abroad in Madrid, Spain and at a small private school in North Carolina. Currently, he is a first-year graduate student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program on the Military and Veteran specialty track at the School of Education.

As a graduate assistant, Brandon is interested in studying military ethics, specifically how ethical dilemmas within military culture bifurcate narratives and perpetuates stigmas surrounding mental health for service members, including soul injury, moral injury, and PTSD.

Save the Date! 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 here to become a Judge or Mentor!](#)



Military & Veteran Affairs Upcoming Events

9/23: Military Appreciation Day Tailgate & Football Game



Tailgate with William & Mary's Association of 1775 and W&M Military & Veteran Affairs before the Tribe takes on Maine!

The Military Appreciation Game Tailgate will begin at 1 p.m. on the Alumni House Lawn. Admission is free and we welcome all alumni, W&M ROTC, student veterans, parents, family and friends, but you must register. Event includes tailgate appetizers, beer and non alcoholic drinks.

Tickets to the 13th annual Military Appreciation Game, which begins at 3:30 p.m., must be purchased separately at tribeathletics.com. There are limited [tickets for veterans here!](#)

**REGISTER FOR
TAILGATE HERE**

10/21: W&M Military & Veterans Breakfast

Join the Association of 1775 and the W&M Military & Veteran Affairs during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend as they host a hearty breakfast for the whole family to honor W&M military service members and veterans. The event will feature guest speaker Brian Jenkins '16, executive director of the [Armed Services Arts Partnership \(ASAP\)](#).

This event is part of Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Purchase tickets for this event when you register through the [2023 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend website](#). Already registered for Homecoming? It's easy to add events to your schedule by modifying your registration using the link in your confirmation email.



**CLICK TO LEARN MORE AND
REGISTER**

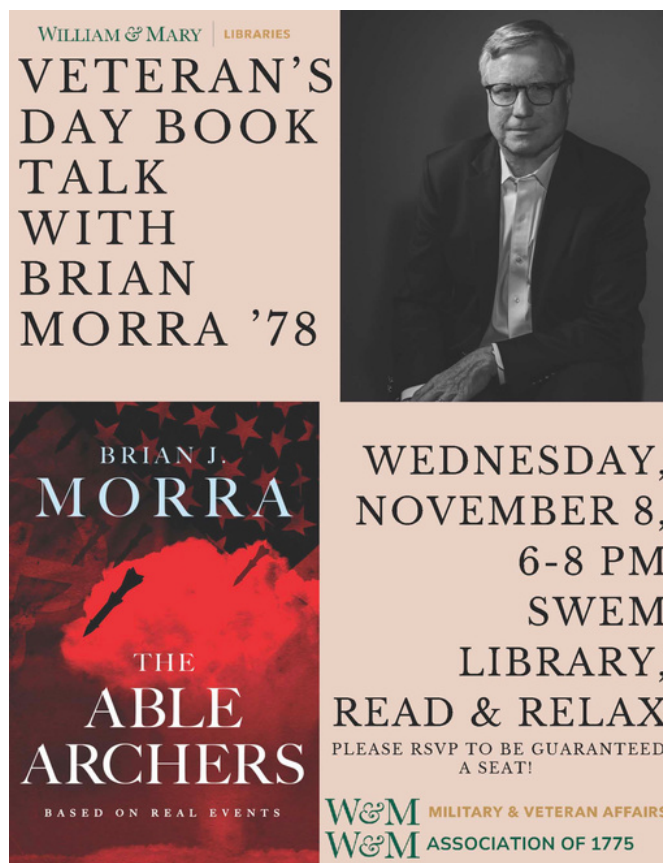
Veterans Day Events: Save the Date!

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

Please join us for a Veteran's 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.

**RSVP HERE TO BE
GUARANTEED A SEAT**



WILLIAM & MARY LIBRARIES
VETERAN'S DAY BOOK TALK WITH BRIAN MORRA '78

BRIAN J. MORRA
THE ABLE ARCHERS
BASED ON REAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6-8 PM
SWEM LIBRARY, READ & RELAX
PLEASE RSVP TO BE GUARANTEED A SEAT!

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

Veterans Day Ceremonies Across Campus

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 Mason School of Business is hosting a Veterans Day Luncheon for military & student veterans, alumni, faculty, and staff. Registration for this event is coming soon!

November 11th: The ringing of the Wren Bell has become 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. President Katherine A. Rowe will also read aloud Brian Turner's poem "Phantom Noise."