

# WILLIAM & MARY



## MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

### Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Greetings!

My name is Kathleen Jabs, and I'm proud to serve as the new Special Assistant for Military and Veteran Affairs at William & Mary. My single-minded focus is on making William & Mary the best school in the nation for military and veteran students. It's a broad charge – our team serves transitioning service members,

undergraduate students, and full and part-time graduate students. We all work together to ensure we meet students where they're at and provide them support and opportunities that recognize and honor their service.

I am a veteran - I served on active and reserve duty in the Navy for 26 years and have also served as a military spouse and current military mom. Most recently I served as Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs for the Commonwealth of Virginia. I know how critical transition services are and the incredible talent and experience our military members and veterans bring to any organization. Strong partners are the anchors of the William & Mary Veteran to Executive (VET) program and we welcome your ideas, support and collaboration.

This newsletter captures some of November's celebrations with recognition of the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day events across campus to show how William & Mary VET is an integral part of the university. We are here to serve – our veterans, transitioning service members, active duty members and military family members. Our efforts take a team – or rather a tribe. Please join us in our work. I hope to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Kathleen T. Jabs

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## Recap of Events

### Reception in Honor of Veterans Day

A special reception was held at the National Museum of the U.S. Army to showcase W&M's trailblazing work supporting veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces. The evening featured remarks from W&M President Katherine A. Rowe, a video highlighting W&M VET's impact and a distinguished panel of student veterans and alumni.

[Click here to view more photos from the evening](#)



Jon Armstrong Photography



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### Law School Veterans Day Observance

The Law School Dean and U.S. Army Reserve Captain A. Benjamin Spencer and W&M Special Assistant for Military and Veterans Affairs and U.S. Captain (ret.) Kathleen T. Jabs recognized and honored the military veterans who are members of the Law School Community



### Veterans Day Brunch

The Office of Student Transition Engagement Programs and Student Veteran Engagement hosted a brunch honoring the bravery, sacrifice, and service of student-, faculty-, and staff-veterans.





## Veterans Day Bell-Ringing Ceremony

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, student veteran Christina Tonnochy rang the Wren Bell slowly to commemorate Armistice Day, the original inspiration for Veterans Day. President Katherine A. Rowe read aloud Brian Turner's poem "Phantom Noise".



## Raymond A. Mason School of Business Veterans Day Celebration

The Raymond A. Mason School of Business MBA Program, Center for Military Transition, and Mason Military Association honored military students, faculty, staff, and executive partners for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to service and sacrifice for the common good. Speakers included Dean Todd Mooradian, LTC Jonathan Ewing, and the Center for Military Transition Graduate Assistant, Patrick Green.



# Military and Veteran Student Spotlight



## Patrick Green, MBA 23'

### IN HIS OWN WORDS

I loved being an Infantry Officer in the Army and could not imagine my life outside of the military. I knew that service was core to who I am, and I could only see it through the lens of my military career.

So what changed my trajectory?

While I was serving as a budget planner at Fort Eustis, I began to read a lot about project management, change management, and thinking differently to solve problems. As I grew in that position, I thought about where the next ten years of my career would take me and how the past ten years had influenced my family life. With encouragement from my spouse, I started entertaining what life outside the Army might look like. As I researched options, it became clear that I would need an MBA to have the jobs I wanted. So, I started looking at Yellow Ribbon Schools and Military Affiliated programs. As I did some research, I read that they were standing up a new Center for Military Transition at William & Mary. I knew that this was the kind of support I needed to make such a drastic change in my life.

I applied and interviewed with admissions at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business, and to be real, I was VERY intimidated about starting school at William & Mary. I only took statistics in college, and I had very limited knowledge of anything business. The Summer MBA Bootcamp program was what I needed to confirm that I could learn something completely different and it boosted my confidence about being successful in the program.

The Center for Military Transition has also been an invaluable part of my transition from active duty to civilian. The CMT provided a place for me to feel comfortable as a student, and helped me connect with other Veterans who were having similar experiences. JD Due and the CMT also provided one-of-a-kind leadership experiences like small group meetings with military alumni, certification courses like the Project Management Professional course, and support at the MBA Veteran's Conference.

When I became a student again, I was unsure of what service could look like in this time of learning and transition. I have found different ways to serve and give back as a student at the Mason School: I am a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, a student peer mentor, and also the GA for the CMT. I also assist the teams I am on for projects and classes by sharing my leadership experiences. I often fall into the role of project manager and stretch myself to help others in my group have the opportunity to learn and practice those skills too.

Patrick is currently a Full-Time MBA Candidate with a focus in Finance and Consulting. He is passionate about project management, cross-functional team leadership, collaborative problem solving, and working with international organizations.

# Announcements



The Pat Tillman Scholars Application is **now open until February 23, 2023**. 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](http://pattillmanfoundation.org)

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

November 28th

GIVE HERE



Please take a moment to honor William & Mary's military heritage and help veterans and their families. With your gift today, we can continue to build momentum for expanded veteran services and support.

## Veteran Entrepreneur Scholars Program starts on Dec. 5

[Click here for press release](#)

Delivered by a combination of experts from the National Security Innovation Network and the Mason School of Business, this certificate focuses on innovation design and entrepreneurial thinking. Over the course of a five week, part-time program, veteran and military students will learn the foundational skills of innovation and entrepreneurship. The program focuses on application of these principles through a hands-on project, identifying a startup idea, validating the market, and taking their first steps toward launching their own venture. Importantly, this program is available for veterans looking to launch a new mission as well as for service members looking to increase innovative leadership in their own current organizations. Our first in-person program will start on Dec. 5. We will also have virtual / on-line opportunities. Please email JD Due @ [jonathan.due@mason.wm.edu](mailto:jonathan.due@mason.wm.edu) if you are interested in participating and whether you'd like to attend in-person (at the Miller EC/Hub) or virtually.