

# WILLIAM & MARY



## MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



### Letter from the Special Assistant

KATHLEEN T. JABS

Dear W&M VET Friends,

March Madness is here – and William & Mary Women's Basketball has made the line up! The excitement on campus is real and infectious. We're cheering on the team as we continue to expand the relationship between W&M Athletics and our military and veteran students. There are so many synergies with the team-centered and winning mentalities both groups share.

Many of our April 2, One Tribe One Day challenges draw on the physical prowess and training that military members are known for. How can you participate?

1. Join us in the Sunken Garden from 2-4 p.m. and enter the push-up challenge.
2. Join us at [Axe Republic, Williamsburg](#) from 5-8 p.m. and try your skill at axe throwing! A portion of the proceeds from all food, beverages and axe throwing will be donated to the [W&M Military and Veterans Affairs Fund](#).
3. Help us unlock our W&M VET Advisory Group challenge by donating to our Military and Veterans Affairs Fund. We're so grateful to our Military and Veteran Advisory Group for donating \$17,000 as a challenge gift – we need 150 donors to unlock that gift. We'd love for you to help us reach our goal.
4. As always, thank you for spreading the word and supporting our students, our programming, our team and the greater Tribe family.

Highlights from February and early March.

- Feb. 28: Navy Adm. Stuart Munsch P' 16, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) and Allied Joint Forces Command (JFC) Naples, visited campus and presented an inaugural Navy ROTC recognition plaque to President Rowe.
- March 13: W&M Military and Veteran Affairs hosted a military thriving Hampton Roads Stakeholder event with ZeroMils, sponsored by USAA, Neighborly, ASME (The American Society of Mechanical Engineers), Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center (HRVEC), and wear blue: run to remember. Our team led panels and met with more than 60 attendees in the military and veteran community.
- March 21: Branch recognition with Army ROTC and the Association of 1775.

We hope to see you on April 2!

Kathleen T. Jabs

**Save the Date: One Tribe One Day**

*Make an Impact*

**FOR OUR MILITARY  
COMMUNITY AT W&M**

**Join us for a night where every throw, sip, and bite  
makes a difference for our veterans and their families!**



**APRIL 2 | 5PM-9PM  
AXE REPUBLIC**



**All donations go directly to serving our veterans through Scholarships  
& Financial Aid, Health & Wellness Resources, Career & Leadership  
Pathways, and Transition Programming for veterans nationwide**

# One Tribe One Day: April 2

## Empowering Veterans and Their Families on One Tribe One Day

At William & Mary, we are committed to serving those who have served. W&M Military & Veteran Affairs (W&M VET) provides comprehensive support for veterans, service members, and their families, ensuring our students thrive academically, professionally, and personally. As the needs of military-connected individuals evolve, W&M VET continues to expand its impact with a forward-thinking strategic plan focused on sustainability, growth, and innovation. Your support fuels the success of those who have served our country. Together, we can empower veterans, military spouses, and their families with the resources they need to excel in education, career, and life beyond the military.

### On One Tribe One Day, you can:

- Help us unlock \$17,000 from our W&M VET Advisory Group Challenge by having 150 people donate on April 2 by [donating here](#)
- Stop by the carnival from 2-4pm and participate or cheer during our push-up challenge!
- Join us at Axe Republic from 5-9pm where every sip, bite and throw equals a donation for our fund!

### Why Your Support Matters

Your donation directly strengthens programs that:

- ✓ Provide Scholarships & Financial Aid – Help military-connected students access world-class education.
- ✓ Enhance Health & Wellness Resources – Expand mental health support and wellness initiatives.
- ✓ Develop Career & Leadership Pathways – Connect students with mentorship, job placements and professional development.
- ✓ Expand Transition Programming – Support active-duty service members, veterans, military spouses, and their families in successfully navigating career shifts and civilian life.
- ✓ Foster Alumni & Community Engagement – Build a lifelong network of support for veterans and their families.
- ✓ Secure the Program's Future – Ensure long-term sustainability through funding and strategic partnerships.



**MAKE AN  
IMPACT  
HERE**





# Highlights

## IDEA Grant Awarded for Graduate Student Veteran Fireside Chat

On February 25, graduate military and veteran students at William & Mary gathered for the event "Empowering Graduate Student Veterans at William & Mary: Fostering Support, Resilience, and Community," made possible through the support of the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Action (IDEA) Grant from William & Mary. This grant was applied for and awarded to Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. '24 who spearheaded the initiative to provide this valuable program.

The event featured Dr. Elizabeth Burgin, Ph.D., NCC, LPC-S, a distinguished expert in veteran services, and JD Due, executive director of the Center for Military Transition at William & Mary, as guest speakers. They shared insights on building community, fostering meaningful relationships, and navigating the challenges of being a graduate student veteran in a vibrant academic environment. The conversation focused on how veterans can strengthen their connections with peers and faculty, create supportive networks, and leverage resilience to overcome stress and burnout in educational spaces.



## Transition Through Relationships Lunch & Learn



On February 27, the Center for Military Transition hosted Major General James Wright and alumnus Quinn Overton, MBA '17 for a lunch-and-learn discussion with our current cohort of active-duty officers in our residential MBA program.

Quinn shared his experiences as a student at William & Mary, in the remainder of his military career after receiving his MBA, and his transition story to his current role as a National Accounts Manager at Ferguson. Quinn emphasized that "Your human skills and military experience, particularly your adaptability and capability to learn, lend themselves very well to anything you might want to do in Corporate America."

Describing Ferguson as "the biggest company you've never heard of, and the most veteran-friendly company you might not know about," Quinn also emphasized the importance of finding the right cultural fit for a transitioning veteran. "You can think about role, function, and industry, and you should" he remarked, "but the most important factor you must consider is understanding how corporate culture aligns with your values."

Quinn's transition journey was as remarkable as it was unique. While a student in the MBA program in 2016, Quinn's Executive Partner, retired IBM executive John McElroy, introduced Quinn to a neighbor who was a senior executive at Ferguson. Over the next 6-years, that senior executive served as a mentor to Quinn. They met quarterly, discussing a wide array of leadership and professional development topics that consistently focused on how – and where – Quinn might be able to apply his experience, education, and talent in a new chapter of service. When the time came for Quinn to retire, the executive told Quinn that Ferguson was the right place for him to continue to serve. Quinn then applied and was subsequently hired at Ferguson.

# Highlights

## Navy Admiral Stuart Munsch P'16 Visits W&M

On February 28, Navy Admiral Stuart Munsch P'16, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) and Allied Joint Forces Command (JFC) Naples, visited campus and presented an inaugural NROTC recognition plaque to President Rowe. Admiral Munsch also spent time with campus leaders engaged with military students and programs. We look forward to continued partnership!



Photo via President Katherine A. Rowe's [instagram](#)

## W&M VET Team Tours Military Aviation Museum

On March 10, members of the W&M VET team were invited by Bruce Holbrook, '71, treasurer of the [Military Aviation Museum](#), for a private tour of the museum. The Museum director shared his enthusiasm for the museum's impressive collection of World War I and World War II planes, many of which are still flight-worthy today.

The team thoroughly enjoyed the tour and believes the museum is a must-see destination. During the visit, they discussed the possibility of holding future W&M VET events at the museum and explored ways to collaborate to honor our military and veteran service members.





# Highlights

## W&M VET Partners with ZeroMils

On March 13, William & Mary VET recently hosted an impactful Military Thriving event, organized by [ZeroMils](#). One of the standout panels, led by Kathryn H. Floyd '05, Ph.D., , director, Whole of Government Center of Excellence, focused on empowering military-connected individuals as they navigate their post-service careers. The panel featured experts from various sectors, including those representing USAA, FourBlock, HCA Healthcare, National University, and Dominion Energy. Attendees gained valuable insights into successful transitions and the unique challenges military-connected professionals face. Another panel moderated by Kevin Schmiegel, CEO of ZeroMils, included representatives from NASA, while JD Due, executive director, Center for Military Transition, led discussions highlighting the role of military-connected students in shaping future leadership. This event underscored William & Mary's ongoing commitment to supporting military, veteran, and military-connected students and programs.



## Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. '24 Joins MSAN's Emerging Leaders Program



We are thrilled to celebrate Lindsay Blount, Ed.D. '24 latest achievement as she joins the newest cohort of the [Military Spouse Advocacy Network's](#) (MSAN) Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), part of the [Leadership Institute for Military Spouses](#) (LIMS).

As a dedicated military spouse and W&M VET's project & business manager, Lindsay has consistently led, served, advocated, and mentored in both her career and community. This opportunity will allow her to refine her leadership skills, enabling her to make an even greater impact.

With her passion for purposeful leadership, Lindsay is excited to take this next step and is ready to lead with purpose in every aspect of her life. We look forward to seeing the incredible contributions Lindsay will continue to make in her career and beyond!

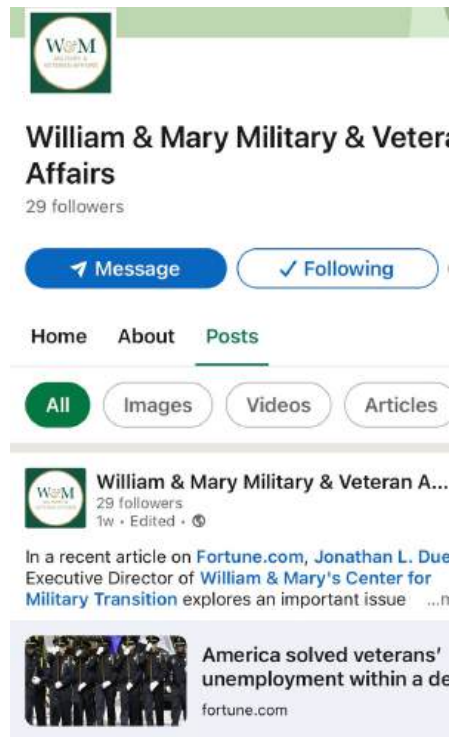
# Announcements

## March 29 Wear Blue: Run to Remember

By joining this effort, you are also recognizing the sacrifices of women from Indigenous and other underrepresented communities. Together, we can show we value and appreciate all women in the military. Beginning at the Mason School of Business at 0800. More details from W&M VET to follow. Click the image to learn more about the challenge.



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Click the icons to follow and stay up to date on all things W&M Military & Veteran Affairs!

