

# DU Remembers ... Will You?



The Veterans Task Force strives to create a welcoming, inclusive, engaging and respectful campus community for all veterans, especially student-veterans.

An Initiative of the  
The Office of Veteran Student Services  
& the Veterans Task Force at Drexel University  
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## Drexel University named a “Military Friendly School” Three Years in a Row!

In the 2010-11 academic year, The Office of Veteran Student Services and The Veterans’ Task Force at Drexel, served another class of student-veterans and their dependents through the Yellow Ribbon Program.

This program was made possible through a partnership between the federal government and Drexel; the University matches the government's contribution to the cost of an education, allowing an unlimited number of eligible military veterans to attend Drexel with no out-of-pocket expenses.

The support of student-veterans has become a campus-wide priority. Every effort has been made to unify and streamline services and support for student-veterans. The Task Force has played a vital role in maintaining highly responsive professional staff in key offices such as admissions, financial aid, academic resources, counseling, disability services and student life to assist student-veterans.

And, we are proud to report that the infrastructure seems to be working; in 2011, Drexel University was named a “Military Friendly School” for the third year in a row by G.I. Jobs, a premier media outlet for “military-transitioners”.

This distinction is reserved for universities whose policies reflect a high level of commitment to educating active and veteran members of the U.S. military. This list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students.

“The Military Friendly Schools list is the gold standard in letting veterans know which schools will offer them the greatest opportunity, flexibility and overall experience,” says Derek Blumke, president of Student Veterans of America and a member of the list’s Academic Advisory Board.

# May 2011 ... A Month To Remember...

## The Beginning of the “DU Remembers” Campaign

In preparing for Memorial Day 2011, the Task Force & Office of Student Veteran Services committed to developing intentional programming designed to stimulate and educate our campus community about military service.

In April 2011, the Task Force launched the “DU Remembers... Will You?” campaign to generate support for our United States service men and women, especially those who are students, faculty, staff, alumni or family and friends.

Campus members were asked to show support by wearing one of the “DU Remembers ... Will You?” wristbands or by wearing red, white and/or blue on Fridays.



Wearing the wristband sparks conversation and contributes to a culture of respect and support for our soldiers on campus and in our lives. This campaign created opportunities to inquire more about friends, family and campus members who have served, and to encourage us to ask questions and discover more about veterans' stories.





Creese Café Display Case decorated to raise awareness about the DU Remembers campaign and to encourage attendance at Memorial Day Observation at DU Armory.



This year, University Housing, Athletics, the University Committee on Sustainability and Student Veterans Services hosted clothing drives to benefit the residents of The Veterans Group, a temporary home for veterans in Powelton Village.

# Memorial Day 2011

Drexel hosted a Memorial Day Tribute and BBQ Lunch at the Armory. The Tribute was led by Dr. Eric Zillmer, Director of Athletics, Rev. Brian Musser, Coordinator of Religious & Spiritual Life, Lieutenant Colonel Maura Gillen, Army ROTC and 1989 Drexel alum, Major Drew Techner who serves as a full-time Casualty Officer for the U.S. Army. Drexel welcomed residents from The Veterans Group in Powelton Village to join the University community as honored guests and partners in future collaborations.




Drexel Trustee, the Honorable Judge Ida Chen visited with the Zillmer family whose patriarch, David Zillmer (far left), is a graduate of West Point and liberator of concentration camps in WWII.

# Summer Education & Outreach

The Offices of Equality & Diversity, Drexel Archives and Multicultural Programming co-sponsored the “Dragons’ Salute to Service” art & artifacts exhibit at the James E. Marks Intercultural Center. The exhibit featured the work of renowned multimedia illustrator and U.S. Army Corporal Poto Leifi along with a photographic archival history of veterans on campus past and present. Several of Corporal Leifi’s posters are hanging in the Drexel Veterans Lounge and plans are in the making to have him come to campus in Spring 2012 when he returns from active duty to talk about his experiences as a soldier and his incredible artwork.

JJ Draft 6/29/11



**DRAGON'S SALUTE TO SERVICE**

**FREEDOM'S ON ME**

**ART EXHIBIT**

**James E. Marks Intercultural Center Exhibition Gallery**

**July 5, 2011 – August 1, 2011**

Sponsored by: The Office of Veteran Student Services & the Veteran's Task Force at Drexel, Army ROTC at Drexel, Drexel University Archives and the Office of Equality & Diversity.

In July, The James E. Marks Intercultural Center exhibit gallery was host to a special “Lunch and Learn: Supporting Our Veterans” event that focused on veteran student services and experiences to promote understanding and support. The event was attended by students, faculty, administrators, alumni and staff who wanted to find way of showing support and enhancing our current infrastructure around student and employee veterans.



**Lunch & Learn : Supporting Our Vets**

Hosted by the Office of Equality & Diversity

**James E. Marks Intercultural Center  
Exhibition Gallery**

**July 27, 2011**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

Co-Sponsored by: The Office of Veteran Student Services & the Veterans Task Force  
For more info and to RSVP, please email [JJohnson@drexel.edu](mailto:JJohnson@drexel.edu)  
If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact  
Office of Disability Services at 215-895-1401.

# 9-11 Memorial to Honor DU Alumni & All Those Fallen

On Friday, September 9, the Drexel community gathered in the Great Court of the Main Building for a ceremony to honor those lost in the Sept. 11 attacks.



Drexel lost two alumni that day— Timothy P. Soulas, '89, and Charles E. Sabin, '69



President John Fry placed a wreath beneath the statue of Anthony J. Drexel to honor the memory of our fallen alumni and all others.

Fry said, “In just a few years, we will begin to see Drexel students who have no firsthand memory of 9/11. It will be our responsibility as a university to help them understand. I hope we’ll teach them not only about the shock and sadness, but also about the heroism, selflessness and togetherness that sustained us.”

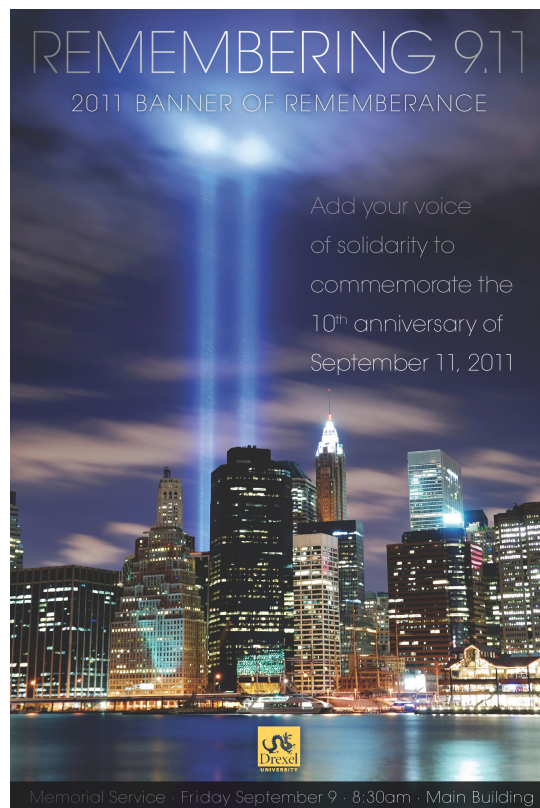


Drexel Faculty, Administrators, Students & Professional Staff pause to remember...





Members of the Drexel community were invited to write messages inspired by the anniversary on a banner that will be displayed through the anniversary period. Some messages read "We will never forget," "Gone but not forgotten," and "Peace forever." The banner will become part of the University's archives after being photographed and bound into a booklet that can be more readily accessed and shared.



Memorial Service - Friday September 9 - 8:30am - Main Building

# Veterans Day Observation & Veterans Lounge Dedication at the Armory 11-11-11

We chose Veterans Day for this special opening and dedication as a way to salute our nation's veterans and celebrate the institution's commitment to Drexel veterans, including students, faculty, administration, professional staff and alumni. The program included a ceremony, ribbon cutting, reception and lounge visitation. This dedicated space was made possible through a generous alumni gift and will enable the Drexel Veterans Association and student-veterans to study, network and host programs and events. Over 300 Drexel community members were in attendance at the observation and dedication; below is a photograph of veterans present



In addition, the The 103rd Engineer Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard -- The "Dandy First" — opened the doors of its museum following the Veterans Lounge opening. The museum rooms, located in the Armory annex (connected to the Drill Hall/Buckley Courts by a corridor), include a wealth of artifacts and memorabilia commemorating the history of the unit from 1777 when it was organized as "The Artillery Battalion," through the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and in its current service as 103rd Engineer Battalion (Infantry Division), Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The curator, Master Sergeant Jack Ragan, served with the 103rd for thirty years before retiring, and currently serves as the commander of the American Legion Post also located in the Armory Annex.



Drexel ROTC cadets will be gave out Commemorative 11-11-11 Dragon Dog Tags to all who attended the Veterans Day event.





The event began with a “Bagpiper’s Greeting” from a special Drexel employee  
Curt Anderson, Information Resources & Technology  
US Navy Veteran



“Gulf War Song” Performed by DU Men’s Acapella group “8 to the Bar”



Reflections on Veterans Day, Lieutenant Colonel Maura Gillen, U.S. Army Professor of Military Science, Army ROTC at Drexel



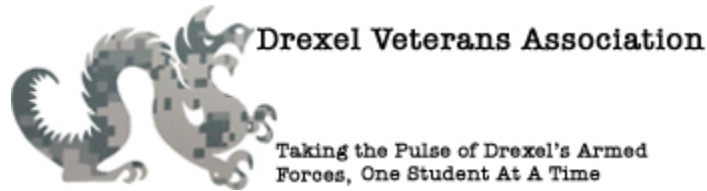
Official Ribbon Cutting to Open the Veterans Lounge at Drexel's Armory  
Col. Maura Gillen, DVA President, Andrew Bohinick, Alumni,  
Chuck Vincent & Dean of Students, Dr. David Ruth



Just in time for Midterms and Drexel Veteran Association (DVA) Meetings!



U.S. Army Cpl. Poto Leifi, a California commercial artist-turned soldier, thought the US troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq should be remembered full of life. He calls his project "Freedom's on Me". Leifi is currently deployed so we remembered him and are honored to have his work hang permanently in this lounge. And thank Lieutenant Gillen for gifting the prints.



The Drexel Veterans Association is a fully recognized chapter of the Student Veterans of America and is a recognized student organization at Drexel striving to enhance campus life for student military affiliated personnel. Advisor and fellow veteran Nick Drake, Coordinator of Health, Wellness & Fitness at Drexel, has taken a lead in reaching out to our student-veterans and identifying the needs and future goals of our Veteran students and ROTC students. The organization worked with The Veterans Group to raise awareness on campus about their November 11<sup>th</sup> block party fundraiser on Baring Street; proceeds from the event went towards a much needed central air project for the home. For more information, please visit the Drexel Veterans Association: <http://drexelvets.org/>



A signed and framed Tom Gallo print gifted by alumni veteran Chuck Vincent hangs in the veterans lounge. In hanging the piece by the doorway, it was our hope that as our veterans left the lounge, they would be reminded of how much they contribute to our daily lives and how much they are appreciated. Tom Gallo's message is simple yet profound:

It is the Veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Veteran, who salutes the Flag,

It is the Veteran, who serves under the Flag,

To be buried by the flag,

So the protester can burn the flag.

“When you walk in --- I hope ---it makes you want to come back,” remarked, Dr. Rebecca Weidensaul, Associate Dean of Students, in describing the space just before the ribbon cutting.





In an effort to raise awareness about military service and those who have served in the Drexel community, the Veterans Task Force at Drexel invited the entire Drexel Community to contribute to a display honoring veterans they admired and respected. Photographs of our “favorite veterans” were for display in the Creese Café Case. The display *Veterans Who Earned “The Dragon Heart”* ran the entire month of November and also served as an invitation to celebrate the opening and dedication of Drexel University’s Veterans Lounge, for example:

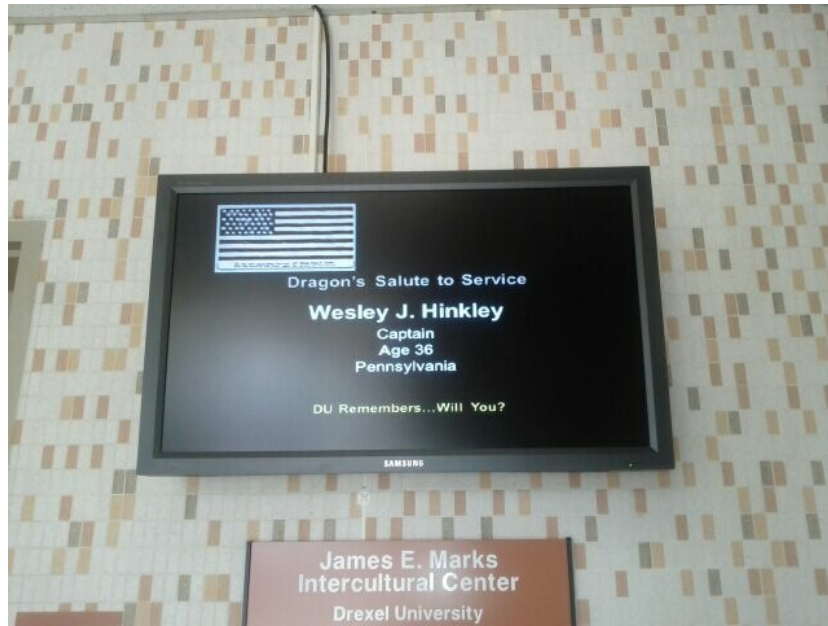


Edward Ludwick Jr. – Father - Navy

This picture of Lt. E.E. Ludwick Jr. was taken 11-9-59. He was 29. Dad received his undergrad degree from Penn State, served his country, received his masters from MIT, then worked for General Electric for 35 years, retired and received his teaching degree from Drexel University to teach math. He loved his country and he loved Drexel University.

Submitted by:

Laura Ludwick White, Associate Athletic Director  
Athletic Department



As part of the preparations for 2011 Veteran's Day observation on campus, an electronic commemorative presentation with the names of fallen veterans was created. This commemorative presentation is currently on display in the lobby of the James E. Marks Intercultural Center. It consisted of over 200 names of American veterans that committed their life to serving our country. We included veterans from Pennsylvania and California because they represent our campus communities. This observation is further evidence of our University's commitment to the "DU Remembers" campaign to honor to our veterans.



The Office of Commuter, Graduate and Transfer Student Programs and Services (CGTSPS) organized a letter writing campaign to encourage their students to show their support for America's veterans and soldiers. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, a letter writing station was promoted as the "A Million Thanks" event and held in the Commuter Lounge the afternoon of November 2, 2011. Students were treated to hot chocolate as they wrote their letters of thanks! Plans are in place for this to become an annual tradition at Drexel.

**The DU Remembers Campaign Continues to unite  
our campus to work together to build a caring  
community ... we welcome your support!**