CCAC Veterans Club Remembers Gettysburg

By Sharmyn Straughters & Priscilla Robertson

NOW IN ITS 19TH YEAR, PARK DAY IS A HANDS-ON PRESERVATION EVENT TO CLEAN UP AND RESTORE AMERICA’S HALLOWED CIVIL WAR AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES. WWW.GETTYSBURGFOUNDAITION.ORG

Since 1996, thousands of volunteers of all ages and abilities, including Boy Scouts, Rotarians, Lions Club members, church groups, ROTC units, youth groups and many others, have taken part in Park Day.

Park Day volunteers are critically important to historic sites that must balance basic maintenance needs with limited budgets and small staffs,” said Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer.

"Neglect and deferred repairs can be as much a threat to historic sites as development. Visitors really do notice the difference after our legions of volunteers pitch in and clean up!"

In 2014, nearly 9,000 volunteers converged on 104 sites across the country, where they donated more than 35,000 service hours.

This year, CCAC Veterans Services Facilitator and Veterans Club Advisor, Sharmyn Straughters, assisted North Campus student veterans with several fundraisers that made it possible for their group to volunteer for “Park Day 2015” at Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, PA.

The Veterans Club joined nearly 100 people, consisting of men, women and children to volunteer and give back to their country by saving the Battlefields of Gettysburg. Volunteers weathered the rain and cold, cutting down trees and clearing brush on Little Round Top to help preserve the National Military Park. The Veterans Club plans to volunteer at "Park Day 2016"!

Feature: The Best Places for Veterans

Advantages land Pittsburgh in the No. 1 spot on a 2014 list of best places for veterans to live. (See feature story on pg. 3)

Tom Hanks (p. 4)

This morning in the New York Times, Tom Hanks announced "I owe it all to community college."

CCAC Open House Event (p. 5)

Financial Aid and VA Education
Welcome to the VA Family at CCAC!

CCAC’s Veterans Services department is happy that you have decided to pursue a degree here. We are committed to helping you achieve your educational goals. Listed below are hyperlinks to useful services:

- Getting Started
- General Benefits for Veterans
- Veterans Educational Benefits
- Benefits Certification Request
- Veterans Scholarships
- VA Policies and Links
- VA Benefits: Common Questions
- Veteran Priority Registration
- Student Orientation

SERVICES PROVIDED

Include, but are not limited to:

- Providing information on VA benefits specific to a student’s situation
- Referring students to the appropriate campus or community resources
- Helping students navigate the campus and all the various departments

CONTACT US:

ALLEGHENY CAMPUS 212 JONES HALL
Phone: 412.237.6503
Email: VeteransServices@ccac.edu

Who do I see on my campus about resources for veterans?

Each CCAC campus has appointed a Veterans Services Representative to address the needs of veterans on campus.

Please click this Contact Us link for the Veterans Services Facilitator at your campus.

How do I to start my VA educational benefits at CCAC?

Read our Getting Started section on the CCAC website at www.ccac.edu/Veterans

As a veteran, how do I obtain in-state residency?

Any veteran who is honorably discharged with Pennsylvania as their home of record (located on their DD-214) and/or veterans who have a PA driver’s license may be eligible for in-state tuition as of July, 2015.

What programs offered through CCAC are approved for VA funding?

Please visit the Department of Veterans Affairs, WEAMS, website for an official list of VA approved.

HAY MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit us online at www.ccac.edu/Veterans

Chat with us now! Mon - Fri: 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
USAA worked with a Chamber of Commerce Foundation program called Hiring Our Heroes, an initiative started in 2011 to help veterans and their spouses find jobs, and with Sperling’s Best Places, a website that puts out ratings on the country’s best places to live according to measures like affordability, services for children and safety.

For the first time this year, USAA is releasing three different lists, one it calls “Starting Out,” another “Mid-Career,” and a third called “Military Retirement.” I’m focusing on the Starting Out list, since 80% of veterans leave the service after just one term lasting four to six years.

Only about 5% of enlisted active duty members hold a bachelor’s degree and while separate degree statistics aren’t available for younger vets, it’s safe to say that an even lower percentage of that group have earned degrees, which is why USAA weights the list in favor of educational opportunities.

Another reason education is important to this group is that the Post-9/11 GI Bill pays the equivalent of 100% of a four-year in-state college or university or up to $20,000 per academic year of a private school.

To be considered for the Starting Out list, cities had to rate above a baseline: the unemployment rate had to be less than one percentage point above the national average, the median cost of living less than 10 percentage points above the national average, and the violent crime rate below the top 2% for all metro areas.
Veterans Career Services

CCAC College Central Job Bank provides free access to current job openings, internships, job fairs, co-ops, work-study jobs, and many other career-related services.

Job Gateway is a one-stop online resource for job seekers services, employer services, social services and training.

Hire America’s Heroes connects America’s major corporate employers with the rich skills and abilities of military service members and their families.

Imagine Pittsburgh is an initiative of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Find more than 20,000 local jobs and internships plus spotlighted companies, and more.

Indeed offers millions of jobs from thousands of company websites, job boards and newspapers. Besides jobs, this website also focuses on salaries, trends and forums.

Monster.com provides listings of over 370,000 jobs locally and worldwide.

Stay Connected

Special Story: Tom Hanks

CCAC Veterans Services
P: 412.237.6503 E: veteransservices@ccac.edu
CCAC Counseling Services
https://www.ccac.edu/Counseling_Services.aspx
CCAC Supportive Services
https://www.ccac.edu/Disability_Services.aspx
Veterans Administration http://www.va.gov
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

More Help at: http://maketheconnection.net

KIM’S TIP OF THE MONTH

Does CCAC have flat rate tuition?
Yes and no, loads of 12 to 18 credits equal the flat rate of $1,571.25. Loads of 19 credits or more are charged at the flat rate plus the prevailing per-credit rate.

For example, 21 credits for an Allegheny County resident is $1,571.25 (flat rate) plus $104.75 (per credit rate) x3 (credits over 18) = $1,885.50.

Tom Hanks on Community College

Tom Hanks is one of the greatest and best-known actors of our time. As he explains his college career, Hanks says that he was rejected from two elite institutions ("I couldn't afford tuition for college anyway.") before being accepted to Chabot Community College, which transformed his life. He credits his community college for training and the skills that have defined who we know him to be: performance and public speaking. If you remember the incredible miniseries, John Adams, then you were the direct beneficiary of Hank's time at Chabot, too: "I produced the HBO miniseries...with a pip-smoking historian, James Coovelis, whose lectures were riveting."

Value of Community College

For all of us, there is no better motivation than knowing that not only did one of our institutions contribute so much to creating a true American icon, but that Hanks remembers, recognizes and wants the world to know the true value of community colleges.

Hanks makes mention of President Obama's recent proposal to make community college education free for most students, emphasizing the need for this proposal, stating:
"I hope the idea sticks, because more veterans, from Iraq and Afghanistan this time, as well as another generation of mothers, single parents and workers, who have been out of the job market, need lower obstacles between now and the next chapter of their lives."

In His Own Words

You must read Hanks's editorial; his story is best told in his own words.

Full Article on ACCT Website at:
CCAC Open House Events

Become a College Student in One Day!
Thursday, April 16 & Tuesday, July 14,
8:00AM–7:00PM

Join us for an exciting and informative open house taking place at all CCAC campuses and centers.

Learn about
- Associate Degree, Certificate & Diploma programs
- Transfer programs
- In-demand careers
- Scholarships, grants & loans

This event is open to the public and we invite you to bring friends and family.

Whether you are thinking of starting your college career, dropping in for one or two classes or returning to finish your degree, you can get it done and have a little fun at the CCAC Enrollment Open House.

Bring your high school diploma, GED or college transcripts and complete your CCAC registration in one day.

Email admissions@ccac.edu for further information.

Steps and Application at www.ccac.edu

CCAC is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Stay connected with CCAC social media. Join our vibrant, growing online community on

https://www.facebook.com/CCAC.edu

https://twitter.com/_CCAC_

View CCAC on YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/user/CCACMarketing/videos

SCHOLARSHIPS

The STARS Scholarship Tracking and Review System is a quick and easy way for students to apply for CCAC scholarships online www.ccac.edu/scholarships

FINANCIAL AID

Get help paying for college

Apply Now! for 2015-2016 Aid
At the FAFSA website: www.fafsa.ed.gov
A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. For First Summer aid chose 2014-2015.

VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

VA Education Benefits
Contact CCAC Veterans Services for more information on applying at 412.237.6503 or go to our online link at:
http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/default.asp

Federal Student Aid
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education

Proud Sponsor of PA ANGELIC RIND™

CCAC is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Stay connected with CCAC social media. Join our vibrant, growing online community on

https://www.facebook.com/CCAC.edu

https://twitter.com/_CCAC_

View CCAC on YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/user/CCACMarketing/videos

STARS Online™ Scholarship, Tracking, and Review System

The STARS Scholarship Tracking and Review System is a quick and easy way for students to apply for CCAC scholarships online

www.ccac.edu/scholarships
## Dates to remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCAC Offices Closed</td>
<td>Apr 03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Resume - Spring 2015 (16-14wk)</td>
<td>Apr 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2015 Priority Registration for current students</td>
<td>Apr 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans are invited to register</td>
<td>Apr 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open registration for new and current students</td>
<td>Apr 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes end SP15 (14Wk)</td>
<td>May 03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes end SP15 (16Wk)</td>
<td>May 04</td>
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<td>Final examinations (May 5-11) and end of SP15 semester (16Wk) (14wk)</td>
<td>May 05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades available to students on CCAC Central e-Services Spring 2015</td>
<td>May 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement Exercises: Instructions at <a href="http://www.ccac.edu">www.ccac.edu</a></td>
<td>May 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 100% drop of charges</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Summer Classes begin (Monday)</td>
<td>May 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with a 75% drop of charges</td>
<td>May 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day Observance (Monday) College closed</td>
<td>May 25</td>
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## Did you know?
The CCAC Veterans Services Center (VSC) serves over 850 veteran, military, and veteran dependent students annually.

### Visit Us At
Click the Admissions link and Veterans Services

### Apply Now!
2015 - 2016
FAFSA
www.fafsa.ed.gov

### Like Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/#!/CCACVeteransServices

### Military Discounts
- Free Admission to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
- 10% Off at Lowe's
- 15% Off Microsoft Office 365
- 10% Off AT&T Wireless

### Veterans Services
veteransservices@ccac.edu

### CCAC Offices
- **Allegheny Campus**
  - 808 Ridge Avenue
  - Jones Hall 212
  - Pittsburgh, PA. 15212
  - P: 412.237.6503
- **Boyce Campus**
  - 595 Beatty Road
  - Admissions – S555
  - Monroeville, PA. 15146
  - P: 724.325.6617
- **South Campus**
  - 1750 Clairton Road
  - Suite A305
  - West Mifflin, PA. 15122
  - P: 412.469.6310
- **North Campus**
  - 8701 Perry Highway
  - Suite 1006A
  - Pittsburgh, PA. 15237
  - P: 412.369.4191

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