

# KU Veteran-Community Informational

FALL 2025

WWW.KUTZTOWN.EDU/VETERANS

DECEMBER 12TH

## A BANNER YEAR FOR KUMVS



The fall semester was marked by significant growth and high-impact engagement for the KU Military & Veteran (Mil-Vet) community. We are thrilled to report a substantial increase in our ranks, welcoming 76 new military-connected students, including two promising ROTC cadets.

Our commitment to student success was evident during Veterans Awareness Week, where we hosted several high-impact events. These initiatives successfully celebrated, honored, and empowered our veteran students, focusing on crucial pillars of career readiness, entrepreneurship, and academic achievement.

As I conclude my first full year leading Military & Veteran Services, I remain deeply impressed by the enduring culture of military appreciation and goodwill demonstrated by my KU colleagues, the generosity of our alumni, and the remarkable resilience and work ethic of our students. We are building upon a strong foundation, and it has been my privilege to contribute to this legacy.

*Veterans have profoundly shaped KU for decades, and their leadership continues to inspire our campus today.*

We look forward to charting an ambitious course for Military & Veteran Services in 2026. Your continued partnership and support will be essential in making this next chapter a great leap forward for the KU Mil-Vet community. *Sincerely, Nick Snyder, Director*

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# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



**NICHOLAS MKRYAN**  
PEER-2-PEER CONTACT  
SECONDARY EDUCATION SENIOR

A

Kutztown University senior, Nicholas serves in the PA Army National Guard and majors in Secondary Education.

Nicholas, as the Peer-2-Peer contact for the Office of Military and Veterans Services, serves as a resource for freshman and transfer Mil-Vet students throughout their first academic semester.

Nicholas sends periodic emails detailing the most pertinent information for these students, keeping them on task and helping to facilitate academic success.

## STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Nicholas serves as President of the Kutztown University SVA Chapter, coordinating numerous fundraisers and awareness efforts for our Military and Veteran Student population. Regardless of military experience or affiliation, you can join at any time!

Email [nmkry721@live.kutztown.edu](mailto:nmkry721@live.kutztown.edu) for info!



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## GIVING BACK & SUPPORTING STUDENTS

**REMEMBER EVERYONE  
DEPLOYED (R.E.D.)  
FRIDAY!**



**WEAR YOUR R.E.D. BUTTON EVERY FRIDAY**

### R.E.D. BUTTON FUNDRAISER

Support Deployed Troops by wearing RED on Fridays.

Thank you to all who donated. 100% of your donation supports the KU Veterans Emergency Fund and Deployment Care Packages for KU Student-Veterans who are deployed.

There are plenty of R.E.D. Buttons still available—every \$1 donation to our students in need will receive a button.

Contact our office for additional information.

**KU FOUNDATION**  
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

**DONATE TODAY!**



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## 9/11 FLAGS OF REMEMBRANCE



REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AND THOSE  
BRAVE ENOUGH TO CONTINUE TO SERVE

September 11, 2025, marks Kutztown University's second annual Flags of Remembrance Ceremony. 24 years since the day that time stood still. Flags of Remembrance placed within the Kutztown University Alumni Plaza represented the 2,977 lives tragically lost on September 11, 2001. We honor the bravery and sacrifice of the American heroes who ran headfirst into the chaos with hopes to save even one life--and we remind ourselves that freedom is not free. We were pleased to welcome several guest speakers who shared personal reflections--including our own director, Nick Snyder, Kutztown Mayor Jim Schlegel, Kutztown Police Chief Drezek, and PA Dept. of Veteran Affairs leader John Noll.

*We Will Never Forget.*

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## KU MIL-VET SCHOLARS



FOLDS *of* HONOR

### 2025 FOH RECIPIENTS

Cassidy Barrow

Gabu Gonzalez

Jelani Leslie

Tyler Vanriel

Chloe Walker

### 2025 SALUTE INDUCTEES

Eva Fanelli

Angie Hernandez

Rachel Smith



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## STARS & SCHOLARS DINNER



### 2025 STARS & SCHOLARS

On November 20th, we honored our fall Mil-Vet graduates and recent scholarship recipients. We inducted two of our own into the Veterans National Honors Society (SALUTE), Rachel Smith and Eva Fanelli. Michael Weidman, Post Commander of the Tipton American Legion, also presented a scholarship to Jovon Holmes.

JOIN US IN  
CELEBRATING  
THESE  
SCHOLARS!



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## VETERAN ALUMNI SPIRIT AWARD



### 2025 RECIPIENT: ART PETERSEN

In honor of KU Military & Veterans Services 12-year anniversary, the 2025-2026 Veteran Alumni Spirit Award was proudly presented to Art Petersen. A distinguished Kutztown University Alumni and U.S. Army Veteran, Art Petersen now serves as a dual MBA/JD licensed attorney in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area.

Endorsed by numerous of his professional colleagues, Art serves as proof that Kutztown University works to produce successful and well-connected Military and Veteran Alumni. His journey from Kutztown University to serving his country and pursuing dual graduate degrees exemplifies a spirit of determination and excellence worth acknowledging.

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# VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

## MILITARY APPRECIATION FOOTBALL GAME

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

KUTZTOWN



EAST STROUDSBURG

## 2025 MILITARY APPRECIATION FOOTBALL GAME

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2025 Military Appreciation Football Game to kick off Veterans Awareness Week this past November.

We especially appreciate our KU Veteran Alumni that were in attendance.

Congratulations to our 2025 Veteran Alumni Spirit Award recipient, Art Petersen!

## Veteran Alumni Breakfast! ✨

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

10 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

MSU 262 MIL-VET CENTER



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# VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

GUEST SPEAKER PANEL &amp; RESOURCE SHOWCASE

## VETS ON THE RISE

CAREER INSIGHTS FROM VETS WHO ARE CRUSHING IT



ART PETERSEN



SHARNAE WHITE



JEREMY DECK



SAMANTHA HUHN

**4** NOV

Tuesday, 11/4/2025  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
MSU 218 Multipurpose Room  
Free Lunch for Participants!  
[www.kutztown.edu/veterans](http://www.kutztown.edu/veterans)

## VETS ON THE RISE SPEAKER PANEL

Continuing Veterans Awareness Week, we hosted KU's first ever Vets on the Rise Career Forum, in partnership with our Career Development Center!

A panel of outstanding alumni and veteran business leaders shared key insights to help attendees position themselves for career success. Lunch and a special resource fair followed the forum.

## CAREER INSIGHTS FROM VETS WHO ARE CRUSHING IT

Thank you to our guest panelists—Art Petersen, Sharnae White, Jeremy Deck, and Samantha Huhn for your participation in this event!



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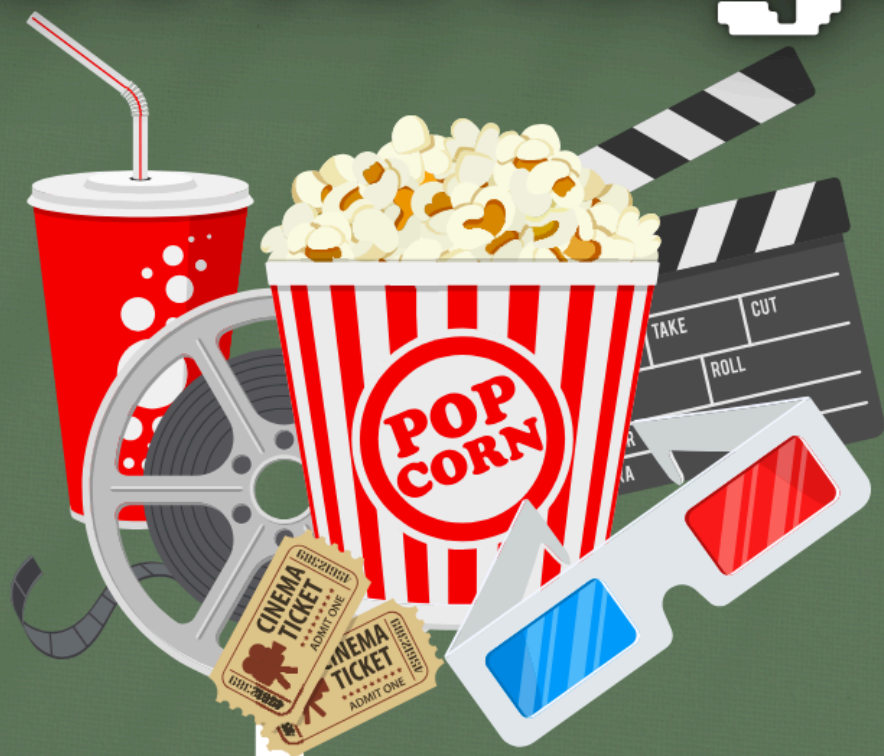
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# VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

## Military Night



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH  
RICKENBACH AUDITORIUM 135  
7:00 P.M.



## MOVIE NIGHT!

We thank the students who attended our first Veterans Awareness Week Military Movie Night, sponsored by the Student Veterans Association (SVA).

Attendees participated in an open forum after the showing of Hacksaw Ridge with KU military-affiliated students to process the film and ask any military-related questions they might have had.

## CELEBRATING WOMEN VETS!

We thank the students, staff, and faculty that joined us in conversation about influential U.S. Women Veterans while enjoying delicious cake and other refreshments.

## Celebrating Women Veterans



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH  
10 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.  
MSU LOBBY



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# VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK



## MIL-VET CELEBRATION BASH

Students, faculty, and staff helped our office celebrate the service of our Mil-Vet students over lunch and participated in activities supporting the military community.

Attendees were invited to make cards for deployed service members, play Military BINGO, and make jewelry for military families while enjoying a Mission BBQ lunch.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR MIL-VET  
GRADUATES!

