

Veteran's Newsletter

August 2009

New GI Bill Takes Effect – On August 1, 2009, the new GI Bill for the 21st century officially took effect, greatly expanding educational opportunities to troops who have served since 9/11 and their families.

The launch of the program represented a major milestone in the decade long VFW fight for educational benefits that properly honor wartime service. The “ Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act” was signed into law in 2008.

The new GI Bill will pay the highest in-state public tuition rate, and provide for books, fees and a living stipend. It eliminates the \$1,200 enrollment fee, extends the use- or- lose benefit requirement from 10 to 15 years and greatly enhances the amount paid to Guard and Reserve members, among other improvements.

Since its passage, VFW has been working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure the implementation of these new benefits goes as smoothly as possible. VFW service officers across the nation have also been trained to help eligible veterans utilize the new program.

Other items of interest :

Training Grants for Veterans – The Department of Labor announced 17 grants, totaling more than \$7.5 million dollars, to provide approximately 3,000 veterans with job training to help them succeed in civilian careers related to “green jobs”. Fields of employment include energy efficiency and renewable energy, modern electric power development and clean vehicles. To view more information about this initiative, visit the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration website and look for the “green jobs” heading. More information on the Labor Department’s unemployment and reemployment programs for veterans is available on the Department of labor website.

Helmets to Hardhats for Guard-Reserve – The U.S. Army Reserve and the Army National Guard recently signed an agreement with Helmets to Hardhats that allows soldiers greater access to construction career opportunities. Helmets to Hardhats is a nonprofit program that connects servicemembers with construction jobs. It works with 15 building and construction unions and more than 80,000 employers represented by nine contractor associations. A part of the Army Reserve Employer Partnership Initiative, the joint venture will benefit all parties by recruiting and training highly skilled workers to serve both the civilian and military sectors. For more information, visit the “Helmets to Hardhats” website.

Veteran Resource Directory Online – The National Resource Directory (NRD) is an online resource for wounded, ill and injured servicemembers, veterans, their families and those who support them. The NRD provides information on, and access to, medical and non-medical services and resources across the country, which will help them reach their personal and professional goals as they successfully transition from recovery

to community living. The NRD is an online partnership of the Department of Defense, Department of Labor and Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as numerous veteran service and benefit organizations, non-profit, community based and faith based organizations, academic institutions, professional associations and philanthropic organizations. Find more resources for wounded warriors on the Military.com Severely injured Career Center.

Military Friendly Employers – Visit Military.com’s career board to search thousands of jobs in aerospace, defense, health care, nursing, government. Law enforcement, teaching and more. Find the perfect career path for you and connect with military friendly employers today.

We are here for you !

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Jefferson County Workforce Center place great emphasis on service to veterans. Especially to recently separated veterans and to those with a service connected disability or some other barrier to employment. If you feel you have a situation that is limiting your job search. Please call the Veteran Employment Representative at 303 271-4728 or email David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. He is located at the Laramie Building, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Co.

The Jefferson County Service Officer – The Jefferson County Service Officer assists veterans/dependents in filing claims for pension, compensation. Health care, burial. Education, home loan certification, Life insurance, and other issues. Our Jefferson County Service Officer is Mr. Henry Mondragon. He can be reached at 303 271-4205 or hmondrag@co.jefferson.co.us. He is located at the Human Services Building, 900 Jefferson County Parkway. Suite 170. His office hours are Monday through Thursday. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.