

# VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) provides assistance to the veteran population at ECC. The office is located on the fourth level of the megastore as part of Enrollment Services and provides enrollment certification services for qualifying veterans and eligible dependents. Eligibility determination is made by the Veterans Administration. ECC complies with Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members, which were developed to strengthen consumer protection for our service-members, veterans, and their families, as well as ensure access to information needed to make informed decisions concerning use of their educational benefits.

Service-members who served after Sept. 10, 2001 are eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33) Educational Benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill® provides up to 36 months of education benefits. Some service-members may also transfer unused GI Bill® benefits to their dependents. If a service-member was released from active duty before January 1, 2013, there is a 15-year time limitation for use of benefits. For individuals whose last discharge date is on or after January 1, 2013, the time limitation has been removed. The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is available for children and spouses of service-members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. The Montgomery GI Bill® (MGIB) is available to those who enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces.



There are two main programs: (1) **Montgomery GI Bill® Active Duty (MGIB-AD)** (Chapter 30) Benefits are generally payable for 10 years following release from honorable active service; and, (2) **Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)** (Chapter 1606) For Reservists with a 6-year obligation in the Selected Reserve who are actively drilling; eligibility normally ends the day the individual leaves the Selected Reserve. ECC permits any member of the **New Jersey National Guard** to enroll and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-free provided that member completed all requirements. ECC complies with N.J. Statutes § 18A:62-4.2 - Tuition Benefits for Members of N.J. National Guard; State Payment. Any member of the N.J. National Guard whose enrollment on a tuition-free basis is interrupted by deployment to active duty shall be permitted to receive the free tuition benefit after discharge from service under conditions other than dishonorable. A veteran may be eligible for Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31) benefits if he/she is or will be discharged under other than dishonorable conditions and

incurred or aggravated a service-connected disability which entitles him/her to VA disability compensation.

**A VETERANS DAY MESSAGE**  
From Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President.

As we celebrate **Veterans Day** on Friday, November 11th in honor of the selfless service and sacrifices of veterans and active-duty military personnel, let us pause to show a debt of gratitude to these heroes among whom are our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and family members. We solemnly remember their sacrifices to preserve our heritage and freedom.

I ask each of you to take the time to remember the sacrifices of the men and women who have proudly served in the various branches of the United States armed services, especially those who paid the ultimate price.

For over half a century, it has been our privilege at Essex County College to be an institution where veterans are welcome and feel at home. We value your connection to ECC and the enriching experiences you share in the classroom and in our non-academic interactions. Thank you for protecting the "land of the free and home of the brave."

*Happy Veterans Day*  
to the Essex County College family.  
With much appreciation and respect.

## The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)

**Program** (Chapter 35) offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition. Based on **PL 115-407** an Enrollment Certificate for Chapter 33 and Chapter 31 will be submitted to the VA on or before 1st day of class as long as eligible students submit the following: (1) Certificate of Eligibility or its equivalents; and, (2) Provide written request to be certified. They may not withdraw from the College without notification to the Certifying Veterans Officer. The date of withdrawal will be the determining date for benefits. ECC degree and certificate programs are approved by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, The State Approving Agency under Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 1775, for veterans training. Students receiving VA educational benefits are charged in-state tuition.

