



DME INTERNSHIP

A COLLECTION OF AUSTIN'S WORK

AUSTIN WATERS



Dedicated to the brave Men &
Women who serve the United States
of America, day in and day out. Your
sacrifices are not forgotten.

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Brief
Birdies for the Brave
Give an Hour
Real Warriors
Blue Star Museums
Lone Survivor

Graphic Designer - Instagram

In August, I signed on to be a part of a Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) eInternship national program where I am a Graphic Designer for the Department of Veterans Affairs. One of my main tasks in this position is to create posts for our “Veteran of the Day” posts that are posted to our Facebook, Instagram, and Blog pages. My official Title for this internship is “Graphic Designer - Instagram”.



DME Interns

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

During my time as an Intern for the VA, I have learned so much about being a graphic designer in the real world. There are things that I have encountered that had not even occurred to me, that once I realized, instantly made me a better designer, just because I was being conscious of it. For Example, when I first started the program, I had to constantly be reminded about the VA's Standards of Graphics when it comes to color contrast. Due to there being a large number of veterans who may have limited vision, I had to implement a large amount of color contrast to any design I was working with. This will probably be the same at any Graphic Design job I ever get, so I will continue to implement this for the rest of my career.

After this got stuck in my head, I decided to read the VA's Standards of Graphics in its entirety. In this "manual" I realized just how many rules there were to make sure these graphics look clean, professional, and overall visually appealing. I always refer back to this as my guide when I am struggling on a special project, or even a regular Veteran of the Day post. I even believe it could be a helpful tool for years to come as I join the workforce.



CHAPTER ONE

ETHIOPIA CALENDAR HOLIDAYS





OPIA CALENDAR HOLIDAYS



OPIA Calendar Holidays are certain occurrences in which the VA has collectively agreed that they recognize, which we as Graphic Designers then use to create graphics for approved events. These events could be Holidays, Anniversaries, Remembrances, or anything else they deem suitable. The event could be a Day, a week, a month, or possibly to commemorate a year.



NATIONAL WOMENS EQUALITY DAY





U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs





WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
AUGUST 26

GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY ★★★★★
AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE FOUR-STAR GENERAL

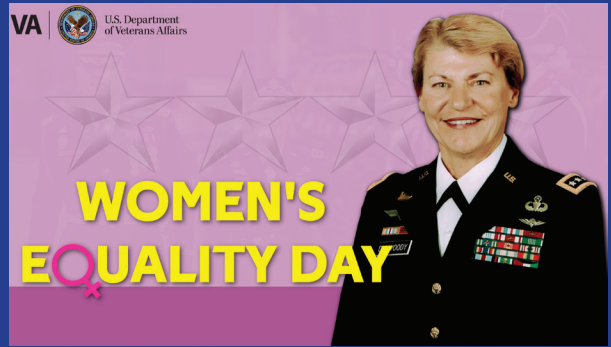


U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
AUGUST 26

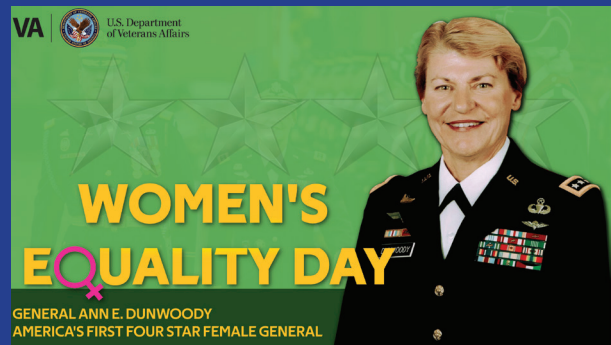
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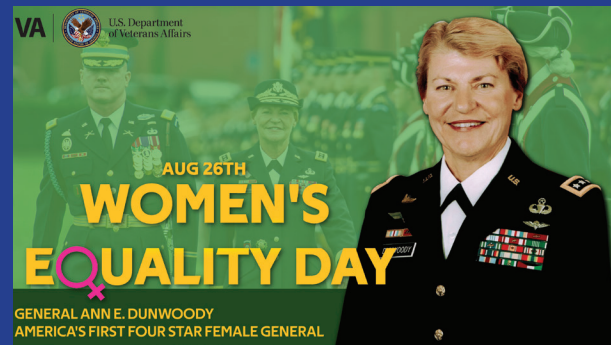
GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY
AMERICA'S FIRST FOUR STAR FEMALE GENERAL



GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY
AMERICA'S FIRST FOUR STAR FEMALE GENERAL



GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY
AMERICA'S FIRST FOUR STAR FEMALE GENERAL



GENERAL ANN E. DUNWOODY
AMERICA'S FIRST FOUR STAR FEMALE GENERAL

V-J DAY



ON THIS DAY
World War II began when Germany invaded Poland by attacking the Free City of Danzig.

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ON THIS DAY
September 1st, 1939
80th Anniversary of World War II

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

V-J DAY
September 2nd
The day America won the war.

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V-J DAY
September 2nd

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V-J DAY
September 2nd

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

V-J DAY
September 2

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V-J DAY
September 2

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V-J DAY
September 2

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PATRIOT DAY

VA



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PATRIOT DAY



★ NEVER FORGET ★

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

PATRIOT DAY



★ NEVER FORGET ★

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

9-11

PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★



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PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

9-

PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★



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PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

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9-11

PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★



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PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

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PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

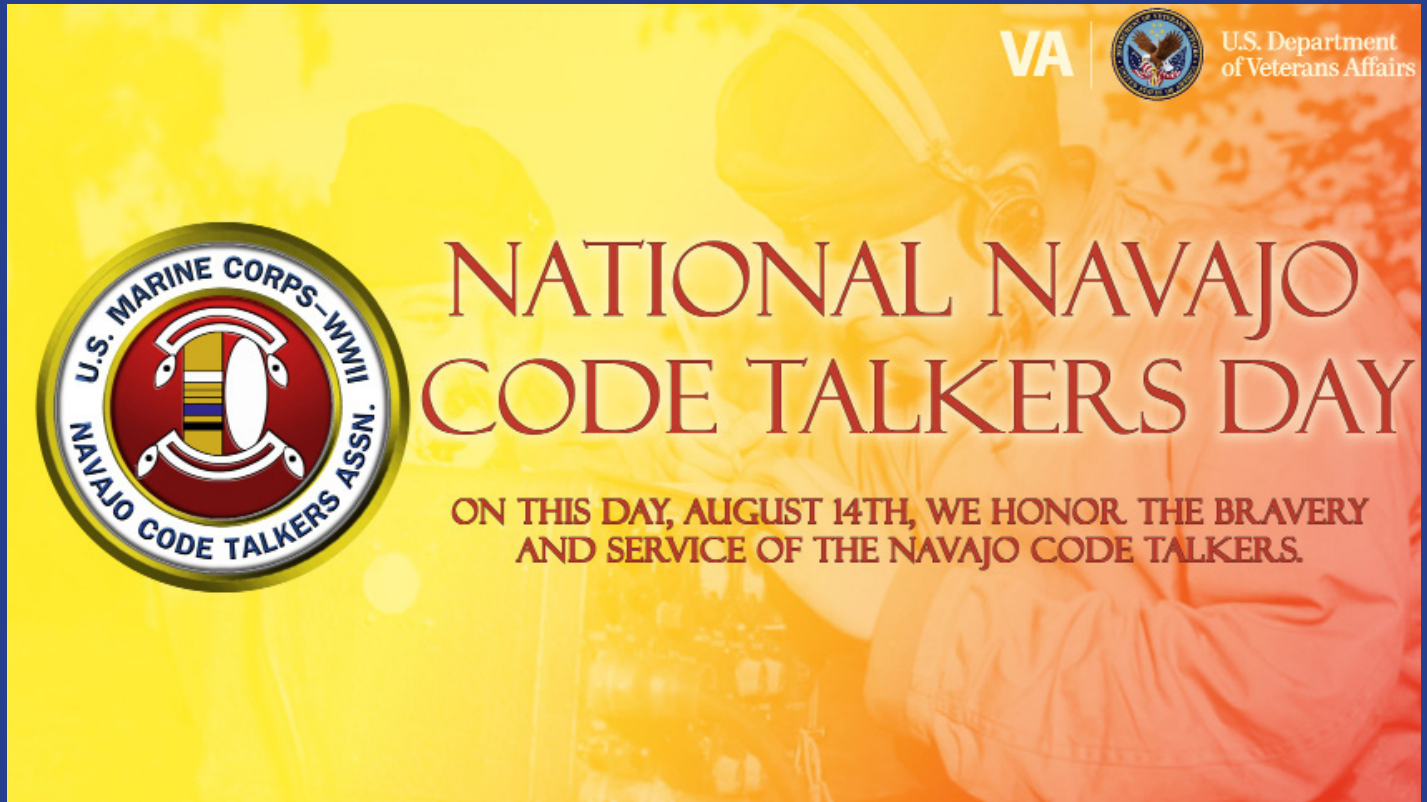
VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs





PATRIOT DAY

★ NEVER FORGET ★

NATIONAL NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY



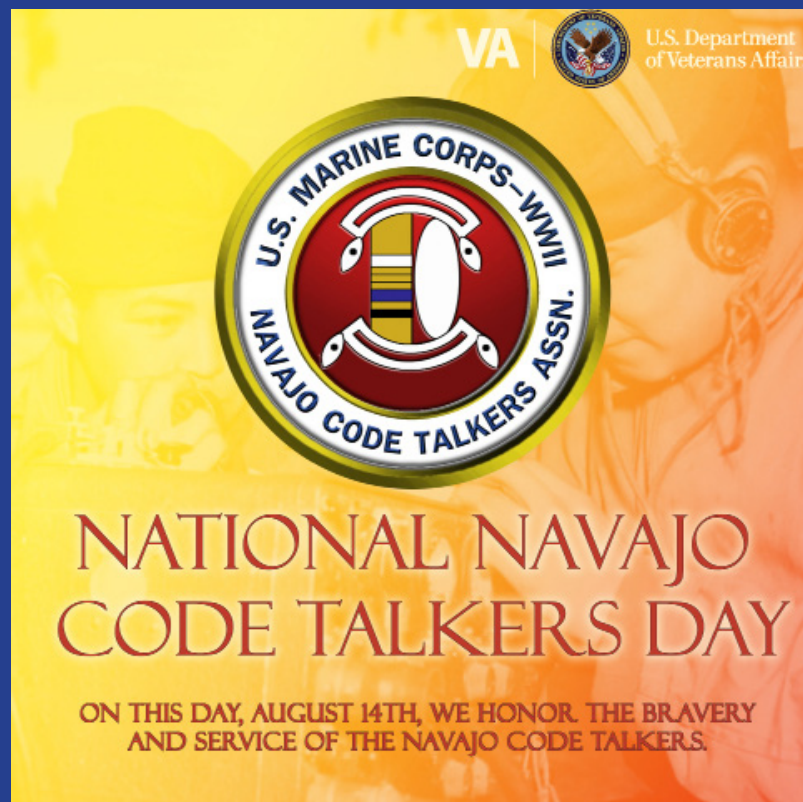
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NATIONAL NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

ON THIS DAY, AUGUST 14TH, WE HONOR THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

This poster features a background of Navajo code talkers in military uniforms. The VA logo and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs text are in the top right. The circular logo of the U.S. Marine Corps - WWII Navajo Code Talkers Assn. is on the left. The title and message are centered in a serif font.



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NATIONAL NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

ON THIS DAY, AUGUST 14TH, WE HONOR THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

This poster is identical to the one above, featuring a background of Navajo code talkers in military uniforms. The VA logo and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs text are in the top right. The circular logo of the U.S. Marine Corps - WWII Navajo Code Talkers Assn. is on the left. The title and message are centered in a serif font.

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



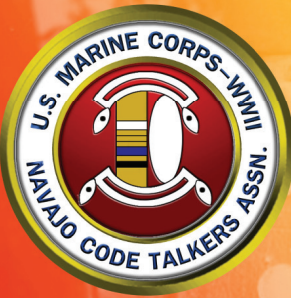
NAVAHO CODE TALKER DAY

ON THIS DAY, AUGUST 14TH, WE CELEBRATE THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF THE NAVAHO CODE TALKERS.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



NAVAHO CODE TALKER DAY

ON THIS DAY, AUGUST 14TH, WE CELEBRATE THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF THE NAVAHO CODE TALKERS.

VA



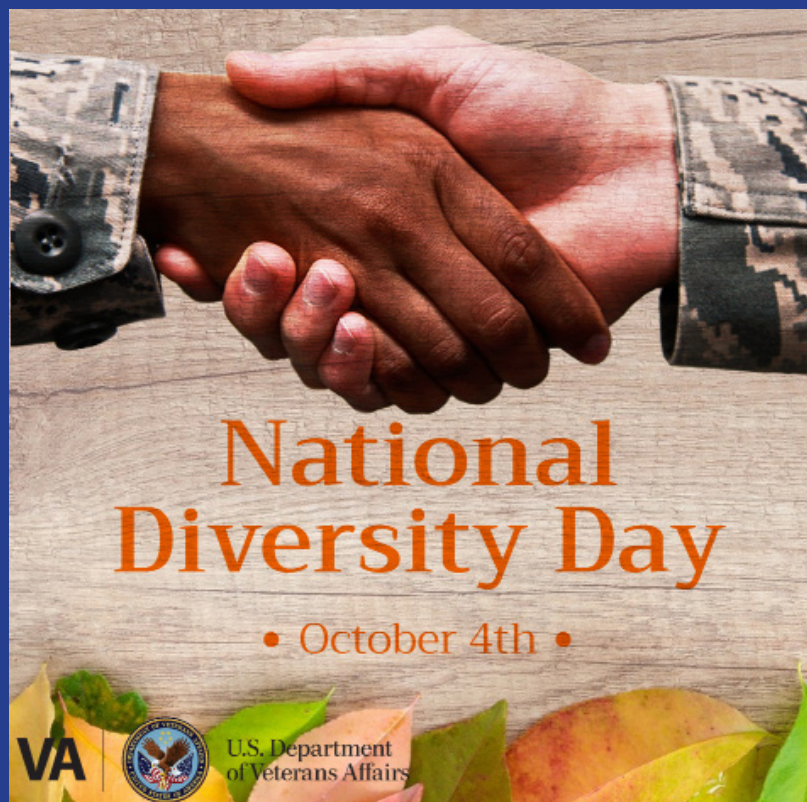
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



NAVAJO CODE TALKER DAY

ON THIS DAY, AUGUST 14TH, WE HONOR THE BRAVERY AND SERVICE OF THE NAVAHO CODE TALKERS.

NATIONAL DIVERSITY DAY





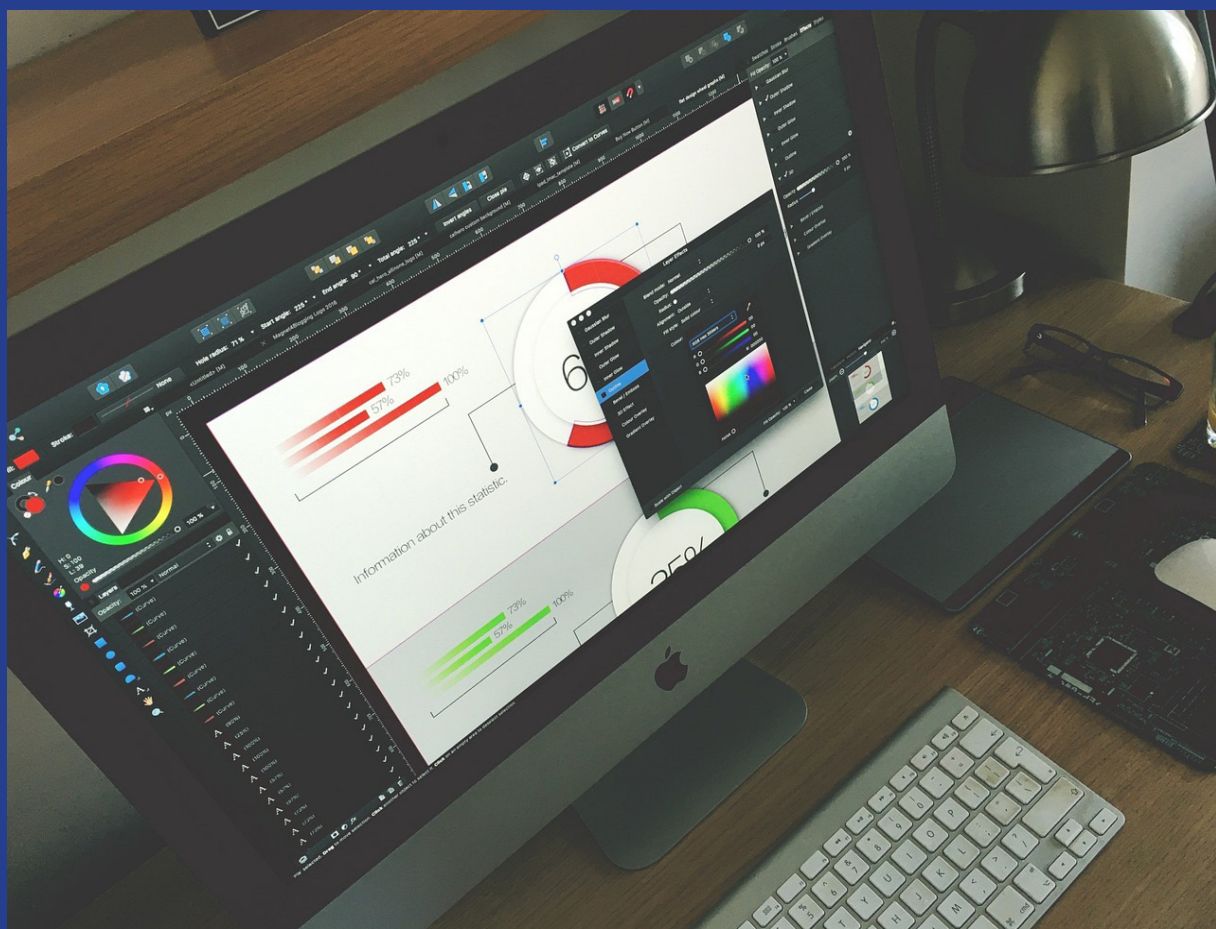
CHAPTER TWO

SPECIAL PROJECTS



SPECIAL PROJECTS

As I became more familiar with the internship, I was approached by my supervisors or outside personnel in the VA and commissioned to work on a project for them. These projects sometimes took me multiple weeks at a time, and range through many forms, whether it be a web banner or a flier or even a template for future generations of designers in the program to use! I always happily take on these projects and give my complete effort each time to ensure the best possible result for my peers and the great freedom fighters of this country.



NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH BANNER



THERAPY TEMPLATE



VA



POWER OF SONG

FRED McDADE

FRED McDADE VA

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

FRED McDADE VA

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

FRED McDADE VA

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

FRED McDADE VA

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

POWER OF SONG VA **FRED McDADE**

WEB DEVELOPMENT IMAGE



WEB DEVELOPMENT



THERAPY POSTER

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have taken part in a unique
therapy, share your experience
with the VA's Digital Media
Engagement Team at
outreach@dmeinterns.org



Your story could be featured on VA's official blog,
Vantage Point, and potentially seen by an audience of
more than 3 million across multiple social media platforms.

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Your story could be featured on VA's official blog, **VAntage Point**, and potentially seen by an audience of more than 3 million across multiple social media platforms.

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CHAPTER THREE

VETERAN OF THE DAY



VETERAN OF THE DAY

One of the responsibilities of Graphic Designers in the DME Internship is to create Veteran of the Day graphics for the Facebook, Instagram, and Vantage Point Blog, where we put together images of the veteran to properly tell their story, along with the writeup created by the writing and editing team. One of the challenges that is provided with these projects is not being provided any images and having to find the images ourselves, or being provided images that are not good quality and having to come up with creative solutions to still create a good graphic.



MICHAEL J GUILLORY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MICHAEL J. GUILLORY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MICHAEL J. GUILLORY

MEL BOCKELMAN

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MEL BOCKELMAN

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MEL BOCKELMAN

PATSY THOMPSON

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



PATSY THOMPSON

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



PATSY THOMPSON

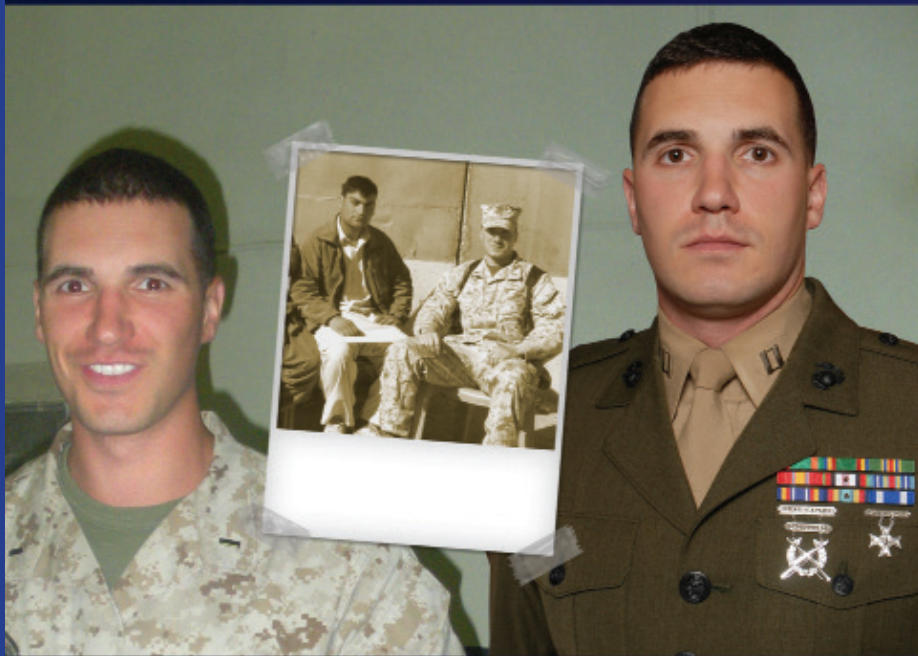
PATRICK DARCEY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



PATRICK DARCEY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



PATRICK DARCEY

MARK STILLION

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MARK STILLION

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



MARK STILLION

LARRY B. EARL

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



LARRY B. EARL

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



LARRY B. EARL

STANLEY STOLTZ

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



STANLEY STOLTZ

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



STANLEY STOLTZ

RAFAEL PERALTA

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



RAFAEL PERALTA

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



RAFAEL PERALTA

CRISTINA A. FRISBY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



CRISTINA A. FRISBY

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



CRISTINA A. FRISBY

GORDON GIFFELS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GORDON JOSEPH GIFFELS
PIONEER AND PATRIOT

Sunrise
December 27, 1917

★

Sunset
August 7, 1942

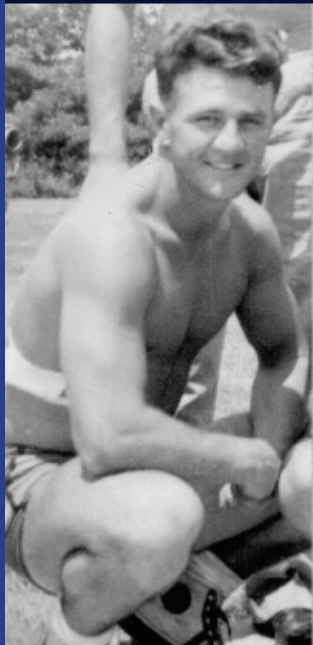
World War II | Operation Watchtower
 Battle of Tulagi | "First Hell in the Pacific"
 United States Marine Corps

1st Battalion | 5th Marine Regiment
 1st Marine Division | 1st Marine Raider Battalion



GORDON GIFFELS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GORDON JOSEPH GIFFELS
PIONEER AND PATRIOT

Sunrise
December 27, 1917

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Sunset
August 7, 1942

World War II | Operation Watchtower
 Battle of Tulagi | "First Hell in the Pacific"
 United States Marine Corps

1st Battalion | 5th Marine Regiment
 1st Marine Division | 1st Marine Raider Battalion

Gordon Joseph Giffels is a unique person in the pantheon of American warriors and patriots.

In "The Brethren" Fish Island endures the ordeal as an all-around officer and leader, personal leader, combat commander for support units, and the main commander. He was a PFC and later promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was the first Marine Raider to be killed in action on the island of Tulagi.

Sergeant Giffels was the only Marine fighting on the island who possessed the extraordinary physical and mental ability to perform under the most extreme and stressful conditions. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower.

Commander Giffels was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower.

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Established and is listed in the "The Brethren" book. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower. He was the only Marine who was able to hold his own in the face of the enemy's superior numbers and firepower.



GORDON GIFFELS

FRANCIS E WILLS THORPE

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



FRANCES E. THORPE

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



FRANCES E. THORPE

GRETCHEN SORENSON

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GRETCHEN SORENSON

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GRETCHEN SORENSON

GALE E GARMAN

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GALE E. GARMAN

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



GALE E. GARMAN

CHUCK ADKINS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



CHUCK ADKINS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



CHUCK ADKINS

JOHN DAVIS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



JOHN DAVIS

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY



JOHN DAVIS



CHAPTER FOUR

VET RESOURCES



VET RESOURCES

A new program that the interns have started taking part in is making graphics that inform veterans of programs across the country in which they can benefit from. There are a wide variety of programs out there that veterans are encouraged to take advantage of, and these graphics could bring those programs new attention that they didn't have before. This new program also marked the first time that the VA has adapted a new template for the FB and IG Story format.



BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE



#VETRESOURCES BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE

Golf enthusiasts give back to our Veterans on world renowned courses.

PGA TOUR players come out and show their support for our troops.

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www.VA.gov/VetResources



#VETRESOURCES BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE



Golf enthusiasts give back to our Veterans on world renowned courses.

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www.VA.gov/VetResources



#VETRESOURCES BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE



Golf enthusiasts give back to our Veterans on world renowned courses.

GIVE AN HOUR



#VETRESOURCES GIVE AN HOUR

Focused on providing free mental health care to those who serve our country.

Give an Hour has given help and hope to our vets and their families since 2005.

VA



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www.VA.gov/VetResources

#VETRESOURCES GIVE AN HOUR



Focused on providing free mental health care to those who serve our country.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.VA.gov/VetResources

#VETRESOURCES GIVE AN HOUR



Focused on providing free mental health care to those who serve our country.

REAL WARRIORS

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH



#VETRESOURCES
REAL WARRIORS

The Real Warriors encourages help-seeking behavior among service members & Veterans.

The campaign offers help for includes PTSD, depression, grief, anger, substance abuse, and family relationships.

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www.VA.gov/VetResources

#VETRESOURCES
REAL WARRIORS



REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH

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www.VA.gov/VetResources

#VETRESOURCES
REAL WARRIORS

REAL WARRIORS ★ REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH



The Real Warriors encourages help-seeking behavior among service members & Veterans.

BLUE STAR MUSEUM



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

#VETRESOURCES
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Blue Star Museums across the U.S. offer free admission for those currently serving.

More than 2,000 museums across the United States participate in the program.

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www.VA.gov/VetResources

#VETRESOURCES
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS



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www.VA.gov/VetResources

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LONE SURVIVOR FOUNDATION



LONE SURVIVOR™
FOUNDATION

#VETRESOURCES

LONE SURVIVOR

Lone Survivor provides therapies that restore & empower Vets and their families.

Therapeutic tools implemented that focus on restoring the mind, body and spirit of combat veterans.

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www.VA.gov/VetResources



#VETRESOURCES

LONE SURVIVOR

LONE SURVIVOR
FOUNDATION

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VA



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www.VA.gov/VetResources



#VETRESOURCES
LONE SURVIVOR

LONE SURVIVOR™
FOUNDATION

Lone Survivor provides therapies that restore & empower Vets and their families.



Austin Waters is a Junior studying Graphic Design at Central Connecticut State University. He loves to design logos and posters and hopes he gets to continue doing those things in his career. His dream job would be to work at WWE Headquarters in Stamford, CT as a Graphic Designer, but he would love to work anywhere he can bring people joy with his designs. He would also enjoy staying with the VA after the internship because he loves how much joy he brings the veterans who see his work. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with those close to him, going on adventures, and the occasional hangout with friends when time permits.