



YALE VETERANS ASSOCIATION



"True to her traditions"

www.yaleveterans.com

January 2013

ROTC IS BACK!



Members of the campus community joined with university and government officials, alumni veterans, and other friends of Yale to mark the official opening of the ROTC offices at 55 Whitney Ave. The ceremony, held before the alumni war memorial on Beinecke Plaza, included a procession of cadets and midshipmen, music by members of the Yale Band, and remarks by President Richard C. Levin; Yale College Dean Mary Miller; Juan M. Garcia III, assistant secretary of the Navy, Manpower & Reserve Affairs; and Lieutenant General David S. Fadock, commander and president, Air University, among others.

Yale Veterans Association Celebrates 1st Year Success & Growth

On November 11, 2011 five Yale alumni signed the incorporation papers for the Yale Veterans Association: a group dedicated to connecting Yale alumni who have served in the military, supporting military education, advocating for Veterans in the Yale community, developing future leaders, and building a vibrant community amongst Yale Veterans.

Over the last year, the organization has grown and

achieved some important milestones and early successes including:

- Launching the Yale Navy ROTC Corporal Ricketts Award—this year's presented to Marine Corps Second Lieutenant Isabel Marin
- Hosting numerous social activities in New Haven and New York City
- Supporting and partnering with Yale Navy and

Air Force ROTC

- Successfully advocating for increased Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon scholarship for Yale student Veterans
- Building and developing the organization to enable future growth by establishing a website, organizing committees, and beginning fundraising.

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YVA President's Message



President
Tom Opladen, YC '66

Photo: Tom provides opening remarks to Midshipmen Pinning Ceremony.

"My vision is for the YVA to emphasize the importance and value of military service in the Yale community, to honor those who have served, and to enhance the dialogue between the university and its veterans."

It's been about two and a half years since Fred Nagle and I started to work on forming a veterans association at Yale. It all started with a phone call to Mark Dollhopf, Executive Director of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA), informing him that Harvard had a veterans organization and asking if Yale had one. He said there wasn't one now but we'll create a better one, and was he right. His enthusiastic support has been characteristic of the reception that Yale has given the YVA.

After the encouraging response of the AYA, I was delighted to meet the dedicated veterans on campus who organized themselves as the Yale Student Veterans Council, led by John Perez and then Josh Ray. They immediately recognized the advantages of

working with the alumni and joined with our effort. They have added such a vital element to the organization.

And then came the announcement of the return of the Air Force and Navy ROTC units to campus and the strong support given to them by the Yale community. The YVA has and continues to have the pleasure of working with and supporting both units in their activities. It is such a pleasure to see the unit staff, cadets and midshipmen again on our campus and living the YVA motto "true to her traditions".

Our organization has grown dramatically and the activities have come along at a furious pace. We have participated in and hosted Veterans events, ROTC activities, Day of Service, panels,

beer calls and a care package drive to name a few. Also, chapters have started to form in various cities with New York already having one lunch and two happy hours. Other cities forming chapters include Washington DC, Boston, San Diego, Philadelphia and Charleston.

I urge all veterans and active duty personnel in the Yale community, including students, faculty, staff, administration, parents and alumni to join our organization. Please sign up on our website, www.yaleveterans.org, and join our Facebook page. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas and help us build a vibrant and energetic YVA and thank you for your service!

YVA Vice President's Message

2012 has been a remarkable year for veterans at Yale. The seeds planted by student veterans from years past have begun to sprout and tangible changes to the way Yale veterans attend the university have become manifest.

Yale's Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program, an agreement with the U.S. Veterans Administration to help augment the cost of tuition for veterans who served in the years following the 9/11 attacks, was improved. This was thanks in no small part to a small, dedicated group of YVA student veterans who met with members of

the administration and lobbied for Yale to re-examine their policy, which lagged behind most of our peer institutions. The Administration agreed that improvements were overdue and expanded the program to affect a larger swath of Yale veterans across the university.

Additionally, the year saw Yale Student Veterans Council (YSVC) become a recognized chapter in the national organization Student Veterans of America (SVA). The SVA recently formally invited student vets from Yale to participate in a panel at their upcoming national confer-

ence in January.

Most promisingly, student veterans who are attending Yale have come together as a more close-knit group, transcending the bounds of our respective colleges and programs. It has been our aim to form a more cohesive, communicative body, that can represent the needs of the student veteran community, more ably provide support for each other, and facilitate quality friendships that will persist long after graduation.



Vice President, YVA
Josh Ray, YC '13

"The YVA brings Yale veterans together from over sixty years of service—facilitating meaningful conversations and forging lasting relationships. That to me is invaluable and just one of the many functions of the YVA."



Yale Day of Service: John Sterpka (on left in blue shirt, without cap), an Army veteran and Yale staff member and Reuben D'Silva (standing), a Marine veteran and current M.A.R. student at the Yale Divinity School, converse with three visually-impaired veterans at the Center about their experiences in the military.



Col. Scott Manning (right) participating in a plaque unveiling during the 50th reunion of "IFEL62," a cohort of active-duty US Air Force personnel who in 1962 were at Yale enrolled in an intensive Chinese language program under the Institute of Far Eastern Languages (now the Dept. of East Asian Languages & Literatures). Steve Banks, an IFEL62 member, represents the group during the ceremony.