



**FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY**

# CHAIN OF COMMAND

Connecting FDU Veterans & Alumni and Their Families



*A true soldier fought not because he hated what was in front of him, but because he loved what was behind him.*

## PAST

### Remembering 9/11

Highlighted by keynote addresses from SVA Vice President, Dillon Pontes (USN, Florham '23) and SVA Treasurer, Jonathan Seimaszkiewicz (USMC, Metro '24), FDU recently hosted ceremonies on both Metro and Florham campuses to remember the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001. FDU President Christopher Capuano and VP of Student Affairs Dr. Uchenna Baker shared remarks, with a special musical tribute by Sr. VP Robert Pignatello.

## PRESENT

### RED Friday Campaign

Combining efforts with the Department of Athletics, the RED Friday campaign at FDU takes off. To present a unified effort in support of the military community around the world, the SVA and Dept. of Athletics want everyone to Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) and wear RED every Friday!

Check out the t-shirt graphic on the SVA Instagram and help us by showing your support of our military deployed abroad.

## FUTURE

### The Mentor Mission

The legacy of student veterans at FDU continues to excel, combining efforts across two university campuses with joint efforts connecting campus and community.

Are you a veteran alum? Have you transitioned from student to professional? Help support the next class of student veterans as a mentor! To connect, please contact us at [veteransservices@fdu.edu](mailto:veteransservices@fdu.edu).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS

- Governor Phil Murphy will present FDU with the We Value Our Veterans Award on Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located at the PNC Bank Art Center in Holmdel, NJ. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. and all are invited to attend!
- The SVA meets every Friday at 2pm via Zoom. Follow us on Instagram at @FDUSVA for the link and most recent updates.

**WE ARE EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH A GREAT EDUCATION TO GO OUT, SERVE, AND BUILD A COUNTRY WORTHY OF THEIR BOUNDLESS PROMISE.**

## Debrief from the Director

Good things are happening at FDU! Our student veterans are back on campus and are involved in the FDU community.

FDU has been invited to present Student Veterans on Film: *Transitions*, the Making of a Documentary at SVA NatCon 2022 in Orlando, Florida this January. It is the world's largest gathering of student veterans.

This Veterans Day at 11 a.m., Governor Phil Murphy will be presenting FDU the esteemed, "We Value Our Veterans Award" at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

For the third year the Office of Veterans Services and the FDU SVA are hosting a Patriotic Art Contest on both FDU NJ campuses. The two winning artists will receive a \$100 FDU bookstore voucher.

Planning is underway for a Veteran Alumni event this spring. It will take place in either May or June on the FDU Florham Campus in conjunction with Our Community Salutes of North Jersey. More to come on this event!



## Operation: NATCON '22

The leadership from the Student Veterans of America has invited the FDU chapter of the Student Veterans Association to present its developing documentary about student veterans in higher education at the 2022 SVA National Convention.

To help send the FDU Executive Board to fulfill this honor, please use the QR code and donate today!



Thank you for your support.

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford*

Join the FDU SVA on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. as we paint and camo net Reuter's Rock on the Florham Campus for Veterans Day. This is a family friendly event! At 12pm the FDU Devils take on Alvernia on Robert T. Shields Field.



## One Team, One Fight!

COLLABORATION OVER COOPERATION

The Student Veterans Association remains dedicated to working with its members from both New Jersey campuses while developing and maximizing relationships across the FDU community.

From clubs, organizations and Greek life to academic departments, staff, and administrators, student veterans are always finding ways to explore opportunities to galvanize the FDU and local community through projects and initiatives. Combating food insecurity? Absolutely. Sharing responsibility for raising awareness of charitable causes? Without a second thought. Connecting student veterans with resources to help meet needs? All the time.

We are always looking to establish new relationships and develop our student leaders and connect with members of our community. Are you interested in joining the fight as a member of our team? Please contact the Office of Veterans Services at [veteransservices@fdu.edu](mailto:veteransservices@fdu.edu) and let us know how we can work together towards becoming the best personal, global, and transformational members of society possible.

## FDU Veteran Alumni Spotlight: FDU Executive Vice President (Ret.) Carl Viola



Carl Viola, Class of 1979 and 2007 Pinnacle Award recipient, retired as an Executive Vice President from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2006.

After serving two tours of duty as a Navy Corpsman in Vietnam, Carl returned a staunch advocate for student veterans. Taking advantage of the GI Bill and accepting the responsibilities of a federal work-study ambassador, Carl quickly distinguished himself as an asset to the institution and began working to create and run the institution's student veteran programs and initiatives as the Director of Veterans Programs at Brookdale Community College.

Next, Carl took his talents to the New Jersey Department of Education before transitioning to take on roles as the Campus Executive and Vice President of Planning at Fairleigh Dickinson University's two New Jersey campuses. Upon promotion to the role of Executive Vice President, Carl was instrumental in helping to expand FDU's footprint on the international stage with a campus in Vancouver, Canada.

Carl's vision for the future of veteran programs is that they operate with a great deal of flexibility and host a strong camaraderie among the veterans. Carl highlights the significance of collaboration, emphasizing the value of increased access to programs for veterans to take advantage of all the opportunities FDU has to offer.

The FDU community is honored by Carl's steadfast advocacy and contributions in support of veterans in higher education. In reflecting upon Carl's many contributions to FDU and higher education in New Jersey, FDU President Christopher Capuano noted that "Carl brought the same tenacity and commitment to promoting excellence in higher education as he did to supporting veterans in higher education. He was a strong advocate for FDU's global mission and for providing access and affordability to a quality private university education to students from all walks of life, including veterans."

Looking back on why FDU is so special, Carl is quick to proclaim, "Family. I think FDU is a family. It was my philosophy basically when I worked there. Everything is about relationships."

In retirement, Carl Viola graciously continues to make himself available to FDU student veterans.

