



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

Food Ruck

On April 24th, the FDU Student Veterans Association and Devils Care Pantry collaborated on a food ruck (an organized group walk carrying backpacks full of food items) in Madison, New Jersey. Together we donated over \$600 of food to the FDU Devils Care Pantry. Our group carried and pushed the food 5 miles! We are continually amazed at how our community comes together to support each other. We look forward to another food ruck in the fall.

PRESENT

Graduation 2022

This year's Commencement ceremony took place at MetLife Stadium on May 18th. Once again, we had many military-connected undergraduate students and graduate students earn their degree. A special video presentation was shown during the commencement ceremony on graduate Richard Salkind, Korean War Veteran.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2022!

FUTURE

School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Integrating military-connected students into the fabric of FDU has always been a priority. Another major step in this direction was the creation of a veteran-focused service-learning course offered by the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. This course was extremely well received by these future pharmacists and will be offered in future semesters.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS

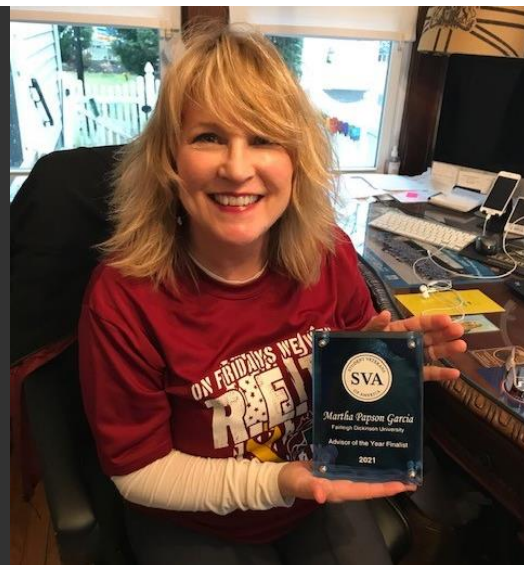
- This year, Elliot Figueroa (BA'20, MS'21) established the Jose Luis "Pepe" Gomez Scholarship and presented it to military-dependent student Giovanni Laboy Valentin at the Veteran Alumni Reception.
- Professional CPR (Career, Preparation, Readiness) for veterans will take place once each month this fall in person and via Zoom.
- Are you interested in joining the FDU SVA at the Student Veterans of America NatCon in Orlando, Florida in January 2023? Contact the Office of Veterans Services for more information.

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

We had a busy and exciting academic year in the FDU Office of Veterans Services! In November, FDU received the We Value Our Veterans Award on Veterans Day from Governor Phil Murphy. Nominations from FDU student veterans prompted Student Veterans of America to name me one of the top five Advisor of the Year Finalists 2021, an honor that is close to my heart. One of the finest events the FDU Office of Veterans Services participated in was the Degree Conferral Ceremony for Mr. Richard Salkind in March.

This spring we had many undergraduate and graduate student veterans inducted into the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society. We co-hosted a Food Ruck for the Devils Care Pantry and held a Veterans Professional Development Seminar. Our Community Salutes North Jersey, a high school enlistee recognition ceremony followed by our annual FDU Veteran Alumni Reception was held on the Florham Campus in April. The highlight of the year is always congratulating our graduating military-connected students at the Commencement Ceremony at MetLife Stadium in May.



**JUNE IS PTSD
AWARENESS
MONTH**

Learn more:

www.ptsd.va.gov



June is National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and is intended to raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD and help ensure that those suffering from it receive proper treatment.

FDU Office of Veterans Services Mission Statement

The mission of the FDU Office of Veteran Services is to provide our active-duty military, veterans, and their dependents with personal service to assist with their transition to college life and commit to following policy set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. We are proud to serve our military veterans and their families as they pursue their educational goals. To this end, we are committed to aiding our students in their efforts towards continued service and leadership in a global society.



The Veteran's Office is a safe space for all veterans and students regardless of sexuality or gender identity. Happy **PRIDE** month from our office! For more information on your rights as a veteran in the LGBTQ+ community, please visit https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/VA_LGBT_Policies.asp

FDU Veteran Alumni Spotlight: Richard Salkind



Was there anything that Richard Salkind hadn't done? He had served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He raised five kids with his wife. And he ran a trucking business. But at 90-years old, there was still one thing on Mr. Salkind's bucket list - he wanted to earn his bachelor's degree.

Mr. Salkind started college 71 years ago, before leaving to enlist in the Army. Once he returned home to New Jersey from the war, he took night classes at FDU. He was not able to finish what he had started prior to the war, due to family commitments. Though he went on to live a fulfilling life, he never forgot about his educational dreams.

With 14 credits between him and his degree, Mr. Salkind contacted FDU about earning his undergraduate degree. It turns out that through ACE, the training Mr. Salkind completed as a Morse Code Intercept Operator and Technician was worth 27 credits. This allowed him to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Individualized Studies.

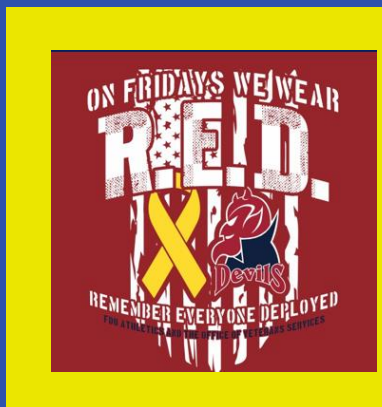
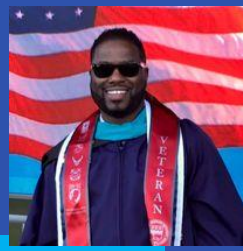
To celebrate his achievement, a special ceremony, coordinated by FDU, was held on March 30, 2022, at his Dumont home. Surrounded by his family, Mr. Salkind was awarded his degree by FDU President Christopher A. Capuano and University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Avaltroni. Mr. Salkind was also awarded with the Distinguished Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal from the New Jersey Department of Veteran Affairs. The Mayor of Dumont, Andrew LaBruno, declared March 30th as Richard Salkind Day, so be sure to mark your calendars for next year!

"I love my family, I love my school, and I love my country, with all my heart."

-Richard Salkind, U.S. Army Veteran



Check us out and connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram for the latest events, successes, and opportunities with our student military community!



On Fridays We Wear R.E.D. t-shirt collaboration between the Office of Veterans Services and the FDU Metro and Florham Athletic Departments.

