



Young Marines of Mesa fix a fallen flag on Veterans Day. photo by John James, Jr.

VETERANS DAY

recognized around the globe



photo by Peter Speyer

More than 3,400 American flags waved along Tempe Beach Park in Tempe, Arizona, as part of the nationwide observation of Veterans Day on November 11, 2005. More than 2,000 of those flags featured yellow ribbons displaying the name, rank, and service of a soldier who lost their life in Iraq or Afghanistan. The remainder displayed blue ribbons to symbolize the children who lost their lives to abuse in the country last year.

Throughout the country, thousands of ceremonies were held to remember those soldiers who had risked or lost their lives to uphold the freedoms which Americans enjoy. It was also, as was the case at Tempe Beach Park, a chance to remember those who had lost their lives giving other countries the opportunity to enjoy the same freedoms.

The significance of Veteran's Day is not lost on University of Phoenix Online Alum Derek Jabbour, 34, an Air Force Veteran and Army Reservist, whose father spent a year on the front lines in the Korean War, winning a Bronze Star.

"Veterans Day is of major significance to me personally," he said. "It is a day to honor all who wear or have worn the uniform, and the sacrifice they make for our country and our freedom."

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USMC Celebrates 230 years

On November 10, 2005, veteran, retired, reserve and active-duty Marines around the world celebrated the United States Marine Corps' 230th birthday.

Regarded as the most significant date on the Marine Corps Calendar, Marines gathered to celebrate their legacy, as well as remember the sacrifices of their comrades.

While the US Marine Corps dates back to the day Congress resolved in 1775 forming two battalions of Continental Marines, it has only been since 1921 that the day has officially been recognized.

In 1921, Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune ordered that a summarized version of the history, mission, and tradition of the US Marine Corps be read on November 10 to all Marines every year to mark the occasion.

This tradition has continued to include the presentation of a birthday cake, with the oldest Marine receiving the first piece, followed by the youngest Marine. While the way the birthday is celebrated at different posts and stations may differ, the cake ceremony and reading of Lejeune's letter are a constant.

One such student, Sergeant Agustin Pulido, currently a Marine Security Guard at the US Embassy in Greece and University of Phoenix Online graduate, stressed the importance of the Birthday Ball.

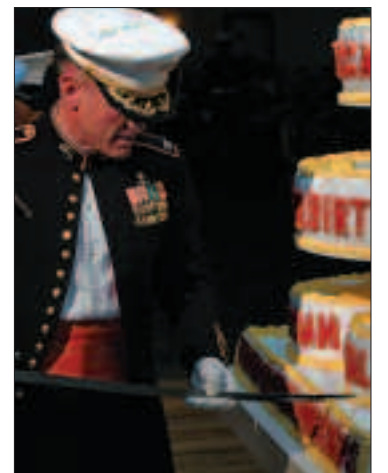


photo by Cpl. Sarah M. Maynard

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**University of Phoenix Alum
 LEADS HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS
 IN AFGHANISTAN** STORY ON Pg. 4



Want to learn more about University of Phoenix Online programs? Call and speak to a military enrollment counselor at 800-680-9770 or visit www.uopx.com/patriot

VETERANS DAY

Jabbour said he did not understand the sacrifice troops made until he enlisted in 1995. "I never had an understanding of the appreciation for the hard work and dedication each member gives when they are in uniform," he said.

"I was never in a hostile environment for which I feel very lucky. Those who've served overseas deserve our deepest respect and thanks for their dedication to freedom. I cannot think of anything more honorable."

He was also given a deeper appreciation of Veterans Day through his father, who, like so many others within the military, was humble and dedicated to upholding the freedoms which the United States enjoy. "He never talked much about it, but I know from his emotions he poured his heart and soul into that year for his mission and the men in his charge," Jabbour said.

Jabbour is a graduate of three University of Phoenix Online degree programs; an Associate of Arts in Computer Science Technology, Bachelor of Science in Business/Information Systems, and a Master of Information Systems. Like many other military students, Jabbour is using the Montgomery GI Bill to complete his studies, working towards a Master of Business Administration in Accounting.

What makes Jabbour's story so interesting is that he juggles his studies with three businesses, a wife and two children, ages 3 and 11. Jabbour maintains that getting his degrees made him more equipped and better suited to enter back into civilian life.

"Getting a degree was the key in returning to civilian life," he said. "It is very important to get an education and keep up with changes."

One of Jabbour's businesses, JB Federal Systems, is a Department of Defense contractor, responsible for training and IT support. He currently employs 17 people, and does extensive computer contract work with the Government.

His other two businesses, an investigative service and weapons contractor, ensure that he is kept busy, and in need of good time-management skills.

"A usual day is 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., working an eight hour day in the Navy ship-yard, and later in the day doing my accounting, book-keeping and other duties," he said. "Needless to say I have a very understanding and supportive family."

Jabbour stressed that one of the major reasons for being able to complete three degrees so quickly is that the online format allowed him the flexibility to fit study into his schedule.

Asked if he had any advice for students beginning their first degree, Jabbour said, "Take it slow, keep it simple, study hard and look at the bigger picture. That is the key."

Military Veterans can find more information on scholarships, job opportunities, transitioning, and resume and interviewing tips at www.military.com.



Through the stars at Tempe Town Lake on Veterans Day. photo by John James, Jr.



A volunteer attaches a ribbon with the name of fallen soldier of the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. photo by Peter Speyer



Flags caught in a gust of wind fly proudly at Tempe Town Lake. photo by John James, Jr.



photo by Peter Speyer

VETERANS DAY

Tempe Beach Park, Tempe, Arizona

Quick facts:

- The first field of flags was held to remember the victims of September 11, 2001.
- The date of the event was changed to Veterans Day, to remember those who lost their lives as a result of September 11.
- More than 2000 flags with yellow ribbons display the name, rank, service, and hometown of a service member who lost their life in Iraq or Afghanistan.
- More than 1400 flags display blue ribbons to symbolize the children who lost their lives to abuse in the country last year.
- The field of flags is referred to as the "Healing Fields."
- 2006 marks the Healing Fields' 5th Anniversary.
- "Our goal or philosophy is the veteran field will unfortunately continue to grow, so the 9-11 field will not grow" - Michael Whitaker, National Exchange Club.

*Information from Michael Whitaker, National Exchange Club.

University of Phoenix Alum leads Humanitarian Missions in Afghanistan

Captain Eric Johnson carries a rifle, spends his days and nights in camouflage, and travels with an Army task force through the deserts of Afghanistan. But his mission does not include midnight raids or gunfire. Captain Johnson and the rest of Task Force Eagle are armed with one goal – bringing humanitarian aide to the people of Afghanistan.

The University of Phoenix Business Management graduate has his work cut out for him. He is part of a provincial reconstruction team, made up of combat engineers, military police, and civil affairs personnel. The team builds schools, roads, and deep water wells. In addition, they carry out humanitarian assistance missions, which include providing clothing, food, and tents. Captain Johnson and his team concentrate their work in the provinces of Panjshir, Parwan, and Kapisa.

"It's my job to drive a wedge between the insurgency and the local population by showing benefits of Coalition Forces and the Government of Afghanistan," Captain Johnson said. The task force works with 30 other coalition partners.

In addition, churches and other organizations in the United States gather clothing and school supplies to send overseas. "It's ordinary people in the United States that are really making a difference," he said.

As part of the Medical Civic Assistance Program (MEDCAP), the team provides medical treatment, including emergency room care, acute medical care, and general health care treatment. If the situation warrants, the task force can refer patients to one of the three hospitals on Bagram Air Base or to their regional hospitals. The task force also renders medical aide to pets. "Some diseases can mutate and be transferred from animal to human," Captain Johnson explained.



As part of Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA), soldiers distribute clothing to the village of Qal'a Beland. This is in preparation for the upcoming winter. Most supplies come from donations.

The people of Afghanistan lack the most basic of needs. "Coming from the US to a third world country is always eye opening, but rural Afghanistan is still 200 BC," Captain Johnson said. "The populace resides in mud huts. There is no indoor plumbing, let alone electricity. Heating is done by dried livestock dung or wood, but wood is scarce due to the deforestation of the country during the Soviet invasion."

The implications of the war in Iraq are not lost on Captain Johnson. He and other soldiers participate in the Fallen Comrade Ceremony conducted when they lose soldiers from Bagram Air Base. "It is important to remember that the price of freedom is very high, but the rewards are beyond measure. Many years from now, when someone asks me what I did to make the world a better place, I can say, 'I served in Somalia and tried to help desperate people. I served in Kuwait and kept a dictator at bay. And, I served in Afghanistan and helped create a free and prosperous nation.'"

Captain Johnson has been in Afghanistan for 11 months, and is scheduled to return home in March where he will reunite with his

wife and children. "Being away from them," Captain Johnson says, "is the hardest part of deployment."

Captain Johnson has learned and grown through his deployment. Thinking of his family back home reminds him of what is really important. "I've learned that most people are the same around the world. They want to live, love, and have a family." "They want a better life for their children," he said.



The implications of the war in Iraq are not lost when Captain Johnson and other soldiers participate in the Fallen Comrade Ceremony conducted when they lose soldiers.
by Sgt. Tara Teel

Going from **troop to teacher** a calling for Pearllice Diggs

In lieu of American Education Week, November 13-19, 2005, a survey of over 700 University of Phoenix Master of Arts in Education students found that it is possible to have a career and get an education; and they encourage other working adults to do the same.

More than half of the respondents said an advanced degree was the most effective way to reach their career goals and, when asked to give advice, nearly half said, "Do not put it off. It is possible to go back to school and have a career."

Often times when asked who it was that influenced them to get into their profession, adults will say it was their parents or their third grade teacher. However, for Pearllice Diggs, an Army veteran of 20 years and military spouse, it was her son's third grade teacher who influenced her to go back to school and become a teacher.

"I owe my influence to become a teacher to my son's 3rd grade teacher and the students I trained in the military," she said. "Prior to 3rd grade, I had been told that my child was difficult, a slow learner, and may have a learning disability. His 3rd grade teacher told me she was aware of the problems he had the previous 2 years, but believed in similar students she had before her."

"She told me not to worry, trust her, and be assured that she had his best interest in mind. I supported her everyday efforts and for the first time in 3 years, my child was on the A/B honor roll for the entire academic school year."

Seeing someone get such great results with a slower learner, as well as her 10 years as a military instructor, was "confirmation" that Diggs wanted to become a teacher. "I decided to become a teacher after having been assigned as an instructor at the United States Army Military Police School," she said. "The 10 years instructing and evaluating young soldiers and Marines were very rewarding knowing that I was an integral part of training America's military."

"Witnessing the end result of my teaching motivated me to fine tune my craft and prepare myself for a younger student body that would become America's future teachers, counselors, doctors, nurses, lawyers, and servicemen and women."

A recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Elementary Education from University of Phoenix Online, Diggs praised the simplicity of the online format, and the support of instructors, teachers, and other students. "As I reflect on my educa-

tion experience I am amazed at how practical the readings, assignments and projects proved to be when I am in a classroom setting," she said. "I found myself reviewing the textbooks and resources to remain proficient in my field."

"With the help of the instructors, other students, and tech support it proved to be quite successful."

"I would encourage any military student to consider online degree completion as a top choice. It is flexible and allows the military student to enroll in those classes that fits their schedule."

Diggs, who earned her degree while her husband was deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, completed her student teaching at a Department of Defense Dependand School. Like so many other service members earning their education degrees, Diggs found the experience very rewarding.

"Student teaching was a very enriching and rewarding experience. I was surrounded by educators who had years of experience and were not afraid to open up their classrooms to pre-service educators," she said. "The teachers willingly and freely shared their experience and resources on a daily basis."

Diggs now plans to move with her family to their next assignment in Virginia where she hopes to find a teaching position under the Troops to Teachers Program.

The Troops to Teachers Program is a US Department of Education and Department of Defense initiative that helps eligible military personnel begin a career as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and expertise are needed. As well as offering financial support for troops to complete their studies, the program also offers mentors and a job placement network for assistance when their studies are completed.

For more information on the Troops to Teachers Program go to www.proudtoserveagain.com

University of Phoenix President, Laura Palma Noone, agreed that earning an advanced degree is beneficial to the working adult. "A master's degree can give students the tools they need to become more effective educators or transition into a teaching career – not to mention increasing their earning potential in this rewarding vocation," she said.

The education industry is among the nation's fastest-growing sectors; University research confirms that the need for qualified teachers is outpacing the number of graduates entering the field. "Increasing the number of degree programs available to students is one way to meet this need," said the University's



Dean of Education, Marla LaRue. "The more educational options we offer students who are interested in becoming teachers, the more likely these students will perceive a career in education as a viable choice and an achievable goal," she said.

More than 18,000 students are enrolled in University of Phoenix's Master of Arts in Education program, which is designed to enhance and refine the skills of teachers and other educational professionals. The advanced degree program offers several areas of specialization, including administration and supervision, curriculum and instruction, adult education and distance learning, early childhood education, and special education and teacher education. (based in both theory and working practice).



230 years

"The Marine Corps birthday is such a big deal for all of the Marines, especially those who are overseas," he said. "It's more important than my own birthday, and I'm sure many of the guys here would say the same."

"It is also great for the community here in Greece; all the Diplomats from other embassies attend and it is a great way of recognizing those who have gone before us."

Pulido, who completed his associate degree at University of Phoenix Online earlier this year, is currently

enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Management degree and said he enjoys the accessibility of an online degree.

"In my current position we have rotating posts, meaning every two days we change shifts, and any spare time we have we use wisely," he said. "You need great time-management in this position."

"With rotating posts, the only way I could do my study was online. It gives me flexibility so I can complete my study wherever I am, and at the time that suits me."

The Marine Corps Birthday was also celebrated by 67 University of Phoenix Online military enrollment counselors, who are all former Marines. All University of Phoenix Online military enrollment counselors are former military.

Marines celebrating in Iraq.

photo by Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX ASSISTS TRANSITIONING MARINES

Networking is a buzz word these days, often the key in creating the win-win situation. The United States Marine Corps has created an online network for transitioning Marines returning from active duty, which University of Phoenix Online is proud to be a part of.

The Marine for Life Program has hometown links nationwide, which returning Marines can access to help find employment, get information on veterans' benefits, learn about educational opportunities and stay connected with local people who appreciate their service. The local networks help the Marines looking for work, opportunities, and camaraderie by establishing a pathway to these valuable connections.

As an employer of military veterans, University of Phoenix Online and its affiliates already benefit from hiring proven, goal-oriented personnel with the kind of commitment one finds at the core of service men and women. Prior military experience is a requirement of military enrollment counselors at University of Phoenix Online. University employees are known to be dependable, dedicated people with proven leadership skills. University of Phoenix is proud of its veteran workforce and believes the University offers an opportunity for returning service personnel to be highly successful.

Working with the Marine for Life Program offers the University a host of posting available jobs, as well as a bank of resumes of quality people to review. Former Marine Douglas Harris, Associate Director of Enrollment for the military division, is the point of contact for the University with the Marine for Life Program. He feels this is a valuable resource for any employer to find responsible candidates. Harris has often found familiar names when reviewing the site, which really brings home the message, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

Marine for Life offers mentors to Marines. Mentors are community-based and have the opportunity to take the program a step further and help the transitioning Marine by sharing their own experiences upon returning home. These mentors are already re-established in the community and can help with such things as finding childcare or housing. Harris is currently working on a program to recruit mentors from our own rich base of Marine veterans already working at University of Phoenix Online.

University of Phoenix Online headquarters its military division in Phoenix, Arizona. Transitioning Marines can contact Major Ian Stone at ian.stone@m4l.usmc.mil or call 480-226-1826. It's easy to register on the Marine for Life website at www.M4L.usmc.mil. This program is available in cities across the country via the website or by calling 1-866-M4L-USMC. Being associated with this network is of great worth to the University and has been an infinite element in creating win-win situations for both the University, and the transitioning Marines making use of this valuable tool.

In the NEWS...

University of Phoenix Online military students constantly make headlines around the country. Check out these articles to learn what your peers are up to:

Navy Compass, October 7, 2005 "Top-Up Benefits for Active Duty Sailors" Summary: Tuition Assistance and Top-Up can be used by active duty sailors to cover the cost of tuition.

Stars and Stripes, October 7, 2005, "An Avid AVID supporter" Summary: University of Phoenix Alum John F. Dubose a teacher at SHAPE American High School, Belgium, employs the AVID method.

Coming in June...

Look for the June 2006 issue of Online Patriot.

Meet three University of Phoenix Online students preparing to cross the stage to receive their diplomas. These students successfully juggled deployment and study.

Orange Lutheran High School offers online programs providing the flexibility needed by military families to continue school without disruption. Read how the online format work for them.

University of Phoenix Online rolled out three new nursing programs in direct response to students requests, and to help meet the demand for one million nurses needed by 2012.



Life *After* Graduation

Here's a look at what some of our top University of Phoenix Online military graduates are up to.

Lt. Col. Claudia M. Foss, 2001 MAOM graduate, was awarded the Bronze Star medal for participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom while serving at an overseas forward-deployed location with the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. Steve C. Shepard, 1997 MAOM graduate, has relinquished command of the 66th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Special Operations command at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada. Lt. Col. Shepard's next assignment will be to participate in the National Defense Fellowship.

CWO4 Marjorie Trader, 2005 MAOM graduate, has advanced within the U.S. Marine Corps to CWO5.

LTC James Laughridge, 2000 MBA/GM graduate, retired, from the U.S. Army, in June 2005, after more than 20 years of service. LTC Laughridge is currently the Senior National Security Policy Analyst for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Washington, D.C..

CPT Glenda Gill, 2004 MBA graduate, was promoted to the rank of Major in the U.S. Army.

CPT Eric Sorenson, 2004 MAOM graduate, has been promoted to Major in the U.S. Army and will become the Executive Officer for the Nashville, TN, Recruiting Battalion.

Ensign Scott Milliet, 2003 BSB/M graduate, received his commission as a Naval Officer after completing Officer Candidate School.

SGM Kristal J. Florquist, 1999 BSB/M graduate, has begun training at Fort Polk, Leesville, LA, in preparation for deployment to support Enduring Freedom.

Ensign Anthony J. Falvo, 2003 BSB/MKT and BSCJA graduate, was recently commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve while assigned to the United States Joint Forces Command's Joint Public Affairs Support Element in Suffolk, VA..

CPO Jeffrey S. Newell, 2003 AANF graduate, while assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin, completed an anti-submarine warfare exercise off the coast of Hawaii.

PO1C Lake E. Ormsbee, 2004 AAGS graduate, assigned to the USS Kitty Hawk, participated in exercises "Talisman Saber 2005", and the third annual Orange Crush Joint Air and Sea Exercise 2005.

SCPO Godofredo L. Agustin, 2002 AANF graduate, re-enlisted for four years while serving at the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Yokosuka, Japan.

CPO Michael Cahill, 2001 AANF graduate, has recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy in Petaluma, CA.

CPO Jeff James, 2001 AANF graduate, has achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer following the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Petaluma, CA.



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On the Road

University of Phoenix Online has a team of liaisons and business development specialists that travel to military installations around the world. The team typically makes approximately 250 visits every year. Representatives conduct informational meetings, counsel potential students, participate in education fairs, and forge relationships with the military community.

Look for a University of Phoenix Online representative on the following dates:

April 2-9 NAS Naples, Italy, Vicenza, AFB, Aviano, AFB

April 3-7 MCAS Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point, Fort Bragg

April 9-14 AZ Yuma Proving Grounds, MCAS 29 Palms, MCAS Camp Pendleton, MCAS Miramar, NAS 32nd Street

April 11-14 Warren AFB, Peterson AFB, Fort Carson

April 16-21 Hunter Army Air Field, Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, Fort Benning

April 17-21 McDill AFB, Patrick AFB, NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport

May 2-12 Vandenberg AFB, Port Hueneme, Camp Murray, NS Bremerton, Bangor AFB, NAS Everett, Fort Lewis, McChord AFB

May 16-19 Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, Fort Benning

May 16-19 MCAS Quantico, Fort Lee, Henderson Hall

May 23-26 Kirtland AFB, Holloman AFB

May 29-31 McGuire AFB, Fort Monmouth

Want to schedule a visit? Have your education service officer contact Kirk Kyle at 800-366-9699, extension 76490 or at kirk.kyle@phoenix.edu.

Questions? Comments?

We want to hear from you. Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of Online Patriot? Do you have a colleague that should be recognized or featured? What can we do better? Email comments to connie.callaway@phoenix.edu.