

## Welcoming our heroes to Florida's Educational Institutions

Over 150 thousand men and women deployed in the Global War on Terrorism list Florida as their home of record. In 2008, Congress passed the most comprehensive GI Bill since WWII, providing benefits for these and other veterans for their service. The benefits include more than \$62 Billion in educational assistance beginning in August of 2009.

Currently more than 17,000 veterans are enrolled in Florida's post secondary institutions. With the new benefits, and the downturn in the economy, it is expected that these new returning veterans will be seeking additional and expanded skills and more education. Our state is preparing now for this new influx of students to our public and private institutions.

The new bill goes beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits. Veterans who are already enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill and also meet the criteria for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, have the option to transfer remaining MGIB benefits to the new program.

## AT A GLANCE

The new bill covers more than just tuition. Many veterans who served after September 11, 2001, will get:

- full tuition and fees,
- a new monthly housing stipend, and
- a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies.

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### Program

The entitlement is for 36 months.

### Tuition

Tuition expenses are covered up to the highest established charges for full-time undergraduate students charged by the public institution of higher education in the State in which you are enrolled. Tuition is paid directly to the school.



## Eligibility

A veteran who has served a total of at least 90 consecutive days on active duty in the Armed Forces since Sept. 11, 2001, is eligible. However, the amount of benefits received under this program are determined by the actual amount of accumulated post 9/11 service.

At a minimum, the veteran must have served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after September 10, 2001 and be discharged due to a service-connected disability, or served an aggregate of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, and:

- Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or
- Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or
- Be released from the Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or
- Be discharged or released from Armed Forces for:
  - EPTS (Existed Prior to Service)
  - HDSP (Hardship) or
  - CIWD (Condition Interfered with Duty); or
  - Continue to be on active duty.