



Resolution Number:	W-18-02	Sponsored By:	Senator Alia Johnson
Introduced On:	4-4-2018		
Voted On:	4-5-2018		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	45 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions		

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the creation of a new, secure Student Veterans' Center designated for Grand Valley State University's Veterans which will serve as the basecamp for the both the GVSU Chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) and the Peer Advisors for Veterans Education (PAVE) Program.

Recognizing, the current Veterans' Lounge does not adequately accommodate our Student Veterans. Due to the fact, that the current lounge is an open area, it is challenging for veterans to relax and have a quiet place to study. The lounge is currently located on the balcony above a busy gathering space in the Kirkhof Center. The activities below include group conversations, loud music and noises, pool and foosball tables, video games, and many other distractions.

Recognizing, due to the stair locations and role as a fire exit, approximately 25% of the space must be free of furnishings and other obstructions. Unknowingly, many people walk through the lounge.

Recognizing, the issues listed above are all potential triggers to our Student Veterans who may experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other military connected disability symptoms. According to a RAND study, approximately "20% of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans have PTSD¹." These Veterans are the primary users of military education benefits.

Recognizing, other Michigan public universities including: Wayne State University, Ferris State University, and Saginaw State University² have made it a priority to provide additional spaces and resources for their military-connected students.

Recognizing, Grand Valley has a student veteran population of 500 which is comparable to other public universities of our size including Wayne State University (600) and Oakland University (400).

¹ "Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Service to Assist Recovery" (Tanielian and Jaycox) 2008, RAND Corporation

² <http://omvae.wayne.edu/student-vet-resource-center.php> ,
<http://www.svsu.edu/militarystudentaffairs/militarystudentresourcecenter/>,
<https://ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/veterans/VeteranResourceCenter.htm>.

Recognizing, that Grand Valley was ranked number 8 by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in the 2017 for being a Veteran-Friendly school,³ we want to maintain this gold level status and continue moving in a positive direction.

Recognizing, the current Student Veterans' Lounge at Grand Valley State University is-located in a public, highly-trafficked, and excessively noisy thoroughfare with no access to networked printing, no sense of security for people or property, and is too small for the needs of these students, therefore;

Recognizing, that the current lounge is not secure, which means purchased and donated items are accessible to the general public, and are, as such, subject to use, abuse, or theft. This includes, but is not limited to, kitchen appliances, fundraising and promotional items and office and personal property.

Whereas , the center will provide an area where military connected students can gather to study, relax, and connect with other veterans. The new space should have lockable entry and storage, computers, printers, appliances, and other amenities identified by Student Veterans and staff, therefore;

Let It Be Resolved, that Grand Valley State University Student Senate strongly encourages and advocates for the university's administration to remedy the above issues by providing a more appropriate and inclusive space for our military connected student population.

³ <https://www.michiganveterans.com/a/Record-70-schools-receive-veteran-friendly-status-for-2017-18>