



The United Veterans Coalition of Colorado  
 700 Colorado Blvd. #747 Denver, CO 80206  
<http://www.uvcoc.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/>  
 March 2020      **Newsletter**      Vol. 4 No. 3

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dennis Orr

**MARCH PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

"Beware the Ides of March" was the warning to Julius Caesar from his play, "Julius Caesar". Fortunately the only warning we have is getting all veterans to purchase their tickets to the 48<sup>th</sup> UVC Banquet on April 19 at the Renaissance Hotel. Remember the price goes up later this month so get your tickets NOW!

This year is shaping up to be the year of the Woman Veteran. We have the new Woman Veterans' license plate with our own Sheila Scanlon, Col. USMC Ret. getting the first plate. We have our first Woman Speaker at the UVC Banquet, Janine Davidson, Col USAF, PhD. We are hosting a "Salute To Women Veterans" at the Colorado Avalanche game on March 17<sup>th</sup> fundraiser. Please get your tickets and join us as we celebrate our fellow veterans.

Dick Young 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Portrait Photos offered to veterans attending the UVC Banquet**

Cliff Lawson, a veteran and distinguished portrait photographer, has made a generous offer to photograph at his studio any veteran who attends the UVC's Award Banquet on Sunday, April 19, 2020.

He is doing this for free, except for covering his out of pocket expenses of \$89 for two 11x17 prints of the veteran. Photos will be taken at Cliff's studio at an agreed upon time. Being a veteran himself, he is trying to photograph many veterans and waiving his usual fee of \$600 to \$800 for each shoot.

This a wonderful opportunity for veterans who want to receive a professionally done portrait at a reasonably reduced cost.

His website of a sampling of his work product is [www.CliffLawsonPhotography.com](http://www.CliffLawsonPhotography.com). Go to his section of Veterans. You decide if you want to take advantage of Cliff's generous offer. If you do, please buy your ticket now to the UVC April 19<sup>th</sup> Awards Banquet. You can do this at our UVC's website:

[uvcoc.org](http://uvcoc.org). You must attend the Banquet to make a reservation with Cliff for your photo shoot and pay the \$89 (cash, check, or credit card). I want to publicly thank Cliff Lawson for his willingness and generous offer to do this for our many deserving veterans.

One last reminder. You must be a veteran; you must buy a ticket to and attend the UVC April 19 Banquet; and you must set a time at the Banquet with him for your photo shoot, and pay Cliff the \$89 .

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The next UVC Member Meeting will be March 14th at  
 VFW Post 9644 2680 W. Hampden Ave.,  
 Englewood, CO 80110.  
 Unable to attend. Stream it on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/)

**In This Issue**

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### Legislative Committee Co-chairs

William "Robby" Robinson & Shelly Kalkowski

As we near the halfway point of the General Assembly's 120-day session we are happy to report some progress on many of our bills. One unique thing about Colorado's budget is that TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights) strictly limits the growth of the budget each year. The practical impact is that any proposed legislation requiring new spending (i.e., has a fiscal note) must compete with the budget proposal and all other bills with fiscal notes.

The process for bills with new spending is to send them to the Appropriations Committee. This year, the budget (the Long Appropriation Bill or simply "Long Bill) is not yet complete. Until it is complete, bills with a fiscal note are "stacked up" in Appropriations waiting for funding decisions. In that stack are: SB20-122 Mobile Veteran Support Unit Grant Program, SB20-041 Granting Members of the National Guard Free Access to State Parks and HB20-1220 Veterans Community Living Center Services Assessment.

Both the House and the Senate take action first on bills that originate in their respective chambers and then begin to consider bills that have passed the other chamber. As of this writing, few if any bills have passed both chambers. Several veteran-related bills have passed one chamber. The Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs Awards Bill (SB20-082) and (SB20-091) Minimum Pay for State Military Forces have both passed the Senate.

A bill to allow private employers to give veterans a hiring preference (HB20-1222) has been introduced but not yet scheduled for hearings.

The disabled veterans (and senior citizen) property tax exemption bill (SB20-148) would raise the exemption from the first \$200,000 of value to \$437,000. However, the bill's fiscal note (cost) is estimated at \$121 million in annual lost revenue—a tall ask in the current fiscal environment.

We have bipartisan sponsors in both the House and the Senate for the UVC specific goal Number Two -Women



### *President cont'd*

Many of our military retirees and veterans have not signed up for the VA health services. Some of the excuses are, "I don't want to deprive my buddies." "I didn't know I was eligible" and other excuses. If you sign up, the VA gets over \$3000.00 for two years, and so it helps out. Another good reason, is the VA offers Aid and Attendance services to veterans and TriCare does not. Please help yourself and your fellow veterans by signing up for the VA. Don't forget to file for service-connected benefits with the VA. We all have ailments that either originated or were aggravated by our military service. There is no time limit on filing for your benefits and you will not be taking away from another veteran. Remember the VA is there to assist veterans achieve better health and provide your earned benefits. It is up to you to sign up and use what is yours. There are great Veteran Service Officers whose job is to work with veterans to help them achieve what is coming to them.

Veteran Program Bill. However, since it was not introduced prior to the January deadline, we are waiting to see if the leadership in the House and Senate will grant "late bill" status allowing the bill to be introduced for committee hearing.

At the request of Bob Epstein, Colorado Senior Lobby, we added SB20-022 to the bills that we support. It adds geriatric advanced practice providers to the existing Colorado Health Service Program which provides incentives for practitioners to serve Colorado's more rural or underserved areas. We believe many of our aging veterans will benefit from this addition to an existing program.

All bills mentioned here now have the official support of the UVC following the vote of the Executive Committee on 25 February.

By the next newsletter we will see a great deal of action on these bills. If you want information on a weekly basis, we publish an update that is posted to the UVC website. If you want daily information, you are on your own to monitor the General Assembly website.

## There is still time to register

United Veterans Coalition of Colorado  
48th Annual Awards Banquet



Sunday April 19, 2020

Reception/Silent Auction 3:30pm

Dinner & Program 5:00pm

\$75 per person before 3/15/2020

\$95 per person 3/15/2020 and later

Renaissance Hotel

3801 Quebec Street Denver

Keynote Speaker

Janine Davidson, Ph.D., President

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Air Force veteran &

U.S. Undersecretary of the Navy

[Register online at uvcoc.org](http://uvcoc.org)

[Register by snail mail here](#)

[For more information](#)

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### Veterans artwork displayed in U.S. Representative Scott Tipton's Washington DC office

Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake domiciliary resident, Harland Smith, is an accomplished artist. He served six years in the Marine Corps and was an armored vehicle commander during the Korean war. In addition to an engineering degree, Harland studied at the Royal College of Art in London Academy. He has an uncanny ability to paint complicated mountain scenery from memory.

In 2019, while U.S. Representative Scott Tipton was visiting Homelake, Harland presented him with a painting of local San Luis Valley scenery. Harland's wife, Shirleen states that Harland's greatest joy is when he hands someone a new painting. Most of his time is spent in his art studio at Homelake and his work can be seen in every office at Homelake.

*Homelake Administrator, Mindy Montague meets with U.S. Representative Scott Tipton in his Washington DC office. Veteran Harland Smith's painting hangs in the background.*



Recently, Homelake Administrator, Mindy Montague was in Washington DC for the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) conference. During the annual Day on Capitol Hill, Mindy and team members met with Representative Tipton. As soon as she walked in his office, Tipton showed her the painting that Harland had given him a year earlier. Mindy states, "I was impressed with Representative Tipton's visible demonstration of his continued commitment and dedication to Homelake, veterans, the San Luis valley and the entire state of Colorado."

Harland has traveled extensively throughout the world. Because of his ability to paint from memory, several of his paintings reflect scenery for not only the San Luis Valley, but also the world. Harland and Shirleen moved to South Fork, Colorado in 2000 and then to the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake in 2011.

**Rose Campbell, MSM** Marketing and Communications Manager Office of Community Access and Independence and Veterans Community Living Centers

**Veterans Treatment Court Graduation****March 12, 2020****Graduation: 10:00am****Reception: immediately following graduation****Arapahoe County Justice Center (7325 South Potomac Street, Centennial, CO)  
Courthouse 2, Division 14**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District proudly announces its 18<sup>th</sup> Veterans Treatment Court graduation. Our graduates have participated in intensive supervision and extensive treatment for over eighteen months. Their progress and commitment to recovery is an inspiration to all who have had the fortune of meeting them during their transformation. Veterans Treatment Court team members have demonstrated a high level of commitment to research, training, and using evidence based practices. The Veterans Treatment Court continues to be a cross-systems collaboration between the 18th Judicial District, Addiction Research and Treatment Services, Veterans Administration, National Institute for Change, the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. These hardworking and dedicated professionals help clients make positive and lasting changes in their lives, and without their commitment, these graduations would not be possible.

We would be honored to have you attend the graduation to see the benefits of your investment in our clients and our programs.

If you have any questions regarding any of our Problem Solving Courts or the upcoming graduation, please feel free to contact Todd Kramer.

Todd Kramer (Army)  
Veteran Mentor Coordinator  
Colorado 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Veterans Treatment Court  
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P.S. A video describing the VTC services can be viewed at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwGDWtzsNNPWxCvVIZhrqwcQksv?projector=1>

**PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP CTU ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

For twelve years, Colorado Technical University has awarded 50 scholarships annually to positively impact the lives of the extraordinary men and women whose lives have been altered due to injury while serving in the United States Armed Forces. As of January 2020, CTU has awarded 600 scholarships valued at over \$13 million. YOUR EDUCATION, ACCESSIBLE CTU makes it possible for those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces—along with their families and caregivers—to earn a university degree anywhere, anytime. Scholarship recipients have the option to complete an associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree program online or at one of CTU's campuses in Colorado Springs or Aurora.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

- \* Active-duty members or honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Reserves and National Guard) with a service connected disability • Spouses and unmarried dependent children of U.S. service members with a service connected disability • Caregivers/non-medical attendants of a service member with a service-connected disability

**RECIPIENTS RECEIVE**

- \* Full tuition to any CTU degree program • New laptop computer • All course books, in hard-copy or electronic format • Dedicated Student Success Coach and specially trained military education advisors • 24/7 technical support and tutoring • Option to study online or at one of CTU's campuses

**IMPORTANT DATES**

March 1, 2020 Application Window Opens  
June 30, 2020 Application Deadline  
November 11, 2020 Recipients Announced  
January/February 2021 Recipients Start Class

START YOUR APPLICATION [coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot](https://coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot). Colorado Technical University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org). CTU cannot guarantee employment, salary, or career advancement. University grants or scholarships are based on established criteria as published in the University Catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met.