As we began this year’s National History Day project we thought we had a fantastic topic, but, it didn’t fit this year’s theme. Frantically, we searched our U.S. history textbook and created a list which included the GI Bill. Our history teacher’s student teacher Mr. Riley is an Army Veteran and National Guard service member. He stated he benefitted from the GI Bill to earn his college degree; instantly we had our topic.

Our research began at the University of New Mexico’s library where we located numerous primary source Congressional Hearings. Since there are so many variations of the bill, we agreed to focus on three bills, the 1944 Service Readjustment Act, the 1984 Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. We also conducted several interviews with veterans from World War 2 to present day soldiers. We also purchased books from the Internet because we could not locate local GI Bill secondary sources. We moved forward and incorporated Internet research to learn about our topic. As our knowledge increased we decided a performance was the best format to present this topic.

We titled our project, *The GI Bill: Soldier to Civilian.* We decided an uncomplicated backdrop of a silhouetted soldier with civilians would be great connection between them. Our performance is divided into four sections. Scene 1, begins with a family discussing the history and merits of GI Benefits for a Vietnam veteran who is reluctant to attend the university. Scene 2, brings us to present day, a behind the scenes glimpse at a college graduation; a conversation between two graduates discussing the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Scene 3, is GI Bill recipient graduation speech. Scene 4, our conclusion which states the turning points for each scene and the three GI Bill’s included in our performance.

To fit this year’s theme *Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events*, after much debate we decided there was a primary turning point and two secondary points for the GI Bill. A major victory and turning point for American veterans began when the 1944 Readjustment Act changed the face of American campuses. The lines of race, class, and religion blurred as higher education became attainable for all veterans. No longer was a college degree limited to members of the upper class. The first GI Bill only included WWII veterans, but as America expanded into new military campaigns, a chain reaction led to additional revisions. The 1984 Montgomery GI Bill included Korean and Vietnam veterans. Lastly, the Post 9/11 GI Bill encompassed Afghanistan and Iraq veterans. This legislation also allowed a veteran to transfer unused GI Benefits to their spouse or children. The 1944 Readjustment Act set the wheels in motion to honor American veterans by providing more than educational assistance. Benefits included loans for homes and businesses, counseling and medical assistance. This idea became a life changing event which honored our veterans for their service and dedication to our country.

Primary Sources

Archuleta, John Patrick. Phone conversation with Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, March 18, 2013.

Mr. Archuleta is 45 years old retired Marine Corps Veteran. He served in three wars, the Golf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. He was in Infantry 1st Marine Division and served for 22 years. He is currently using the Post 9/11 GI Bill; it provides him tuition, books, a monthly housing stipend and money for living expenses. He currently attends the University of New Mexico. Mr. Archuleta enlisted in 1985, and went to basic training in 1986 when he was only 17years old. Mr. Archuleta was informed well about the Montgomery GI Bill because he and his comrades were ordered to attend while they were in the service. However he did not use the Montgomery GI Bill because by the time he retired from the service the Post 9/11 GI Bill was the current GI Bill.

Bill Atencio, interviewed by Alvarez, Campa, and Garcia. Albuquerque, NM, April 13, 2013.

Mr. Bill Atencio is a Vietnam Air Force Veteran ground radio operator, who arrived in Vietnam January 1962. He is 73 years old today. Mr. Atencio volunteered for duty rather than face the draft. He said, “I would have had to go to Vietnam either way, if I signed up by myself or if I was drafted, so I just went and signed up.” He only served four years because he thought that was his only requirement. He stated, throughout his service years he was never informed about the benefits the GI Bill could provide him, which is part of the reason he didn’t use it when he returned to America. He also didn’t use the GI Bill was because he didn’t care about school, he just wanted to serve his time and get back home to begin working again. Mr. Atencio was not stationed on the battlefield; he stated he could hear gunshots in the distance. Since Mr. Atencio retired his GI Bill benefits assist him with hospitalization and tax exemption for his home.

Department of Veteran Affairs. “The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty.” http://gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch30\_pamphlet.pdf (accessed February 24, 2013).

This pamphlet provides a detailed explanation of the procedure needed to qualify for the benefits of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). It states the direct qualifications of the various available options to qualify for the MGIB. For example, in order to qualify the service members must have a high school diploma or receive an equivalent certificate to a high school diploma. Another important qualification which is emphasized is that the soldier must be “honorably discharged.” If the soldier is not honorably discharged then he/she will not qualify to receive the MGIB.

Fjeseth, Harold. Interviewed by Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, USA, April 13, 2013.

Mr. Fjesth, entered the Air Force, quite by accident. As a twenty–one year old, his buddy wanted to enter the Air Force so he convinced Mr. Fjesth to go the recruiting office with him. Unfortunately, his friend was denied the opportunity to enlist, but this was the beginning of a “wonderful military career,” which saw him retire twenty-five years later as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a World War II navigator who was stationed at Midway. His crew flew 19 missions from Midway to Japan and they were selected to escort the bombing mission to drop the bomb on Hiroshima. Mr. Fjesth recalled the Veteran’s Readjustment Act of 1944. He stated the soldiers were informed of this bill once they returned stateside after World War II. He did not use the Bill for college because by the time he enlisted in the service, he was a science teacher with a college degree in education. He stated, he eventually used his benefits to purchase his retirement home in Albuquerque, NM.

Foderaro, Lisa W. “From Battlefield to Ivy League, On the GI Bill,” New York Times, January 9, 2010. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/09/nyregion/09gis.html (accessed March 3, 2013).

Cameron Baker is 26 year old veteran who attended Columbia University where he suffers from hearing loss from repeated exposure to mortar fire combat. One day as he sat in class they watched a video on Iraq and when he saw the mortars explode in the video he instantly began trembling. As a result of the Post 9/11 GI Bill over 300,000 veterans are attending American institutions of higher education. Ivy League Universities currently house over 210 veterans. Colleges offer free counseling to veterans with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Mr. Baker was forced to move out of his house immediately after high school and was told to join the military by his parents. In 1947, Columbia University created the school of general studies specifically for the large number of WWII veterans who chose to attend the university. On campus today, the Post 9/11 GI Bill, educates 88 veterans out of 1,330 students.

Friedmen, Matthew. “Understanding PTSD.” United States Department of Veterans Affairs. http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/understanding\_PTSD.asp (accessed March 5, 2013).

PTSD or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is classified as an anxiety disorder caused by “exposure to a traumatic event that involved actual or threatening death or serious injury.” Symptoms vary for each service member such as re-experiencing flashbacks, and nightmares, estrangement from others, and hyper arousal or feelings constant danger. These are the three major symptoms of PTSD. TBI or Traumatic Brain Injury also known as a concussion which is obtained when a sudden blow or blast to the head occurs and causes damage to the brain or the brain tissue. Memories of the event can return at any time and may psychologically return the person to the moment when the event primarily occurred. A sight or sound can easily cause this reaction to occur. Other problems that can be associated with PTSD may include a feeling of hopelessness, shame, depression, and drug use which can lead to suicide. It may also cause problems with employment and relationships which prevent the service member from seeking treatment.

Greenberg, Milton. “The G.I. Bill of Rights Changing the Social, Economic Landscape of the United States.” Archive. http://www.america.gov/st/educ-english/2008/April/20080423213340eaifas0.8454951.html (accessed March 5, 2013).

GI Benefits were redeemable by any veteran who returned home from active service. The requirements soldiers needed to meet included a minimum of 90 days active duty service and an honorable discharge. If a veteran was eligible for additional benefits it depended entirely on the length of service each service member served. In 1940, the amount of money issued to veterans was 20 dollars a week for 52 weeks this became known as the 52-20 club. In 1940, approximately 160,000 people in the United States received college degrees, however after the G.I. Bill was enacted, the graduation rate rose to 500,000 service members in 1950. This meant many universities and college were overwhelmed because enrolled students doubled and nearly tripled in one to two years because of the G.I. Bill thus causing campuses to expand, in addition to new college construction which housed many students of color.

Guenther, Hart J. Interviewed by Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, March 21, 2013.

Colonel Hart Guenther Retired, is 74 years old and served in the Air Force for 35 years. He was a Chief of Security Forces in the 8th Forces. He retired, fifteen years ago as a colonel, and he is remarkable. He served five military tours across the world. His first tour was the Dominican Republic Conflict in 1965, Vietnam 1965 to 1966, two tours in Korea the first one was from 1976 to 1977 the second was in 1979 to 1981 and lastly he participated in Operation Desert Storm 1990. When Mr. Guenther retired he did not need the educational benefits of the GI Bill, because he received his education a part of his military training. However he did use the Montgomery GI Bill for purchasing his first house in Live Oak, Texas. He was guaranteed interest rates and did not need a down payment and his loan was guaranteed for 30 years. Mr. Guenther was CAommander of five different units, and when he retired he was responsible for 6,000 men. An interesting fact about Mr. Guenther was he was a part of the planning and execution for integrating women into the Security Career Field. The idea began in the 1970s, he said, “A lot of things had to be done, before things were made strictly for men, but now gear was being changed for women. The Air Force did not chance standards we only adopted them, this began in 1973 and ended in 1975.” By 1980, 13 percent of the Career Field were women, the Career Field wanted to be programmed out of inception and into full implementation.

Guenther, Richard. Telephone interview by Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, USA, March 15, 2013.

Mr. Guenther served in the United States Army from 1984- 1987. He was honorably discharged in 1987 as Private First Class. While he had the opportunity to use his veteran’s benefits for school, he decided not to begin school after his discharge from the Army. He eventually attended a two year program at DeVry University in Phoenix, Arizona without the GI Bill. He stated at the time, this school did not want to complete necessary paperwork so he could receive educational assistance. However, in 1995, he did utilize his GI Benefits to purchase a home in Albuquerque, NM. Without the VA loan guarantee program, he said, he could not afford a home loan.

Koerber, James Bradley. Phone conversation with Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, March 16, 2013.

Mr. Koerber is 50 years old a retired Marine Corps veteran, who did not served in any wars; however he has served for 24 years off and on. He enlisted in 1982, when he was only 20 years old; his main job was an Artillery officer. Mr. Koerber was disqualified from receiving the GI Bill because he accepted an alternative program; V.E.A.P. (Vietnam Educational Assistance Program). If you are a soldier or veteran and accept the program VEAP you are no longer eligible to use the GI Bill. Mr. Koerber stated, “After serving for 24 years off and on, it’s hard to say what has truly been the most interesting thing for me because every day there was always something new and exciting waiting for me.”

National Council on Disability. Invisible Wounds: Serving Service Members and Veterans with PTSD and TBI. Washington D.C.: National Council on Disability, 2009.

As of 2008 more than 1.6 million veterans have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan out of the 1.6 million nearly 40 percent have psychological and neurological wounds such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) which are the main injuries in Iraq. These injuries can be severe but can be controlled by early treatment and intervention. The main goal for treating the disorders is to help the service member regain control of his civilian life. PTSD and TBI are often associated with each other because the symptoms often appear identical. Between 20-30 percent of service members acquire PTSD during the first year of service and up to 11-20 percent of service members acquire TBI in Afghanistan and Iraq. PTSD is caused by a traumatic event while TBI is caused by loud blast, exposure or other head impact. There are many risk factors for PTSD such as length of deployment, multiple deployments, and violation of expectations, sleep deprivation, combat exposure, training, and body injuries. PTSD can cause a chain reaction of symptoms. When a service member returns home it places tension on the spouse because they must deal with the symptoms therefore causing stress on the relationship which may lead to a break up or divorce.

Obama, Barak. “Remarks by the President.” http://www.whitehouse.gov/video/President-Obama-Launches-Post-9/11-GI-Bill/ (accessed February 24, 2013).

President Obama delivered a monumental speech in relation to the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The collaboration of new and old Senators created this bill. The speech was delivered on August 03, 2009 in Fairfax, Virginia. This new bill included all service members who served the United States honorably. President Obama stated America owed their freedom to these courageous civilians who turned into soldiers. He also stated, our debt to them can only be fulfilled by giving them benefits after they have served their duties. After reading and listening to his speech we decided it was an important statement and sentiment which impacted us greatly, that we used one of his quotes as our final closing statement.

Riley, Patrick. Interviewed by Alvarez, Campa and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, USA, January 15, 2013.

Mr. Patrick Riley enlisted as National Guard Member in 2004. He is a Lieutenant, in the 116th Transportation Regiment and 1/200 Infantry who has been deployed twice to Iraq in service to the United States. We met Mr. Riley because is a student teacher at West Mesa High School who is assigned to our history teacher. As a present military service member who met the required service time, he is entitled to both the Montgomery Chapter 1607 and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. He is presently utilizing his GI Bill to attend the University of New Mexico to obtain his teaching degree as a secondary social studies educator.

“Servicemen's Readjustment Act (1944).” Our Documents. http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=76 (accessed March 17, 2013).

This is an electronic copy of the primary source Service Readjustment Act of 1944. It was estimated that 15 million men and women who served in the armed forces would be unemployed after World War II. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 provided another option for returning service members, so they could improve their lives through education. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed this Act into law on June 22, 1944. This Act was also created to assist returning veterans’ readjust themselves into society once again as civilians.

Statement of Understanding: The Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill. 10 USC Chapter 1606. Private papers. 2006.

These are primary source documents of P. Riley which dictates the conditions he

eligible to receive his GI Benefits. The exact conditions are listed for this applicability, instructions, qualifications, entitlement, benefits, caution, and termination. This is legal binding contract between the veteran and the Veteran’s Administration Department; this informs him that is the eligible and entitled to use the Montgomery GI Bill.

Stevenson, Patricia Gail. Interviewed by Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, March 18, 2013.

Ms. Stevenson is an Army veteran who served in Operation Desert Storm. She enlisted when she was only 16 years old. Ms. Stevenson served for three years in the military intelligence and was a Morse code interceptor. She was able to use the Montgomery GI Bill. Sadly, the Montgomery GI Bill did not help her much, as it had for other veterans. She unfortunately needed student loans because the GI Bill did not pay enough to cover her tuition. The Montgomery GI Bill only provided her $300 a month for school, which is not enough. She attended the University of New Mexico on the GI Bill. Ms. Stevenson received an honorable discharge based on a medical discharge. Even though her GI Bill did not cover all of her educational expenses it does provide for her medical care.

“Transcript of Servicemen's Readjustment Act (1944).” Our Documents. http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=76&page=transcript (accessed March 17, 2013).

This is an electronic copy of the primary source document; Transcript of Servicemen's Readjustment Act. This document is the official congressional transcript of the original GI Bill. One of the primary concerns for this document focused on proving hospitalization and medical care for veterans. This act received $500,000,000 for the construction of new hospitals. The Army and Navy Administration, as well as the Administration of Veterans Affair determine the manner in which the money is distributed. New facilities were constructed in areas where need was great and other facilities were unavailable.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977. 95th Cong., 1st sess., June 24 and 29, 1977., S. Hrg. 457.

The Veterans’ Affairs committee was not the only group working on revising, the improvement of the G.I. Bill in 1977, they had assistance from the subcommittee of health and readjustment. The committee sent a witness to the hearing who testified about the veteran’s assistance and educational aid. This gentleman was Mr. Jan Scruggs, who was a disabled Vietnam veteran; he provided the committee a first-hand account of the usefulness of the G.I. Bill. At the beginning of this hearing, the committee felt it was a huge financial burden, for America, to grant Vietnam veteran’s benefits.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. G.I. Bill Amendments Act of 1979. 96th Cong., 1st sess., June 6, 1979. S. Hrg. 830-881.

The Montgomery GI Bill provides opportunities to disabled veterans to attend rehabilitation, for those who still have a possibility to find employment. In addition it provides educational assistance to veterans with permanent or total disabilities. An added incentive is the transfer of educational assistance for survivors of those who have lost their soldiers in the line of duty. This means if a service member dies while fighting, his G.I. Bill benefits can be transferred to a surviving member (mostly the spouse) who is related to the deceased. The surviving member also receives financial assistance to compensate for the death of their loved one, to allow the family to obtain economic self-sufficiency.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. New G.I. Bill Proposals. 97th Cong., 1st sess., June 22-23, 1981. Vol. 1, pt. 1, S. Hrg. 5

The 1981hearing revised the G.I bill once again; the Senate united and proposed educational benefits for veterans and for service personnel. They also reviewed the 1944 Readjustment Act which helped veterans “readjust to civilian life.” In 1976 the United States Congress enacted the fourth G.I bill which was specifically designed for an all-volunteer army. Congress also considered calling this the “Armed Forces Educational Assistance Act of 1981.”

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Montgomery G.I. Bill. 101st Cong., 1st sess., September 14 and 21, 1981., pt. 1, H. Hrg. 3199, serial 101-26.

This hearing was scheduled to review the effectiveness of the Montgomery G.I Bill which was nicknamed after Congressman Gillespie V. Montgomery. The Montgomery G.I Bill was reviewed to ensure its proficiency by Timothy J. Penny. He visited recruiting stations to review how the Montgomery G.I bill was proposed to the recruits of these stations. He thought Recruiters presented the benefits of the GI Bill, well to entice new recruits to enter the armed forces. In addition, we included a quote from this document in our performance “

U.S. Congress. Senate. Digest of Public General Bills. S. Final Issue. 78th and 79th Cong., 1st sess., (February 15, 1943): S page nr.

The Veterans Readjustment Act of 1944 provided each veteran, three dollars for each day of active duty service within the United States. If a service member, served outside of the United States they were compensated four dollars for each day of service. The service member was also compensated if he was wounded in battle, but he could not receive less than $500 or more than $1,800 for his wound. This amount was agreed upon because a soldier could also receive a chevron or decorated medal, and his total service earnings could not exceed $2,000 dollars per year.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Is the VA prepared to meet the needs of our returning Vets?. 109th Cong., 1st sess., July 6, 2005., S. Hrg. 218.

Since 2005, for the previous 20 years in a row, Illinois was ranked 50th out of the 50 for assisting veterans who return home from war. During this time period, Senator Barack Obama was concerned with the low ratings of the Veteran’s Administration in Illinois. He wanted an inside look at this unacceptable situation. During this hearing, Veterans were allowed to attend and testify about their personal experiences with the VA. Stephen Herres, a Vietnam veteran became disabled during Vietnam. He permanently injured his knee and crushed his hands. For the last 20 years, Mr. Herre fought with the VA to receive medical disability benefits. The physicians at the VA hospital did not take the time to see Mr. Herres or review his case. For example, at one appointment Mr. Herres took x-rays to show the nurse, she stated “bone scans are worthless and only her x-rays and opinions mattered.” This information was not passed on to a physician. Veterans returning from war should not be forced to wait to receive help from the government since the United States did not wait to send these men and women to war.

Winn, Alma Robert. Phone conversation with Alvarez and Garcia, Albuquerque, NM, March 16, 2013.

Mr. Winn is 89 years old a retired Vietnam Veteran who was a National Guard for two years of active duty and a reservist for four years. Mr. Winn was born in Utah; he enlisted in 1950 when he was 26 years old. He enlisted because he received a telephone call from a recruiter asking him, if he would like to join because either way his name was first on the drafting list. Mr. Winn was a member of the 145 Field Artillery Battalion. Mr. Winn agreed to join the service because he felt he might as well just get it over with, sadly the day before he enlisted he had a child. Luckily, Mr. Winn was slightly informed about the Montgomery GI Bill. Although, he did not receive much information on the GI Bill he used it to attend college for two years at The University of Utah. Surprisingly, the GI Bill didn’t help him with anything else, and there is no longer anything the GI Bill can offer him. Mr. Winn stated, “I wouldn’t have been able to go to college without the GI Bill, it helped me a lot.”

Secondary Sources

A Broader GI Bill, New York Times, October 2, 2011. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/03/opinion/a-broader-gi-bill.html?\_r=0 (accessed March 3, 2013).

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides many new benefits for soldiers and veterans. They can receive help with entering non-degree institutions such as a technician schools, flight training schools, apprenticeship, and professional licensing. A profit school has collected about 37 percent of its benefits from the Post 9/11 GI Bill and has educated approximately 25 percent of veterans. In the years 2010-2011 universities and institutions have collected over $4.4 billion dollars from GI Bill beneficiaries.

Altschuler, Glenn, and Stuart Blumin. The G.I. Bill a New Deal for Veterans. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

In 1942, William Rehnquist joined the U.S Army Air Corps; he was one of the first groups of men to use the 1944 Readjustment Act. The G.I Bill helped this individual by allowing him to enroll at Stanford University where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degree in political science and then went on to earn a degree in law. The G.I Bill is what pays for an occupation test that helps you decide what career field to go into. In addition we used a quote “For the first time since the United States had been a nation of farms and small towns… a significant majority of Americans families had realized the dream of homeownership.”

American Experience. Videocassette copy.

In1932 approximately 20,000 veterans gathered in Washington, DC for what they called the Bonus March which was just a protest where veterans hoped to get there promised financial sums. President Hoover ordered the U.S to move the Bonus Marches but without an order to keep the White House from discriminating against these men. Unfortunately the message was not related to the army, and as such they used tanks and guns to force the Bonus Marchers back. General staff reported that they believed the bonus soldiers were communist but they were incorrect. Rather only 26 men were communists. But these men were veterans who did not have any money, no luck in finding employment and simply wanted their bonus. They did not vandalize any property, they meant no harm, soldiers simply stated, “We’re going to stay here till we get our promised bonus.”

Batten, Dayne D. “The G.I. Bill, Higher Education and American Society.” *Grove City College Journal of Law and Public Policy* 2, no. 1.

The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act was primarily used to help returning veterans regain their civilian life. However, this program also helped the government by allowing thousands of educated workers to enter society. Veterans signed up and took advantage of these benefits, 5.6 million attended high school or vocational school and 2.2 million veterans pursued a higher education. Out of all the veterans 51 percent utilized the G.I. Bill for educational reasons. This participation stunned the government because they thought only eight to twelve percent would use the educational benefits and pursue a higher education. Education rates increased from 2.7 percent in 1910 to 4.6 in 1940, and completion of college rates rose by 50 percent nationwide. The vast majority of college students were African-American veterans were (75%), Native-Americans in southern states out of 75 percent only 12 percent were able to pursue a college education as opposed to 28 percent of whites.

Bennett, Michael J. “H-Net Reviews in the Humanities.” H-Net Reviews in the Humanities & Social Sciences. [www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=9#9](http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=9#9).

This article contained information regarding the manner in which the G.I Bill of Rights was first created. In addition this article contained, the reasons for changing the bill and its’ importance for American veterans. There were also many details in relation to the benefits for higher education regardless of the university. Tuition was paid at Ivy League universities as well as state colleges as long as the veteran was accepted into the university. There were 15.6 million eligible veterans for the benefits. The government spent 7.8 million dollars on these veterans, creating the most educated generation in America.

Castagna, Marvin Richard. “The First Large-Scale Federal Student Financial Aid Initiative, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, and the Recollections of Six World War II Veterans of Its Effect on Their Lives.” Obama Touts New Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Entry posted August 3, 2009. (Accessed March 20, 2013).

The original G.I. Bill or the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 is also known as Public Law 346. This Bill was passed under the assumption that all veterans returning from WWII would be able to transition back into a civilian. Although the G.I. Bill has been revised and renamed various times, the original G.I. Bill of 1944 is still the law which is most important and the main turning point for America veterans.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

http://www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury/ (accessed March 10, 2013)

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) is induced by a sudden trauma or injury to the head that alters a person’s consciousness momentarily. Effects of TBI might include decreased level of consciousness, neurological abnormalities, and amnesia. 90 percent of all TBI cases are mild, TBI is also known as concussions. On average veterans must have served about 24 continuous months of active duty in order to be eligible to be treated by the VHA (Veterans’ Health Administration). Veterans are placed in priority level one of such being the highest priority including service connected disabilities, low income or both. However, the Veterans’ programs enhancement act of 1998 made sure that all veterans who have retired since 1998 receive health care from the VHA.

Cummings, Denis. “Ohio National Guard Opens Fire at Kent State Protesters,” *Finding Dulcinea*, May 4, 2011. http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/on-this-day/May-June-08/On-this-Day--Kent-State-Students-Shot-by-Ohio-National-Guard.html (accessed March 20, 2013).

President Richard Nixon’s announcement of the invasion of Cambodia on April 30, 1970, was the reason for the violent campus protest at Kent State University. Mayor Leroy Satrom declared a state of emergency on the Ohio campus, the National Guard was sent to Kent State. As the protest stretched into days the number of student protesters also grew and National Guard members became aggressive. The National Guard wanted to prevent this protest from continuing and expanding. As a result, May 4, 1970, the National Guard used guns and tear gas to try and disperse the crowds. After tossing tear gas the guards walked to top of a hill and commenced firing their weapons at the students who were protesting. National Guard members shot a total of 61 students in 13 seconds, which resulted in a total of four deaths and nine injuries. Once the shooting was reported by the media, more than 100,000 students from various schools united to protest and march in Washington D.C.

Daniels, Roger. *The Bonus March an Episode of the Great Depression*. Westport: Greenwood Publishing Company, 1971.

The bonus march was led by Walter W. Waters, from Portland, Oregon and began with unemployed veterans. There were 300 unemployed veterans who began their journey in boxcars to Washington D.C. in the spring of 1932. However, these men did not have an easy journey to reach Washington D.C. There were many railroad officials along the route who were uncooperative, they tried to stop the men from continuing their journey, but these delays did not stop them from reaching their goal. As word spread throughout the U.S. that unemployed veterans from Portland were headed to D.C they were met by more than 200,000 soldiers in Washington D.C. Together they united to march for their promised bonus. The bonus march was triggered by the Great Depression and the desperation felt by these men who could not provide for their families.

Dickson, Paul, and Thomas B Allen. *The Bonus Army an American Epic*. New York: Walker Publishing Company, 2004.

The Bonus Army was formed as a direct consequence of WWI Veterans who did not receive their promised pay. Veterans walked to the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. Unfortunately, the lowest ranked employment back home was paid more than a soldier or sailor. President Hoover did not do anything to help these veterans in need. Rather, the payment for these soldiers could be delayed up to 45 years which was unacceptable for the soldiers, their families and Congress. WWI veterans wanted assurance the government had not forgotten them.

Eckhart, Jacey, and Amy Bushatz. “Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Overview.” Military.com. http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill/new-post-911-gi-bill-overview.html (accessed January 15, 2013).

The basic allowance housing assists veterans with a one- time relocating benefit which allows a veteran to relocate near university where they were accepted. In order to receive a one-time $500 benefit a veteran must move at least 500 miles from their home location. Plus, the current payment averages for housing stipend is between $1,368 and $2,700 per month. In order to receive a housing stipend a veteran must meet specific educational requirements. In order to receive any money, you can be taking full time courses online, but you only receive half of the national average stipend which is an estimate of $684.

Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A political, social, and Military History. *“Vietnam Veterans against the War.”* http://www.credoreferance.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry/abvc/vietnam\_veterans\_against\_the\_war (accessed March 20, 2013)

“Vietnam Veterans against the War (VVAW) was founded in April 1967.” This started with a small membership of 20 American veterans and by 1968 there were 300 members.” The initial goal of VVAW was to add credence to the anti-war movement by providing a visible presence for the veterans themselves. The biggest protest they organized and participated was against President Richard Nixon’s nomination outside the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida. The VVAW felt it was their duty as first-hand soldiers, to openly discuss about the brutality and tragedies of war.

Fairbanks, Amanda F. “G.I. Bill Cuts: Veterans Enrolled in College Face Uncertain Futures.” The Huffington Post. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/24/gi-bill-veterans-college_n_883152.html> (accessed March 20, 2013).

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs stated approximately 8 million WWII veterans used the original G.I. Bill for education purposes between1945-1956. Under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill a veteran who has served a minimum of three years after September 11th, 2001 received tuition subsides. Plus, Veterans under the Post 9/11 Bill were provided a monthly allowance for housing depending on their city of residency and $1,000 for books. However all this ended when the G.I. Bill was amended to cap tuition assistance for out of state residents based on in state rates. When veterans returned home they were greeted with a weak job market, which made it harder for them to sustain a civilian life.

“GI Bill History.” The American Legion. http://www.legion.org/education/history (accessed March 17, 2013).

In April 2008 it was obvious veterans had concerns about the Montgomery G.I Bill. They were at the U.S Capital building’s footstep demanding they be paid. These concerns spread throughout Congress as well. The G.I Bill was scheduled for a fast track of modifications. “As troops, they are received for defending our nation against terror. As veterans they slip from our ranks as they pursue college careers.”

“Kent State Shootings.” Ohio History Channel. http://ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=1595 (accessed March15, 2013).

In 1970, a protest broke out on the campus of Kent State because they were not happy with the bombing of Cambodia by the United States military forces. Soon National Guard members became involved, the National Guardsmen shot four students, on May 4th, 1970. The Vietnam conflict tore the United States of America apart, because emotions were strong, some people supported the war while others opposed Vietnam. By the beginning of the 1970’s there were thousands of Americans across the country who protested the war, on and off college campuses.

Hanafin, Robert L. “Part 1: Do Veterans Need Protections on College Campuses?” *Military and Foreign Affairs Journal Veterans Today* (November 1, 2010): <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2010/11/01/part-1-do-veterans-need-protections-on-college-campuses/> (accessed March 21, 2013).

The Militaries many reason for receiving volunteers to serve is because of the educational benefits. There are colleges that dislike veterans to attend their school completely, and colleges that have no problem with veterans attending their school. However, there are also colleges that are not completely happy with veterans but they’ll accept them because of the money being paid by the post 9/11 GI Bill.

“History of the G.I. Bill.” Today's GI Bill. p://www.todaysgibill.org/todays-gi-bill/history-of-the-gi-bill/.

World War I was an eye opener for Congressmen who saw how difficult it was for the veterans to readjust to civilian life within the previously established benefits. The disappointment caused the government to create a better form of aide. Thus the G.I Bill was formed. The few but improved benefits that were offered include “a $300 in mustering out pay and financial assistance for higher education and training.” The federal aid for higher education transformed the faces all over America. Just three years later in 1947, veterans accounted for 49% of college admissions.

Mettler, Suzanne. Soldiers to Citizens. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

In the beginning when the first GI Bill of 1944 was being reviewed it only received little attention from scholars. Suzanne Mettler began sending out surveys to veterans who attended college and she began to conduct her research with the results from the surveys. Mettler said, “What struck me was that in response to such a personal and probing question, several also mentioned the G.I. Bill, particularly its education and training provisions.” There was one individual Luke LaPorta who was the first kid from Queens, New York to attend college through the help of the G.I. Bill. His mother told him to go because he had the rest of his life to work and he needed this opportunity.

Mosch, Theodore R. *The G.I. Bill: A Breakthrough in Educational and Social Policy in the United States*. Hicksville: Exposition Press, 1975.

During the 1970s there were approximately 29 million veterans in the United States if you include their families, which create about half of the population. Vietnam veterans received no welcome home; instead they were greeted with silence. The Vietnam War was not supported by civilians at home, many Vietnam veterans refused help from programs, and instead many committed suicide or got hooked on drugs. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act provided education which substituted the bonus that veterans had received in 1952 and in 1966. Educational benefits were extended During WWI, there were few educational programs inside the military and nearly 121,000 veterans were illiterate. The original GI Bill in 1944 gave veterans $50 a month for a single person, $75 for a married veteran and an additional $10 for every child. The GI Bill was controversial for some veteran programs, some believed that it was unfair towards disabled veterans thus the original GI Bill was made to specifically assist veterans.

Olson, Keith W. *The G.I. Bill, the Veterans and the Colleges*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1974.

The G.I. Bill allowed veterans to attend college, however not all veterans took advantage of this opportunity. For those who did take advantage of the G.I. Bill they attended colleges all over the nation. Veterans completely dominated academically over their non-veteran classmates. “During the first year of the program 1,200 servicemen entered the academic ranks. The college bound veterans had broken barriers that were left untouched for years.” The majority of these veterans were older and more focused in reaching their academic goals.

“Options.” Today's G.I. Bill. http://www.todaysgibill.org/options-benifits/ (accessed March 17, 2013).

The Post-9/11 G.I Bill today provides financial support for those veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001. As well as those individuals discharged with a service- connected disability or individually discharged. This bill covers full tuition and fees for the veteran’s school of choice. The Post-9/11 G.I Bill changed the G.I Bill dramatically by assuring coverage of all veterans.

Poverty and the Government in America: A Historical Encyclopedia. *“G.I. Bill (Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944).”* http://www.credoreference.com.libproxy.unm.edu/entry/abcpga/g\_i\_bill\_servicemen\_s\_readjustment\_act \_of\_1944 (accessed March 20, 2013)

“The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act was passed to help millions of soldiers who had participated in WWII.” They offered benefits on education, and helped veterans obtain a higher education. About half of all WWII veterans took advantage of these benefits. “Almost 455,000 college degrees were earned in 1951, compared with about 213,000 in 1942.” An example of a real person who took advantage of the G.I. Bill benefits is Lalo Campos. He considered himself a dirt poor student, but he still knew he would go to college. He called WWII a “blessing in disguise,” because if it weren’t for the war the G.I. Bill would not have been made.” Lalo Campos’ dreams came true, the G.I. Bill allowed him to attend college and earn a college degree.

Reinhardt, Claudia, and Bill Ganzel. “The G.I. Bill.” Wessels Living History Farm. <http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/life_20.html> (accessed March 20, 2013).

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Veterans Readjustment Act in 1944 he wanted to reward the servicemen for their hard work and dedication. The benefits they received were education and training opportunities, loan guarantees for a house, farm or business. Veterans were given assistance to find a job, or they could receive pay for being unemployed, they would get $20 per week for up to 52 weeks. The Readjustment Act of 1944 also helped with supplying building materials for Veteran Hospitals. The VA paid $500 to colleges, employers, and trade schools for tuition, books, fees and other training costs. In 1947, veterans made up at least 49 percent of college student around the nation and 7.8 million veterans trained at colleges.

Speer, Matthew. “Extensive Military Education Resources Added to U.S. News University Directory.” Press Release. <http://www.cnbc.com/id/100610204> (accessed March 31, 2013).

Any person who is a part of the armed forces active-duty or retired is eligible to receive a wide variety of benefits from the GI Bill. The process for applying for assistance from the GI Bill can be complicating and confusing which is one of the reasons why the GI Bill can be discarded and underutilized. Fortunately, service members are educated and resources are available to ease the transition for veterans, service members and families to understand each section of the GI Bill. Veterans and service members can obtain associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees, masters and MBA degrees, doctoral and PhD degrees, as well as certificate programs. These soldiers or veterans may apply to any post secondary institute they may select.

“The Bonus Army" EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2000). http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/pfsnprelief4.htm (accessed March 17, 2013).

The Bonus Army was also known as the Bonus Expeditionary Force. The Bonus Army was well organized and consisted of unemployed World War I veterans. Before anyone could join the Bonus Army, they were required to prove they were veterans who were honorably discharged. Walter Waters, from Portland, Oregon was the leader of the Bonus Army. He and 300 veterans led a march on Washington DC. These protestors united and grew to more than 200,000 men. These efforts to fight for their bonus payment were the precursor and action which eventually led to the G.I. Bill during World War II.

Trueman, Chris. “Protests Against the Vietnam War.” History Learning Site. http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/protests\_vietnam\_war.htm (accessed March 15, 2013).

Twenty years after the Cold War America did not want any involvement in South Vietnam. The Vietnam War was seen as a patriotic action, which meant Congress did not have any reason to believe any protests would occur. Some of the first protests began in October 1965, mainly because the draft increased from 3,000 men to 33,000 young men a month. More protests began when American soldiers began dying in large amounts in 1968. A total of 562 United States troops were killed just in one week alone. It got to the point where Americans protested saying “Hey! Hay! LBJ How many kids did you kill today.” In 1966 50,000 protestors participated in one of the most famous and largest protests in New York. In 1971, more than 300,000 protestors took part in an antiwar protest in Washington D.C. which included veterans who had returned to America.

Turner, Fred. *Echoes of Combat*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.

Between the years of 1959 and 1975 approximately 2.5 million American’s served in the Vietnam War and out of the 2.5 million 30 percent of them had come home with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The Vietnam War was not like other wars, other wars such as WWII were to spread freedom with a democracy, however the Vietnam War had a different mission, and it was to protect American’s and the American way of life from the life of Vietnamese communist. When the Vietnam veterans returned home all they wanted to do was fold up their uniform and go on with their life. However the media encouraged civilians to not forget about the war and it bloody encounters.

Valerie Myers, “*New G.I. Bill Sends More Vets to College: Program Pays for Tuition, Rent, Bookstore Bill*,” *Erie Times-News*, August 1, 2009.

The new G.I. Bill is much better compared to older versions of the G.I. Bill including the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944. With the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill it covers all tuition; it’s not like past G.I. Bills which only covered a percentage of college tuition. The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill offers a living allowance of $800 or more than $1,500 monthly. Valerie Myers states “on of the main things that stopped people from leaving the military and going to college was housing cost.” This means that the new G.I. Bill really helps veterans where they needed it most. However, a veteran must meet criteria of a minimal of 36 months to receive full benefits.

Veterans United Home Loans. “G.I. Bill Historical Timeline.” AllMilitary.com. http://www.allmilitary.com/index.html (accessed January 15, 2013).

By using this timeline, there was a quotation, by President Bill Clinton which he said, while commemorating the 50th anniversary of the G.I. Bill. It was a perfect quotation to use, he said, “Just as D-Day was the greatest military action in our history, so the GI Bill arguably was the greatest investment in our people in American history.” This timeline starts from the first G.I. Bill in 1944 and gives facts about every other G.I. Bill that was signed afterwards. In addition, by giving important dates relating to the G.I. Bill it tells you as well who the one to sign it was.

Waters, Walter W. *B.E.F. The Whole Story of the Bonus Army*. New York: Arno Press, 1969.

The Bonus Army was not the first group of people who marched in Washington D.C. The first recorded march was in 1917. However, the Bonus Army was composed of men who fought in WWI and needed their promised pay immediately rather than later. “Early in March 1932, I had come to the conclusion that Congress was purposely playing football with the Bonus Bill.” This quotation was said by Walter Waters, the leader of the Bonus Army. The numbers of the Bonus Army rose quickly, it began only with a few dozen veterans from Portland, Oregon, to thousands of veterans from all over the United States. All these men were in Washington D.C. because they were all there for the same reason.

Whetzel, Melanie *Occupation and Industry Series: Accommodating Service Members and Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)*. Morgantown: Job Accommodation, 2010.

Recent medical studies show that approximately one in every five service members who return home from Afghanistan or Iraq have symptoms of PTSD or depression associated with PTSD due to exposure to traumatic events. A current nurse an veteran had trouble with stress while working due to her PTSD the sounds of the helicopter were effecting her ability to work so they moved her to the most vacant and furthest part away from the helicopter so that way she could perform her job efficiently.

“Yahoo Answers.” Yahoo. <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20081001231512AAVvYmS> (accessed March 31, 2013).

We were in search of a quote that could prove how bad Vietnam was for people in the United States because of television. Having a quote rather our own words would make our argument stronger. We found the perfect one and we used it exactly how it’s said in our performance. Marshall McLuhan was a Canadian philosopher in communication theory. He stated, “Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America - not on the battlefields of Vietnam.” This quotation is true, if the television wouldn’t have been around during this time the Vietnam War would not have been as bad. Society was not use to seeing fights on television not only that, this was the actual war in the living room.