

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Disabled Veterans - Are You Receiving All Your Benefits?

Most disabled veterans know something about most of the benefits they are authorized. These benefits are granted to disabled veterans as a result of their disabilities incurred while serving their country. As the severity of the disability increases, the number and type of benefits available also increase. Most 100% disabled veterans know about such benefits as: Free drivers license; Free hunting license; Free vehicle license plate; Reduced property taxes; Educational benefits for family members; Free/reduced Life Insurance and more.

These are the benefits the VA has told them they are authorized.

But what about a benefit the VA has not publicized, in fact even some service organization officers are unaware of, the Independent Living Program (ILP).

Five years ago Vietnam combat medic Bruce McCartney applied for the Independent Living Program at the Savannah Clinic on Montgomery Crossroads. After many years of delay and non responsiveness from his counselor McCartney sought the assistance of Congressman John Barrow. That assistance led to the granting of his benefit and ultimately he was invited to testify before a House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee hearing about the Independent Living Program.

Now the word is starting to get out and veterans are applying.

What is ILP? ILP is to make sure each eligible veteran is able, to the maximum extent possible, to live independently and participate in family and community life...

Who is eligible for ILP? Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are so severe they are currently unable to pursue an employment goal. This could be a disabled veteran currently rated from 40% - 100%.

What does ILP provide? Assistive technology, specialized medical/health and/or rehabilitation services, independent living skills..., are just some of the services provided. Some of the benefits disabled veterans have already received through the program include Snow blowers, Dog Training for canines, Greenhouse, Farm Tractor, Walk-in bath tub, Computers, Boat and the list goes on depending on the individual need of the veteran.

How do disabled veterans apply? There are several ways to apply. Either go online to the VA website, go to the Voc Rehab link and apply, call 1-800-827-100 and request VA Form 28-1900, or go to nearest VA facility or Vet Center and ask for application.

Remember this is YOUR benefit. The price has already paid by disabled veteran's unselfish service to their country.

McCartney is available for information assistance for all veterans, family members, friends, via email at popz@coastalnow.net using ILP in the subject line.

ABWA Victory Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser

Women of diverse businesses and employment are teaming up to help support other young women in their "need to succeed" in business. ABWA Victory will be sponsoring a Gospel Concert & Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the Garden City Recreation Center. Our host will be none other than Bro. Lester Lyck White, a man who knows good gospel music.

Join us as we "Rejoice" in celebration of a historical Presidential Election. Whether you prefer contemporary or traditional gospel music a good time will be had by all. Come out and enjoy the evening.

Tickets are available at Lester's Florist or by contacting Carolyn Guilford at (912) 398-3413, Patrice Grant at (912) 228-0758 or email letmoo56@bellsouth.net.

Melaver Honored by the Savannah Airport Commission

The Savannah Airport Commission held a reception at the Savannah/Hilton Head International parking garage atrium Thursday, October 23, 2008 honoring Mr. Norton M. Melaver for his 18 years of service to the Commission. Friends, current and former commissioners, Commission employees and airport tenant employees paid tribute to the man who has been a guiding light for the Savannah Airport Commission.



Norton M. Melaver

When he was appointed in August 1990 the Savannah Airport Commission held meetings in the terminal building at Savannah International Airport on Davidson Drive. Since that time, the Commission has seen many changes such as the opening of the new Airport terminal in 1994, the awarding of slots at Chicago's O'Hare Airport (the first time slots were awarded to a community instead of an airline), the tragedies of 9/11, and the addition of Hilton Head to the Airport's name.

His unwavering commitment to the Savannah

Airport Commission was always evident.

He was unanimously appointed Chairman of the Commission in May 1997 and led the Commission through years of positive growth in passenger traffic and size, capping it off with completion of three major Capital Improvement Projects in 2007. Mr. Melaver's last term ended in August 2008 and he will be greatly missed by the Savannah Airport Commission and the employees of Savannah/Hilton Head International.

W. W. Law Foundation Welcomes two New Directors

W. W. Law Foundation strengthen community alliance with appointment of multicultural educator and community advocate to board of directors

W. W. Law Foundation will welcome two new directors at its December 2008 Board of Directors meeting; literary scholar Weihua Zhang and community advocate Kenneth Dunham. Dr. Zhang is a literary scholar with an emphasis in American, African American, Asian American, and other ethnic literatures and a Savannah College of Art and Design professor. Mr. Kenneth Dunham is a long time community advocate and president of West Savannah Neighborhood Association.

Dr. Zhang brings a wealth of experience and accomplishments in higher education to the board. Her expertise in multicultural literature, an interest in sharing local literature and history and the Savannah experience will enhance the Foundation's efforts to make the resources in the W. W. Law Collection available to the community.

Mr. Dunham brings his community advocacy to the Foundation's effort to get more community involvement in documenting Savannah's history and one of Georgia's premier civil rights and historic preservation collections. Dunham has been instrumental in promoting community issues like converting Moses Jackson School to a commu-

nity center to service a cross-section of community needs, beautifying the West Savannah corridor and promoting upgrading housing in the community.

"We are pleased to have such a distinguished and accomplished educator and community advocate joining our efforts to continue the work of W. W. Law and look forward to the enthusiastic leadership and energy they will bring," said board chairman Remer Pendergraph.

Beach Institute presents Woodcuts and Paintings

On November 9, 2008, the Beach Institute will open a show featuring over thirty woodcuts and paintings by

famed Bahamian artist, Maxwell Taylor. The opening reception will take place at 3pm in the West Gallery of

the Beach Institute with a gallery talk by Maxwell Taylor. In addition, this will

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the Georgia Municipal Association Hall of Fame for his work in local and State governments in June 2008.

The Conyers family is passionate about SS. Brothers: Charles graduated in 1949, Willie, 1951, Chester (deceased), 1953. Daughters: Audrey and Luthenia graduated in 1976. Granddaughter, Leslie Wright (Miss SSU First Attendant 2008) is scheduled to graduate in December. In addition, other relatives: Commodore, 1958 and

Bernard and Emma Conyers in 1970.

Please help us match this generous gift by the Kirbo Foundation. We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass. Make your checks and pledges payable to SSU, earmarked for the Kirbo-Conyers Endowed Scholarship and mail to: **Luther H. Conyers, 1308 Carter Street, Bainbridge, Georgia, 39817 or to Savannah State University, Box 20439, Savannah, Georgia 31404.**

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