



AFSA International Family Matters Trustee

July 2018



Starting this month, on a quarterly basis, I will be reporting on issues pertaining to military spouses such as pending legislation, health care, VA benefits, education programs, certifications, child care, etc. The other months will focus on ways to get your Family Members involved, fundraising ideas and anything else I find interesting to our military spouses.

MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

There are three new efforts in place to tackle military spouse employment –

- **Hiring 100,000 Military Spouses Campaign** -- A group of companies and organizations have launched a campaign to encourage employers to join a nationwide effort to hire military spouses with an initial goal of hiring 100,000 military spouses in the next three years.
- **License Finder** – The Department of Labor launched a web site that gives spouses specific information on what states are doing to ease the time-consuming process military spouses go through to obtain a license or credential to work in the field. Spouses can click on a specific state on a map to find out whether the state has adopted licensing rights for military spouses.
- **Military Spouse Technology Academy** – Microsoft will be launching a military spouse academy this fall. More details will be available later.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/mil-money/2018/06/29/here-are-3-new-efforts-to-tackle-issues-of-military-spouse-employment/>

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) BENEFITS FOR VETERANS' SPOUSES, DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

- **Health Benefits** -- A Veteran's spouse, dependent or survivor may be eligible for VA health care benefits through programs such as the Civilian Health and Medical Program, Spina Bifida, Children of Women Vietnam Veterans, Foreign Medical Program and Caregivers. Enrolling in these programs may reduce or eliminate your costs for medical supplies, office visits or prescriptions.

https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/family_members.asp

- **Education** – VA provides education and training opportunities for certain Veterans' spouses, dependents and survivors through various programs to help cover the cost of tuition, housing, books and supplies. Education benefits may be used toward a traditional degree, non-college degree, on-the-job training, apprenticeships and more. Check out these programs –
 - ✓ Transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits to Dependents and Spouses
 - ✓ Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship
 - ✓ Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

<https://explore.va.gov/education-training/spouses-dependents-survivors>

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments, please let me know.

Until next month, thanks so much for all you do for our country and for AFSA!

Take care and God Bless!

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7/5/2018