



Registration for
Summer and Fall
semesters begins
01 April 2024

Make an
appointment at
kish.edu/advising

In this issue:

- o Spotlight a Vet
- o Military History Corner
- o Tax Season prep
- o Veteran Benefits info



Spotlight a Vet

Cohen Barnes

My name is Cohen Barnes, and I am proud to have grown up in the great towns of Sheridan and DeKalb. After graduating from DeKalb High School, I left shortly after graduation to join the U.S. Army and served on Active Duty for three years stationed in Ft. Benning Georgia as a United States Infantryman and completed Airborne School while there. When my tour was complete, I chose to come back home to come back to a community that had been so good to me. I attended Kishwaukee Community College and in my second semester, was called back in to the military for Operation Desert Storm. After my deployment, I returned once again to Northern Illinois where I completed my associate degree from Kish College in 1992 and transferred to Northern Illinois University where I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. I am a proud Barb, Kougar, and Huskie!

After college, I worked hard in the tech field and became owner of SundogIT, a thriving technology firm employing over 25 people that serves clients throughout Northern Illinois who rely on us for the security and support of their technology. I also co-founded DeKalb Fiber Optic which, during my time as owner, deployed over 140 miles of fiber optic cabling and connected NIU to schools, cities, and libraries all across Northern Illinois. I am also married to the love of my life Amy, an incredible woman, and have been happily married for over 31 years.

Together, we have raised two children. Our son Hank is currently attending Illinois State University in the ROTC program pursuing his degree in History, is an Illinois National Guardsman and combat veteran of the war in Afghanistan and married to our wonderful daughter-in-law Jillian. Our daughter Maddie is currently attending Georgia Tech as a sophomore and is in their Honors Aerospace Engineering Program and interns at Gulfstream.



Cohen Barnes pictured above with his family, daughter-in-law Jillian, son Hank, daughter Maddie, wife Amy



Cohen Barnes, an Army Veteran, was elected mayor of DeKalb in 2021 and has recently announced his candidacy for the Illinois State Representative of the 76th House District



Mayor Cohen Barnes was a guest speaker at the 2023 Veterans Day Ceremony at Kishwaukee College

Tax Season Reminders for Veterans

Are you preparing to file taxes? VA is here to help with some helpful reminders for Veterans and beneficiaries.

- o VA benefits are tax free.
- o There is no federal income tax on VA insurance proceeds.
- o Veterans with a service-connected disability rating may benefit from local property tax exemptions.
- o You may qualify for free assistance with filing from MilTax or IRS Free File.

✓ Important reminders regarding your Veteran Benefits:

- For Chapter 33 benefits you must have at least one course in-residence (in-person or hybrid) to qualify for the maximum Housing Allowance benefit. Asynchronous, Synchronous and Flex coursework count as online learning. Full-time enrollment (12 or more credits) also qualifies for full MHA.
- All remedial courses taken (less than 100 level) MUST be in-person. Online remedial courses are not covered by Federal Veteran Benefits. State benefits may cover online remedial coursework.
- A request for benefits form MUST be submitted to the Financial Aid office each semester you wish to utilize Veteran Benefits for your training.

History Corner

Four Chaplains Day

February 3, 1943

An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.

