



## Senator Jason Crowell The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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### **The Missouri Returning Heroes' Act Helps Combat Veterans Pursue a Higher Education**

Missouri's returning veterans now have a way to access more affordable higher education. At the end of August, an important new law recognizing the hard work of Missouri's returning heroes went into effect. The legislation caps under graduate tuition at state-funded universities to \$50 a credit hour for combat veterans who served after September 11, 2001. Eligible veterans can start utilizing these reduced rates now.



There are more than 120 veterans on the Southeast Missouri State University campus that could be applying the benefits of the Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act to their education, and I want to make sure that student-veterans know about this important program.

Many veterans returning to Missouri after serving want to pursue a higher

education, but the federal GI Bill falls short. Our veterans were willing to fight for the rights many of us take for granted, and I am very pleased that we now have another way to say “thank you”.

Veterans eligible for the reduced tuition rate of \$50 a credit hour include those who:

- Have served in the military (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Reserves or National Guard) in a full-time capacity under a call to active service authorized by the President of the United States or the Secretary of Defense for a period of more than thirty consecutive days.
- Have “served in armed combat,” meaning that the individual served in a combat zone designated by the U.S. Department of Defense. Veterans unsure of whether they meet this requirement can check their release or discharge forms for the information.
- Were a resident of Missouri when entering the military (as stated on their release or discharge forms).

Students are also required to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA to continue to receive the reduced tuition rate.

More information about the requirements of the Missouri Returning Heroes’ Education Act is available online on the Department of Higher Education’s website at <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/files/moretheroesact.pdf>.

Students with questions can also contact the Missouri Veterans Commission for information on documentation and information relating to a veteran’s military service at 1-866-VET-INFO (838-4636).

The tuition reduction is administered by each individual school. To apply for the program, veterans should contact the financial aid office to get information on the exact application process for a particular university.

The Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act allows Missouri's service men and women to have access to a higher education. As more heroes return to Missouri after serving overseas, we here at

home are doing everything we can to show them our appreciation for their sacrifice.



### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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