Over 260 student veterans and guests, Milwaukee area college campus leaders, and community and corporate sponsors attended the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Student Veterans Ball, on Friday, November 6, 2015, at the Renaissance Place on Milwaukee’s East Side. The event sold out for the second year in a row and raised $2,500 for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Coming together to celebrate veterans and their service, as well as to establish camaraderie between universities and organizations, great times were had by all who attended.

The evening was made possible by our generous sponsors and donors including: Wounded Warrior Project, MGIC, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Northwestern Mutual, Dr. Duane Williams on behalf of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Military & Veterans Resource Center (MAVRC), AT&T Veterans, Boucher Auto Group, Gruber Law Offices, Marcus Hotels & Resorts, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Culver’s of Hales Corners, Student Veterans of America (SVA) UWM Chapter, Marquette University, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) District 4, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts 6498, 10519, and 1465, Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Military Officers, Karlyle and AnaChristina Ross, and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).
The evening began with a cocktail hour and Silent Auction. Proceeds from this year’s Silent Auction went to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Silent Auction items were generously donated by: Ambassador Hotel, Marriott Downtown Hotel, Kessler’s-Germantown, Ho-Chuck Casino & Gaming, Provide Outdoors hosted by Josh Strupp & Carl Grettenhardt, Lakefront Brewery, Claude & Gretchen Schuttey, Aurora Healthcare, Studio Winery, Island Breeze Tanning Salon of Franklin, Harley-Davidson Dealership-110th & Silver Spring, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Green Bay Packers, Mt. Olympus, Dells Top Secret, Milwaukee Food & City Tours, Milwaukee World Festival Inc, ComedySportz, Colectivo, Zilli’s Hospitality Group, Joe Campbell, Becky Patterson, Harley-Davidson Museum, Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee County Parks, Landmark Theaters, East Town Spa, Little Amerricka Amusement Park, Shedd Aquarium-Chicago, Cave of the Mounds, Milwaukee Brewers, Great Lakes Distillery, Milwaukee Pedal Tavern, Ezulwini African Safari, Tom Mitchell, Milwaukee Admirals, Relax The Back-Glendale, The Bartalotta Restaurant Group, Justin Dennis of DSC Consulting, and Sleep Number-Mayfair.
Ball co-president, Mario Avila introduced the ROTC Color Guard from UWM and Marquette, and Father Michael Class from Marquette offered the blessing. Zilli Hospitality catered a wonderful dinner with ice cream sundaes provided by Culver’s of Hales Corners. Following dinner, the ball co-president, Mike Kirchner introduced the emcee and master of ceremonies, John Malan. John opened the evening program introducing Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, John Scocos, as the first speaker. Director of the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, Kirsten Sobieski, spoke next thanking those in attendance for their support through the Silent Auction proceeds. The keynote speaker for the evening was Duane Honeycutt, Director of the Milwaukee VA Regional Office.
A final toast was given by John Malan before closing the evening program. Music throughout the evening was provided by Personal Touch DJ Services.

Thank you for your support of the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Student Veterans Ball. We’re looking forward to next year’s event, scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2016 at the downtown Hilton Milwaukee City Center.