State of the Science Symposium:
The Role of Not-for-profit Organizations

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

Will Cole
20 November 2013
“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of other wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

-George Washington
Student Veterans of America (SVA)
Mission

To provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

Vision

All veterans will succeed in higher education, achieve their academic goals, and gain meaningful employment.
The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944

Approximately 16 million WWII Veterans

7.8 million used the GI Bill

14 Nobel Prize and 24 Pulitzer Prize winners, 3 presidents, 12 senators, and 3 Supreme Court justices
The Post-9/11 GI Bill

Roughly $30B in payments since 2009

Tuition / Fees

Housing Allowance / Book Stipend

Same participation rate as WWII veterans
Resources

Support

Advocacy
Why do veterans need *resources, support, and advocacy*?
Social Reintegration

Suicide

Disability
Tuesday March 18th, 2003
Who is Mike Roberts?
Iraq
Iraq’s “Triangle of Death”
Phantom Platoon
IMPACT!
My Discharge in 2007
Beginning studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) in 2009
Accepting my disabilities
Starting to connect the dots
Connecting with the Student Veterans of America chapter at UCSB
Identifying an academic path
Maybe this is what Mike didn’t have

How can I make sure other veterans don’t fall through the cracks like Mike did?
1,000,000
More than 900
Social Engagement, Connections, & Inspiration
So what is the role of Student Veterans of America?
Empower veterans to walk over the cracks that Mike, and others like Mike, slipped through
Thanks