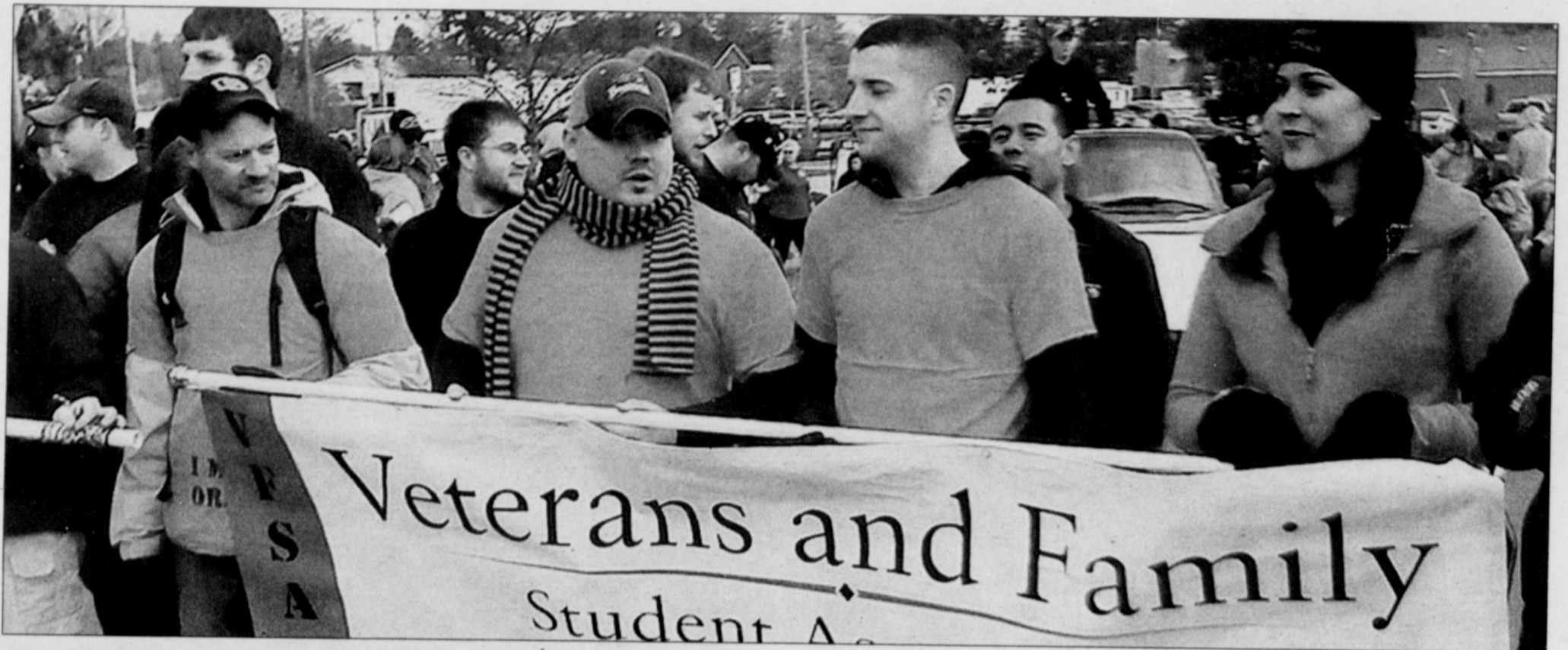


Military Friendly School

Oregon State University has earned the title of "Military Friendly School" by GI Jobs several years in a row.

With improved educational benefits and after years of conflict in the Middle East, a flood of veterans are heading to the college in numbers that surpass those of



Oregon State University students participate in a Veterans Day parade.

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recent history.

OSU has 1,025 students who are receiving veteran educational benefits, a new record and the most of any university in Oregon. They now account for about one out of every 25 students at OSU, and a range of programs are being created or expanded to help facilitate this stream of incoming veterans.

Part of the increase, officials say, is due to an expansion of educational benefits that were put

in place in the early 2000s, including some that veteran dependents and spouses can use. A weak economy also made it an opportune time for veterans to attend college, just like many other students.

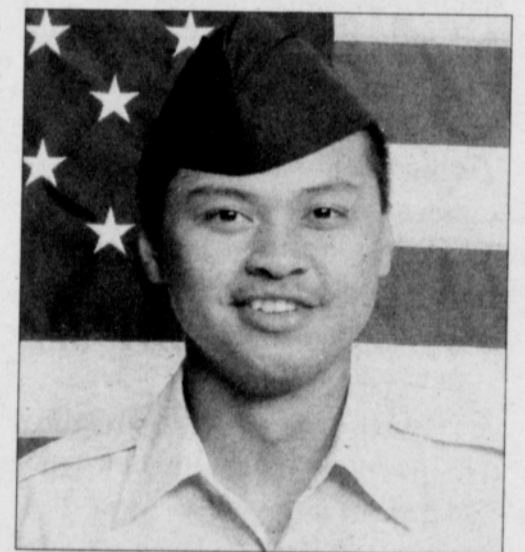
OSU has responded with renewed efforts to pave the way for returning veterans, programs to cut through federal bureaucracy, and make sure the students get both the personal and professional help they need.

Benson Grad in Air Force

Air Force Airman 1st Class Alvin N. Le has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Le is the son of Phuong Le of Portland. He is a 2006 graduate of Benson High School and earned an associate degree from Mount Hood Community College in 2010.



Alvin N. Le



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Business Loans for Veterans

The Small Business Administration Friday announced new measures to help get small business loans into the hands of veterans.

"Our nation's veterans are highly-skilled and highly-trained leaders in their communities," said Acting SBA Administrator Jeanne Hult. "This initiative will set fees to zero for SBA Express loans to veterans up to \$350,000, and is part of SBA's broader efforts to make sure that veterans have the tools they need to start and grow a business. As we honor our veterans and thank them for their service and sacrifice, let's continue to identify ways to support them when

they come home."

The policy announcement means that veteran borrowers will no longer have to pay an upfront fee for any loan up to \$350,000 under the SBA Express program. This new initiative will go into effect January 1 and extend for the duration of the fiscal year. This will make the loans cheaper for the borrower, another way SBA is looking to serve small business owners as they look for ways to access capital.

For more information about these and other SBA programs, visit the SBA website at sba.gov or contact your local SBA field office.