



APSU PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

WILMA NEWTON

Austin Peay alumna Wilma Newton recently retired from a successful career in healthcare administration. She worked in information technology and was the CFO of several hospitals. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from APSU in 1973. Now she is giving back to her alma mater through a transformative gift to fund significant renovations to the facility that will house the new William E. & Sadako S. Newton Military Family Resource Center. The facility, located at 426 College Street, will be named after her late parents. Newton's father, William, met her mother, Sadako, in Japan when he was stationed there as part of military efforts to reconstruct the country following the end of World War II. The center will provide seamless support to military-related students as they apply for admission, access financial aid, select their programs of study, register for their courses, progress toward graduation and secure employment after graduation.

Newton, along with her late husband Raymond Vares, previously decided to contribute to the University because of their appreciation for education and their family connection to the military. Newton's late father, husband, brother and several uncles all served in the military.

At APSU, about one in four students has a military connection, with more than 2,500 in attendance in each of the last three years. Assistance from staff with specialized knowledge and close attention to detail will help students stay on track with degree planning and maximizing their use of educational benefits. The center will house existing academic and support programs, which could include Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) and the Military Student Center (MSC), along with the satellite branches of the Office of Career Services, Admissions, the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of Student Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs.