

Vietnam vet, 69, starting new chapter as Quinsigamond Community College student

WORCESTER, Mass. κ

At 69 years old, Tom Vincent is loving the latest chapter in his life -- as a college student at Worcester's [Quinsigamond Community College](#).

"You're never too old to learn. If I can do this, I'm sure there are many out there that can do it as well," he said.

In 1972, Vincent graduated high school and enlisted in the Army while the Vietnam War was raging on.

His initial return to the classroom was far from a smooth transition.

"It was overwhelming. I didn't feel I deserved a higher education," he said.

Vincent tried enrolling in QCC two previous times, but in his words, "chickened out." Vincent was on a similar path once again until a fellow veteran stepped in.

"I told Tom no matter what it takes, we're going to make sure that you go to college," said Matthew Casaubon, [QCC's director of Veteran Affairs](#).

Casaubon looks out for Vincent like he does for all the 140 veterans who utilize the Veteran Center on campus.

"If you are a 70-year-old or an 18-year-old National Guard, everybody has the same experience. They're welcomed here, they feel comfortable here," said Casaubon.

To make sure Vincent felt comfortable getting to and from classes, Casaubon got him a scooter.

"I was in shock; no one's ever really done anything like that for me before. I'm usually the one that's helping people out," Vincent said.

Veterans help each other and are there for one of their own -- no matter the mission.

"When you're in the military, you're with a bunch of people that are all doing the same thing. But when you're going to college, you feel more alone and the support that I get from being in this center with these people, the veterans the non-veterans, it's just so helpful," Vincent said.