New LCC Memorial Honors Michigan Veterans

Public encouraged to make it a destination

LANSING - Lansing Community College’s new Veterans Memorial is designed to showcase the significant contributions of Michigan veterans through the use of video storytelling instead of a traditional granite wall with inscribed names.

In a ceremony today, the college unveiled the structure and honored the first 13 veterans to be inducted. They include six Medal of Honor recipients, now deceased, and seven distinguished service recipients, one of whom has passed away.

In his remarks to the veterans, LCC President Brent Knight said, “I know many of you would say you never intended to be heroes. You just wanted to serve and get back home. But events called you to tap into a wellspring of courage you never knew you had. We are humbled by your presence.”

The 9’ x 20’ memorial is comprised of a limestone center embedded with a state-of-the-art 3’ x 6’8” video monitor, and illuminated decorative glass display cases at the ends. It was designed by architect Scott Laubenthal, DLZ.

The memorial is located in the Fred Abood Rotunda on the lower level of LCC’s Health & Human Services Building on the College’s main campus at 515 N. Washington Square, Lansing. The building is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Not only does this beautiful memorial honor the service of our brave veterans, it also serves as a compelling educational experience for children, teens, and adults,” said Deborah Canja, Chair of the
Lansing Community College Board of Trustees. “Through these veteran’s stories, visitors can learn about American history and the sacrifices made by so many to advance freedom here and around the world.”

LCC developed the memorial to honor Michigan veterans, with a special emphasis on those in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

Providing educational opportunities to veterans has been a college priority since its opening in 1957. Today, some 500 veterans are enrolled as students. An additional 220 active duty Army and Army National Guard personnel are taking LCC courses online through GoArmyEd/eArmyU. Active duty Air Force, Marine and Navy personnel take regular online courses and can be stationed overseas while earning an LCC degree. The college has a dedicated Veterans Services Office to provide assistance to veterans, active military, spouses and dependants.

Today’s inductees are:

**Medal of Honor recipients:**

Dirk J. Vlug, Private First Class, U.S. Army, World War II – Grand Rapids  
John C. Sjogren, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, World War II – Rockford  
Francis J. Pierce, Pharmacist’s Mate First Class, U.S. Navy, World War II – Grand Rapids  
Charles A. Lindbergh, Captain, U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve, World War II – Detroit  
Oscar G. Johnson, Sergeant, U.S. Army, World War II – DeWitt  
Harold A. Furlong, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, World War I – Detroit

**Distinguished Service recipients:**

James Butler III, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, Vietnam – East Lansing  
Oliver D. Gillespie, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, World War II – St. Johns  
Clarence E. Hill, Specialist Four, U.S. Army, Vietnam – Dimondale  
Scott Kenyon, Sergeant, U.S. Army, Iraq – Dimondale  
David R. Schneider, First Sergeant, U.S. Army, Afghanistan – Dimondale  
Frank A. Tegge, Specialist Five, U.S. Army, Vietnam – DeWitt  
Thomas A. Towsley, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class, U.S. Navy, Vietnam – Dimondale

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**About Lansing Community College**

*Lansing Community College is Michigan’s third largest community college with more than 32,000 students attending each year. The College has more than 240 degree and certificate programs. LCC offers courses in general education for those interested in transferring to a four-year institution, career and workforce development, developmental education and personal enrichment. To meet the professional development and training needs of regional employees, the college offers customized programs for credit, non-credit and continuing education. The University Center at LCC offers students the opportunity to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from six partner universities on the downtown LCC campus. For more information, visit www.lcc.edu.*