News from Saddleback College

For Immediate Release

Contact:        Jennie McCue          Amy Wheeler
               jmccue@saddleback.edu    awheeler@saddleback.edu
               (949) 582-4320          (949) 582-4897

Saddleback College Honors Student Veterans and Raises Money for Scholarships

Mission Viejo, CA – In honor of Veterans Day, the Saddleback College Foundation, Student Veterans Club, and Veterans Education Transition Services (VETS) program welcomed college employees and the community to a remembrance ceremony at the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial, followed by a Chili Bowl Festival to raise money for scholarships for student veterans.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “At Saddleback College, every day is Veterans Day. I thank our VETS program, Veterans Office that helps students, process veterans’ education benefits, Veterans Club, and the college foundation for their enduring commitment to provide so many opportunities that directly benefit our veterans and college community.”

Mikel Savides, VETS Club Secretary of Public Services, Marine Corps veteran, and a Saddleback College international relations major, said, “Saddleback College has one of the most well supported veteran communities in the nation. The ability of everyone at the school to differentiate between the warrior and the war allows many student veterans to be successful.”

The day’s events kicked off with the Student Veterans Club hosting a ceremony at the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial in remembrance of veterans. During the ceremony, three local families who housed and supported one of the college’s homeless student veterans were honored with bricks that will be placed at the memorial. Speakers at the event included President Burnett, Art Department Chair and memorial artist Richie White, three Saddleback College veterans, Saddleback College Foundation Board Member Marty Samuel, and bagpiper Ralph Bates, who treated the crowd to a rendition of Amazing Grace.

Following the ceremony the Saddleback College Foundation hosted the Chili Bowl Festival where attendees enjoyed a chili lunch, donated by Chili’s Restaurant in Mission Viejo, side dishes, drinks, and dessert, and had the chance to participate in a 50/50 raffle.

Throughout the week, the Student Veterans Club and the VETS Program organized several activities, including a Wall of Heroes recognizing esteemed veterans working at or attending Saddleback College, a field of flags symbolizing those who lost their lives in the current Middle East conflicts, a panel highlighting the experiences of veterans and their transition to civilian life, and a screening of a documentary In Their Boots.

Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers more than 300 degree and certificate programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit www.saddleback.edu.

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