Veterans, Active Military, and Community Members Join Saddleback College for Veterans Memorial Preview

Mission Viejo, CA – Veterans, active military personnel, and community members joined Saddleback College faculty, staff, and managers at a preview of the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial on Wednesday, May 6th. The memorial, which is nearing completion, is a tribute to veterans and active military personnel and will serve as an on-campus reminder of the sacrifices made by those who serve in the armed forces. The preview celebrated the work-in-progress and enabled the generous donors to see their inscribed bricks and plaques that are displayed at the memorial site.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “The Saddleback College Foundation has done an outstanding job raising funds for the veterans memorial, but we still need an additional $75,000 to complete this tribute to veterans and military personnel. Thank you to all of the generous donors who have helped us make it this far, yet we have more to do to complete the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial.”

Dr. Burnett served as the event’s Master of Ceremonies, and South Orange County Board of Trustees President Donald P. Wagner led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke about the American flag that will be raised at the memorial at the official dedication expected to be held in fall 2009. The flag, which was donated by the Orange County Vietnam Veterans of America, has flown over the White House and the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Washington, D.C., and was the first American flag since 1975 to fly over the American Embassy in Vietnam. Trustee Nancy M. Padberg led the invocation.

The keynote speaker of the event was Stewart Navarre, a retired Colonel of the United States Marine Corps who was the Commanding Officer of the Fifth Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, and David Curry, a Saddleback College alumnus who served two tours of duty in Iraq as an infantryman in the Marine Corps, spoke about the meaning of the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial from the perspective of a college student and veteran. Other speakers included former Saddleback College President Richard D. McCullough, Veterans Memorial Task Force Chair and Retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Marty Samuel, Foundation Board of Governors Member and Retired Marine
Corps Colonel Joe Snyder, artists Richard White and Fred Olson, and Saddleback College Police Chief Harry Parmer. Officials at the event included Trustee Marcia Milchiker, Lake Forest City Council Member Kathryn McCullough, Laguna Hills Mayor Joel Lautenchleger, Laguna Niguel Mayor Robert Ming, City of Laguna Niguel Council Member Joe Brown, Ph.D., and Assemblyman Chuck Devore Staff Member Scott Carpenter. Also in attendance were Saddleback College Board of Governors members Greg Powers, Gary Capata, Tom Yott, and Michelle Brough.

Members of the Foundation’s Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee are:
Marty Samuel, Chairman, Marine Corps Aviation Association, USMC Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
Don Brown, USMC
Al Ehlow, USMC, South Coast Detach
Tom Goodall, Commander, VFW 6024
Cloyce Kelly, Retired Saddleback College Police Officer
Trish Kelley, Council Member, City of Mission Viejo
Casey Kleindienst, VFW District Liaison
George Locke, President, Marines of Costa Del Sol
Kevin O’Mara, USMC
Norm Marshall, USMC
Dr. Richard D. McCullough Past President, Saddleback College
Nancy Padberg, Esq., SOCCC, Board of Trustees
Donna Varner, Perception Public Relations
Mike Waugh, American Legion District 29

Members of the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial Planning Committee are:
Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President
Dr. James Wright, Dean, Mathematics, Science, and Engineering, U.S. Air Force Colonel (Retired)
Howard Dwight, Fiscal/Veterans, USMC (Retired)
Carol Hilton, Director of Fiscal Services
Sophie Miller, Executive Assistant to the President
Harry Parmer, Saddleback College Police Chief, USMC (Retired)
John Ozurovich, Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Richard White, Art Department Chair, Veterans Memorial Designer

More than $150,000 has been donated so far to the Saddleback College Veterans Memorial. Major donors include:

Orange County Association of Realtors, $25,000
American Legion Post 291, $5,000
City of Aliso Viejo, $5,000
City of Dana Point, $5,000
City of Laguna Hills, $5,000
City of Laguna Niguel, $5,000
City of Lake Forest, $5,000
City of Mission Viejo, $5,000
City of Rancho Santa Margarita, $5,000
City of San Clemente, $5,000
Mission Viejo Rotary Club, $5,000
Moulton Niguel Water District, $5,000
Saddleback College Ceramics Department, $5,000
Saddleback College Foundation, $5,000

For its generous donation, the Orange County Association of Realtors will be commemorated near the flag pole at the memorial site, and the $5,000 donations will each have a bronze plaque commemorating their gifts on a bench surrounding the memorial.

The Saddleback College Foundation is raising an additional $75,000 for completion of the memorial. Donations can be made to the Foundation and further information is available at www.saddleback.edu/foundation.

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.

###