



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY PANEL TO EXPLORE WAR AND ITS IMPACT ON FAMILIES**

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College will host a One Book, One Community panel discussion exploring when war is justified and how families are affected when their loved ones leave for war.

The panel discussion, titled “War is Hell: Whether It’s the Civil War or the Iraq War,” will take place April 4 in the La-Z-Boy Center Atrium on the MCCC main campus at 7:00 p. m. The discussion is the last of the One Book, One Community events, which began March 11.

The featured novel, “March,” tells the story of John March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel, “Little Women.” Mr. March serves as a chaplain in the Union Army in the Civil War.

In the novel, by Geraldine Brooks, the characters are forced to come to terms with the harsh realities of war. As a chaplain, Mr. March also examines whether war is justified, even when the stakes – freeing the slaves and preserving the nation – are high.

The four panelists – the mother of a marine, an army chaplain, a historian and a philosopher – will explore the same issues during the MCCC discussion.

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Is war worth the risk to the soldier, the pain suffered back home, the loss of innocent lives along the way? In the 1860s, Mr. March appeared to think the Civil War was justified. His wife was less certain.

What about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Those and other related questions will be discussed by the panel, which includes:

- **Tammie Pierce**, a Monroe resident whose son, Joshua, has been in the Army for three years, including nearly a year in Afghanistan, where he was a machine gunner for the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Mrs. Pierce adopted his platoon and sent more than 50 boxes of food, hygiene products and other items to Afghanistan, including a pre-lit Christmas tree. She also helped form Military Families of Monroe County.
- **Rev. Larry K. Loree Jr.**, Pastor of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Monroe, serves as a chaplain at the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has provided counseling to dozens of men and women who suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or other issues as a result of their deployment to war. Rev. Loree recently spent ten weeks receiving specialized training working with veterans from all branches of service at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif.
- **Edmund La Clair**, a history professor at Monroe County Community College, who holds a master's degree in history from Central Michigan University and is currently a PhD candidate at Wayne State University, with a dissertation project titled, "Before God and the Devil: The Black Legion from 1925 to 1948." He also is vice president of the Friends of the Monroe County Historical Museum.

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- **Tinola Mayfield-Guerrero**, a philosopher, artist, writer, activist and feminist scholar. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Leadership Studies at Bowling Green State University and a graduate certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She teaches sociology courses at MCCC, and is conducting research on the history of feminist art and on a Foucauldian approach to a philosophy of education.

One Book, One Community of Monroe County, modeled after a program developed by the American Library Association, promotes the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links community members in a common conversation through readings, group discussions, programs, and other events.

Major sponsors include Monroe County Community College, The Foundation at MCCC, the Monroe County Library System and the Monroe Publishing Company – Monroe Evening News. Major donors include, Siena Heights University, Eastern Michigan University, Books-A-Million, The MEEMIC Foundation, and the Monroe County Historical Society. Additional donors are *The Agora*, Dr. and Mrs. David Nixon, Diversity Committee of Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Community College Student Government, Monroe County Convention and Tourism Bureau, Monroe County Historical Museum, The Book Nook, and The Sawyer Homestead. Educational partners include, Airport High School, Meadow Montessori, St. Mary Catholic Central High School, and the Monroe Middle College.

For more information, including ways to participate in and support One Book, One Community of Monroe County, visit [www.monroeccc.edu/onebook](http://www.monroeccc.edu/onebook).

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