



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

**Main Campus**

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**Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
TO SPEAK AT OCT. 13 VETERANS RESOURCE EVENT**

MONROE – Colonel David W. Sutherland, special assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff with principle focus on Wounded Warrior and Family Programs at the Pentagon, will be the keynote speaker at a day of programming at Monroe County Community College for veterans and the health care and social services professionals who serve them.

“Serving Those Who Serve,” will take place on Thursday, Oct. 13 and is presented by Mercy Memorial Hospice of Monroe and sponsored by MCCC and the Hospice Education Institute. It is supported, in part, by a grant from HEI.

It will include:

- **A professional development program for nurses, social workers, counselors, psychologists, mental health professionals and others who serve the health care needs of veterans entitled “Understanding the Special End-of-Life Needs of Veterans.”** This session, which will take place from 2-6 p.m. in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, will help professionals become more knowledgeable about the physical conditions and psychological scars that affect many veterans until the day they die. Professionals from the Detroit and Ann Arbor Veterans Affairs systems, Mercy Memorial Hospice of Monroe and

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Hospice of Northwest Ohio will discuss service-related medical conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, end-of-life symptom management for veterans and veterans benefits. The program cost is \$25, and it is worth 3 contact hours of continuing education. Registration is required no later than Oct. 10 by calling the Office of Lifelong Learning at (734) 384-4127.

- **A free Veterans Resource Fair** at which a variety of vendors will be available to share information with veterans and their families about the variety of resources available to them in their communities. The fair will take place in Room 173 of the Warrick Student Services/Administration Building from 4-8 p.m. The fair is open to the public and reservations are not required.
- **A free dinner featuring keynote speaker Sutherland, whose topic will be “The Inspiration of Courage: A Perspective of Reality.”** All veterans are welcome to attend the dinner and presentation and can bring up to two guests. Participants in the continuing education portion of “Serving Those Who Served” are also invited. The dinner and presentation will be held in the Dining Hall of the Warrick Student Services/Administration Building from 6-7:30 p.m. Reservations are required by no later than Oct. 10 and can be made by calling the Office of Lifelong Learning at (734) 384-4127.

Sutherland will present a snapshot of the challenges our military personnel face on the battlefield and when they return home to their communities. He will highlight ways our communities can reach out to veterans, their families and the families of the fallen.

He will also discuss an initiative spearheaded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to help the myriad of veteran support organizations throughout the nation to work more collaboratively, whether they are in

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government, faith-based, health care, business or higher education sectors.

A highly decorated officer of the U.S. Army, Sutherland was commissioned an infantry officer in 1983 and holds a bachelor's degree in history and economics and a master's degree in strategic studies. He attended all levels of military education, both a student and instructor, including Airborne, Ranger, Jumpmaster, the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies.

While assigned as a brigade staff officer, he deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Vigilant Warrior in 1994. As a company commander, he deployed to South West Asia as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. While commanding 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf," 1st Cavalry Division, Sutherland deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as the Coalition Force commander in Diyala Province from October 2006-December 2007, which included surge operations.

In July 2008, Sutherland was assigned to the Joint Staff as the Division Chief in J5 (Plans, Policy, and Strategy), Middle East Region. He is now currently serving in his current position at the Pentagon.

Among Sutherland's awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge Second Award and Senior Parachutist Badge. He is also the 2008 Freedom Award Recipient presented by the No Greater Sacrifice Foundation for his efforts focused on Wounded Warriors and Gold Star Families.

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