



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

VETERANS DAY OBSERVED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Chief Judge John T. Phillips announced that the Lake County legal community will again participate in the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project. At 9:00 a.m., on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2015, approximately 30 veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War will meet at the Lake County Courthouse for a reception and ceremony and to have their oral histories recorded by official court reporters. The typed transcripts will be archived at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from the veterans.

The County of Lake, the Lake County Bar Association, the Lake County Bar Foundation, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, the Lake County Public Defender's Office, Nicasa, the Tri-County Marine Corps League, and many individuals have all provided resources, including volunteers on what would otherwise be a court holiday. Court reporters from Lake County and other courthouses and from the private sector donate their time to attend and transcribe the wartime experiences. Lawyers from Lake County (including several lawyer veterans) will serve as interviewers. Attorney Tom Sbertoli, with the law firm of Riewer & Collins, LLC, is a Vietnam era Marine Corps veteran. He has volunteered on Veterans Day to assist with the Project and said, "The Veterans History Project focuses attention on the veterans who served their country. I am proud to volunteer with these patriots, who are ordinary men and women, who gave up a lot to help when help was needed. The entire county should be proud of this event."

The veterans who will be interviewed include at least 20 veterans of World War II. One man is a former B-24 crew chief with 10 battle stars for the war over Europe. Also giving his testimony is a Marine who battled on Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. Others served at Okinawa,

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the land war in Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge and the Black Forest, in North Africa, India, China and Burma. In addition, there are veterans of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, including one Navy Corpsman who is a veteran of both wars.

The program will include 19th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge John T. Phillips (USAF Ret.), who will commemorate a plaque in honor of well-known courthouse reporter Tony Gordon, who passed away in 2012. Mr. Gordon served in the United States Army and was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross, one Silver Star, three Purple Hearts, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Chief Judge Phillips said, "It is so appropriate that we will honor Tony Gordon in the presence of the men and women who will be describing their war-time experiences for history. Tony, like most veterans, was too self-effacing and humble to speak of what he endured for his country. Because he is gone now, we can't hear his stories but we can honor his memory in the Lake County Courthouse where he worked and we can remember his daily service for the people of this nation."

Breakfast, which will include the military favorite chipped beef on toast, will be served to those in attendance. All of the military services will be represented in the participants. For further details, please contact Carol Cord, Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge, or Judge Michael Fusz by calling (847) 377-3771.

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