

## Stockton to Honor Vietnam Veterans with Permanent Installation of Honor Chair

Rolling Thunder N.J. Chapter to Dedicate POW-MIA Honor Chair March 4

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**Galloway, NJ** - An honor chair remembering prisoners of war and those missing in action will be permanently installed at Stockton University during a Vietnam Veterans appreciation event on **Friday, March 4, 2016**.

Representatives of the New Jersey chapter of Rolling Thunder, a nonprofit aimed at bringing full accountability for the prisoners of war and missing in action (POW/MIA) of all wars, will be present to formally dedicate an honor chair. Stockton is the only higher education institution in the region to receive this honor.

Rolling Thunder National's POW/MIA Honor Chair Program brings daily reminders of the courageous men and women who have not returned home from war by placing empty chairs with plaques in public venues across the country. The empty chairs are a visual symbol communicating that we have not forgotten these veterans and hold a space for them on the university campus.

The ceremony will take place outside the Richard E. Bjork Library in the F-Wing Atrium from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Stockton Faculty Band will perform tunes from the Vietnam Era. Later in the month, Stockton's Student Veteran Organization will kick off its 22 Shades of Green Program, a veteran suicide-prevention initiative, to bring awareness to the fact that 22 veterans commit suicide each day.

Immediately after the program, the Italian Gourmet, located in Galloway, will host an after-party for veterans with free pizza, pasta and salads from 6-8:30 p.m.

**-more-**

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Vietnam veterans made up a large percentage of Stockton's student body in the early 1970s, and today, the university serves more than 600 veterans and active-duty service members.

Stockton's recognition of veteran students has a rich and vital history. Recalling his days as a student, President Harvey Kesselman said, "When we first opened up back in 1971 with about a thousand students, there were literally hundreds of Vietnam veterans who were a part of the campus community. I remember very, very vividly when in 1982 buses from Stockton went to the opening of the Vietnam Wall."

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