



## **Stockton's Veterans Day Services Include Keynote Speaker from Pentagon, Army Band**

Memorial to Local Crash Victim Part of Nov. 11 Ceremonies

***For Immediate Release; coverage invited***

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**Galloway, NJ** – Lt. Col. Randall Smith, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Pentagon and deputy director of the Warrior and Family Support program, will be the keynote speaker at Veterans Day Services at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Ceremonies **beginning at noon** on **Monday, Nov. 11, 2013** will also include a performance by the U.S. Army Band and the unveiling of a monument in honor of college employee Jose "Nick" Santana, who died from injuries sustained Aug. 2 when a motorist cut him off as he was driving his motorcycle to work.

Thomas O'Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veteran Affairs, said Santana was "deeply involved with Stockton's student veterans. Nick's brother-in-law, the president of the Legion Riders, a motorcycle group that is a great supporter of our student veterans, will also be in attendance and a representative will speak."

"We will have a laying of the wreath on our memorial monument for our fallen heroes," O'Donnell added. Members of the local VFW and American Legion posts will attend the ceremonies, which are open to the public.

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***-continued from page 1-***

Stockton's Veterans Affairs program, founded in 2008, now serves 400 veterans and service members.

Three students will receive awards for reflection papers they wrote on the documentary film, "Warrior Champions: From Baghdad to Beijing," which followed the lives of four veterans seriously injured in the Iraq War. The four became part of the USA Paralympics Team in the Beijing, China Olympics in 2008.

Essays by Kelly Massey of Bridgeton, Angelo Bechara, of Egg Harbor Township, and Kelsy Bennett, of Whiting, NJ, were selected as the most effective of all those written by freshmen.

Devon Henderson of Bayville in Ocean County won a student art contest related to Veterans Day called "Honor Our Brave," with her photo, painting and sculpture.

She said her work was inspired after she met her boyfriend, Joseph Bless, a Marine veteran now attending Stockton on the GI Bill.

Henderson will receive an award for her artwork, which will be displayed at the luncheon.

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For coverage planning purposes, the Veterans Day ceremonies will also include:

**At noon:** Opening remarks in front of the **Campus Center** by Thomas O'Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veterans Affairs and presentation of colors by the Galloway Township Police/Stockton K-9.

**At 12:15 p.m.** Addresses by President Herman Saatkamp at the **Campus Center** and then at 12:45 p.m. at **Independence Plaza**, followed by remarks by Paulo Henrique, U.S. Army National Guard and Stockton alumni; Ryan Person, member of Stockton's Student Veterans Organization; and Steve Gilroy, USN, Student Veterans Organization president in 2011-2012 and a Stockton alumni; Stockton's Student Veterans Organization's President Joe Kerstetter, USMC; Wendy Lang, director of Operation College; Assemblyman Chris Brown, R-2nd; Rod Davis, director of Veteran Operations at Texas A&M University, with which Stockton has a collaborative veterans program.

**At 12:30 p.m.,** Lt. Col. Smith of the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will speak in front of the **Campus Center**.

**At 1:15 p.m.:** Laying of the wreath and unveiling of the memorial to Jose "Nick" Santana in **Veterans Park**.

**At 1:30 p.m.:** Lt. Col. Smith will give the keynote speech at a luncheon in the **Campus Center Events Room**, preceded by a performance by the U.S. Army Band. The three freshmen will also receive awards for their essays and Henderson will receive an award for her artwork.

