





Purple patriotism

JMU teams up with local veterans

By ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M) AND JANET SMITH ('81)

JMU joined local observances honoring America's military veterans in early November, culminating with the dedication on Nov. 8 of a new memorial honoring Harrisonburg and Rockingham County veterans who died in foreign wars.

The memorial, built near the entrance to new softball and baseball fields at Memorial Hall, is "a visual reminder of those who gave their lives for us and our way of life," said JMU President Linwood H. Rose during opening remarks inside the JMU softball stadium. Rose, who was joined on the stage by U.S. Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), Harrisonburg Mayor Kai Degner ('03, '05M) and Rockingham County Supervisor Michael Breeden, said he also hopes the memorial reminds people "that somewhere in the world there is a solitary soldier that is standing as a guardian for our democracy, and for that, we should all be grateful."

Goodlatte thanked local veterans, telling them they "are part of a long and distinguished list of brave, patriotic men and women who've helped to liberate victims of oppression, spread freedom and democracy across the world, and preserve the freedoms that our nation was built on. Your service is definitely marked by self-sacrifice, making you heroes in the truest sense of the word."

In addition to speeches, the ceremony featured music from the Marching Royal Dukes, a ribbon cutting, reading of a resolution and a performance by the U.S. Army Drill Team.

JMU student Timothy Norville, an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said it is important to remember past events that led to the freedoms that Americans enjoy and that the event was a fitting tribute. "It was a remarkable show and great support from the community. I came out today to support the local veterans."

The monument dedication was preceded by Harrisonburg's annual Veterans Day Parade, which also featured the Marching Royal Dukes. On Nov. 9, the Army Golden Knights Parachute Team delivered the game ball to Bridgeforth Stadium

for JMU's game against the University of Maine. **MI**

* See photos from the Veterans Day parade on the JMU Facebook page and read more about Madison veterans on the Operation Purple Pride Web site at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/operation-purple-pride.shtml.



The JMU ROTC battalion and the Marching Royal Dukes participate in Harrisonburg's Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 8 (Inset): The U.S. Army Drill Team performs at the Veterans Memorial Stadium dedication, which honored local veterans.

