

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11/08/2011

Mountwest Hosts Remembrance Day National Roll Call

Huntington, W.Va., <November 8, 2011>: Mountwest Community and Technical College is one of 175 colleges and universities spanning across every state and D.C. taking part in the Remembrance Day National Roll Call. Beginning at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, 11-11-11, the names of each of the 6,306 individuals who have perished in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as of October 28, 2011, will be read aloud in the Veteran's Memorial Fieldhouse, leading up to a moment of silence at 2:00 p.m., the eleventh hour Pacific Standard Time.

Cory Payne, the Military Programs Director at Mountwest, felt it was imperative for Mountwest to participate as a way of showing respect to the nation's servicemen and women.

"It's so important that we take time to stop and recognize our veterans," Payne said. "Veteran's Day is so much more than a day off, and many schools and companies don't even allow that anymore."

Alayna Lightle is one of many volunteers reading names for the event. She knows the sacrifice of military families all too well. Her husband, Shane, is currently in the Army Reserves and serving in Kuwait. He's been deployed for about four months, and she doesn't expect him home until late summer of next year.

"In addition to my husband, I have had family members in the Coast Guard, Army and Navy," Lightle said. "It's so important to honor our veterans because they risk their lives for our freedom every day."

Others reading names include Mountwest faculty, staff and students; the Huntington Police Chief; retired service members; representatives from the Veteran's Administration, Veteran's Hospital, Veteran's Center, Veteran's Upward Bound Program, Veteran's Home, U.S. Army, and the Patriot Academy.

This event is to take place on Veteran's Day, or Remembrance Day as it was originally called, of the 10th year of post 9-11 combat. The public is welcome to come and go during the event, listening to the names being read and paying respect to those who have lost their lives.

Mountwest has made many strides over the past year to make it easier for veterans to complete their education by signing covenants with various military branches. Additionally, Mountwest was recently ranked second in the nation among two-year colleges for the best schools for veterans by Military Times EDGE.

Mountwest Community and Technical College, formerly known as Marshall Community & Technical College, was founded in 1975. In 2003 MCTC became accredited as an independent institution by The Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Mountwest provides programs to meet the varied educational and workforce development needs of its students and the community. Mountwest offers two-year degree and one-year certificate programs in Allied Health, Business and Information Technology, Human Services, Occupational and Technical Programs, as well as numerous continuing education opportunities and customized instruction. For more information about Mountwest programs and opportunities, please visit www.mctc.edu.

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