



NEWS FROM ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Appreciation Ceremony Honors Veterans and Servicepeople in the Community

[November 15, 2019 – Parker, CO] Rocky Vista University (RVU) hosted its 9th Annual Military Appreciation Ceremony on November 11th, Veteran’s Day. The ceremony honored and celebrated the military servicepeople in the RVU community, including future military physicians and honored guests.

At the ceremony, the RVU Color Guard carried out the Posting of Colors, a traditional flag ceremony, which was performed by RVU Color Guard members Alexandria Barton (OMS II, Air Force), Jamie Truax (OMS I, Army), Brandon Lorenz (OMS II, Air Force), Christopher Brazell (OMS II, Navy), and Sean Lynch (OMS I, Army).

Guests were welcomed by Clinton E. Adams, DO, FACHE, President and CEO of RVU and retired Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy, who honored visiting veterans with a presentation of RVU challenge coins. Thomas N. Told, DO, FACOFD dist., Dean of RVUCOM and veteran of the U.S. Army and Coast Guard, spoke of the role of military healers throughout history and the medical innovations that were introduced during armed conflict, such as water purification, chlorination, and inflatable hospitals.

Captain K. Dean Gubler, MC, (Ret.), gave the keynote address and recognized those who have served or currently serve in the armed forces, but who are often not recognized for the sacrifices they have made upon their return. Capt. Gubler also shared the challenges he and others faced while trying to become osteopathic physicians in the military. Finally, he expressed gratitude to those who paved the way for the profession’s acceptance in the military.

The RVU Color Guard then presented the Missing Man/POW Remembrance Ceremony, a tradition that honors and recognizes the service of those missing in action, taken prisoner, or deceased. Narrated by Anthony LaPorta, MD, FACS, Course Director of the Office of Military Affairs at RVU and a veteran of the U.S. Army, the student doctors approached a candlelit table which had been set with four place settings, each representing a branch of the military: Marines, Army, Air Force, and Navy. As the Color Guard placed their hats upon the empty plates, guests learned of the significance of the items on the table: the white cloth, a symbol of purity; a single red rose, a reminder of loved ones and friends; a lighted candle, the hope for their return; and empty chairs, signifying their absence in our lives.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the Anthony J. LaPorta Order of Military Excellence to Capt. Gubler and to Major General Philip Volpe, MC, who were both recognized for their unique and significant contributions to military medicine. As a leader in the field of trauma and surgical critical care, Capt. Gubler was the head of the Division of General Surgery at the Naval Regional Medical Center in San Diego, California. MG Volpe has been being an invaluable contributor to RVU's Intensive Surgical and Trauma Skills Course, in addition to thirty years of distinguished service which includes two purple hearts and the role of Command Surgeon for the Battle of Mogadishu.

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About Rocky Vista University (RVU)

RVU is a health-sciences university based in Parker, Colorado and Ivins, Utah. RVU was founded in 2006 and opened its doors in August of 2008, enrolling students in its four-year program of study leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree in the University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM). The Ivins Campus matriculated its first class in 2017. RVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. RVUCOM is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). RVU has also added a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MSBS) degree program and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) to its Colorado location. Rocky Vista University provides quality healthcare education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity and excellence. For more information, visit www.rvu.edu.