

# ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HS SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## A SALUTE TO MOLLOY'S VETERANS



Captain Larry Seible, Class of 1963, offers remarks during Molloy's Veterans Day Memorial Event.



Archbishop Molloy students attended the school's Veterans Day event to show their support for U.S. veterans.



A Molloy student mounts an American flag as the name of a fallen veteran is read by Capt. Seible.

Recently, Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood invited alumni and friends to attend a ceremony honoring the school's many alumni U.S. veterans.

"All gave some, some gave all." We take a few moments today to honor alumni of all generations who have served or continue to serve in the armed forces," said Richard Karsten, president of Archbishop Molloy High School. "In particular, we recognize the ultimate sacrifices of an elite group of alumni who gave their lives in service to this great nation." On Friday, November 7, Molloy honored its alumni U.S. veterans with a moving ceremony. Many of the school's alumni have represented various branches of the armed forces, with 13 known to have lost their lives in doing so. Their courage has not been forgotten, and it must continue to serve as an example of the importance of selflessness for present and future members of the school's community.

The impetus for Molloy's Veterans Day Memorial Event was the enthusiasm and passion of several of the school's alumni veterans. At the forefront of the effort was former U.S. Navy Captain Larry Seible, Class of 1963, who believes the school must remember to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by its fallen heroes. "Veterans Day is a celebration to honor all America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good," remarked Seible, who has been particularly inspired throughout his life by the sacrifices made by his classmate, Private First Class Louis Willett. Willett, also Class of 1963, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after his heroic actions on the battlefield in Vietnam came to light. On February 15, 1967, under clear skies, Willett's squad, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, suddenly found itself taking heavy fire from a large enemy force. Despite incredible danger, Willett rose to draw the bulk of the enemy's barrage, enabling the other members of his squad to slowly but safely withdraw. Willett was mortally wounded during this selfless act of courage. The Medal of Honor is the greatest respect bestowed upon those who serve, and Willett remains the only Molloy graduate to hold this distinction.

Molloy's ceremony was well attended by alumni and veterans, students, school administration and faculty, as well as veterans who served side-by-side with Willett in Vietnam. Also in attendance were several members of the Willett family, including cousins Lorretta and Brian McCaffery and Louis' beloved aunt, Sally Daly. The ceremony featured the reading of names of fallen Molloy heroes by Capt. Seible. As each name was read, a bell was rung in unison with the mounting of an American flag by a student. Later, Lt. Col. Tim Swan, a guest speaker who was part of Willett's squad, detailed the circumstances their squad faced the day Willett gave his life. Lt. Col. Ed Northrop, Willett's commanding officer, then followed up with stirring remarks about what it means to serve, challenging students in attendance to continue to learn more about the sacrifices made by U.S. veterans. Both men also spoke with great pride about Willett. "47 years after Louis lost his life, the men of C Company still remember him and all others that served with us as a 'band of brothers,'" said Northrop. Several other classmates who provided remarks rounded out a program that encouraged much reflection and produced quite a few tears.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Capt. Seible took pride in presenting Molloy with artifacts he procured to honor Willett's legacy at Molloy, including medals and ribbons marking achievements during his military career as well as a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in his honor. Molloy is proud to honor its veterans and is excited to display these artifacts. Molloy President Richard Karsten and Principal Brother Thomas Schady extend their sincerest thanks to the Willett family, Capt. Seible, Lt. Col. Swan, Lt. Col. Northrop, and all alumni and friends who helped make this event possible. For more information on PFC Louis Willett and other Molloy heroes visit [www.molloyhs.org](http://www.molloyhs.org).

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOE SOMMO



Lt. Col. Ed Northrop, Louis Willett's commanding officer, holds back tears as bagpipes are played.



Special guests stand for the national anthem: Al Peschler (childhood friend of Willett), left, Lt. Col. Ed Northrop, Lt. Col. Tim Swan, Sally Daly (Willett's aunt), Lorretta McCaffery (Willett's cousin) and Brian McCaffery (Willett's cousin).



Above, Lt. Col. Tim Swan, left, Molloy President Richard Karsten, and Lt. Col. Ed Northrop pose with framed artifacts representing achievements PFC Willett earned in his military career, and a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in Willett's honor. Both items were donated by Capt. Seible in collaboration with Swan and Northrop.



A military headshot of PFC Louis Willett, right.

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