



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: 11-7-17
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GETS READY FOR VETERANS DAY

Chief Judge Jorge L. Ortiz announced that on Friday, November 10, 2017 approximately 35 veterans will participate in the Veterans History Project at the Lake County Courthouse. The Veteran History Project gathers the oral histories of veterans, which are given in response to questions by volunteer attorneys and recorded by court reporters, who are donating their time. The typed transcripts will be archived at the Library of Congress, making accessible the personal accounts of American veterans so that future generations may hear directly from the soldiers. This year's group includes members of every conflict dating back to World War II. Their experiences include: D-Day, the Bataan Death March, the Pacific Theater, Okinawa, POW camp in Europe, Chosin Reservoir, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Chief Judge Ortiz said, "As time goes on, more and more war veterans pass away and the details of their experiences and those of their comrades are lost to the American people. War veterans are often hesitant to talk about their own experiences because of a sense of humility, but they are often the last witnesses to the sacrifice and bravery of others who did not survive the war or have since passed. The events they witnessed firsthand and their memories of their comrades-in-arms need to be preserved."

The event begins with a breakfast reception, donated and served to the vets and their families by the Tri-County Marine Corps League and many other organizations. The bill of fare will include the military favorite of "S.O.S." (chipped beef on toast). Guest of honor, A. Robert Abboud, was a Korean War Marine Corps infantry officer who saw significant combat and received the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart. After saying a few words to the veterans before their interviews, Mr. Abboud will also be interviewed about his military experience.

This event is supported by resources from many community organizations and individuals, including volunteers on what would otherwise be a court holiday. Court reporters from Lake County and other courthouses and from the private sector are donating their time to attend and transcribe the wartime experiences. Lawyers from Lake County (including several lawyer veterans) have volunteered to serve as interviewers.

Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue, who recently returned from active duty in Afghanistan and is the veteran of other deployments to the war zone in the Middle East, said: "I do this because I have so much respect for the people who served before I did. I want to hear what they have to say, and I want their memories to be preserved for the future."

For further details, please contact Lorena Hernandez, Assistant to the Chief Judge, by calling 847.377.3771, or Judge Margaret Mullen at 847.377.3600.

Media is invited.

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