

Hunterdon Polytech POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedication Ceremony; A Poignant & Patriotic Reminder of Cost of Freedom

With a clear, blue sky as a backdrop, under our nation's flag, gently waving in the breeze, Artie Muller, U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and Executive Director of Rolling Thunder, Inc., reminded a hushed and respectful gathering of Hunterdon Polytech students, staff, and community leaders that our freedom comes at a cost paid by the men and women who valiantly serve in the military.

For more than 30 years, Rolling Thunder, the organization Muller co-founded, has fulfilled its mission to speak on behalf of the tens of thousands of Prisoners of War-Missing in Action (POW/MIA) of all wars.

Muller was the Keynote Speaker in a moving ceremony to dedicate a POW/MIA Chair of Honor at the Central Campus of Hunterdon County Polytech Career and Technical High School. Held just days before Thanksgiving on Nov. 25, it was a fitting time to thank our military and their families for their bravery and sacrifices serving our nation, with a tribute to those who never returned.

Joined by Senator Kip Bateman, Hunterdon County Freeholder Sue Soloway, West Amwell Mayor and Freeholder Elect, Zach Rich and Raritan Mayor Jeff Kuhl, Hunterdon County Vocational School District (HCVSD) Board President Elizabeth Martin warmly welcomed the crowd, who joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Brandyn Quintard played the Star Spangled Banner on trumpet, followed by a Missing Man/White Table Ceremony presented by Joseph Kotch, U.S. Navy Veteran, with Debbie Kotch narrating. Elaine Martin, National Secretary for Rolling Thunder, spoke about the meaning of the Chair of Honor, then joined HCVSD Superintendent Dr. Todd Bonsall to unveil the Chair and Plaque.

The ceremony closed with the crowd joining Teacher Academy student Emily Miljkovic in singing an uplifting, A capella rendition of God Bless America. Guests were treated to a light lunch before the members of Rolling Thunder rolled out of town onto their next mission to remind our nation that "We Will Never Forget".