



MICHIGAN STATE ARMY & AIR FORCE ROTC

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2025

6:00 PM

MSU ALUMNI CHAPEL

636 AUDITORIUM RD, EAST LANSING, MI

48824

Program

Veterans Day Ceremony

Assembly

Cadet Joanthan Andeson

Call to Order

Cadet Jonathan Andeson

Moment of Silence

Cadet Jonathan Andreson

Post of Colors by the Color Guard

Army ROTC Color Guard

National Anthem

Dr. David Songer

Invocation

Cadet Christian Wenburg

History of Veterans Day History of

Cadet Angelina Muñoz

Army ROTC & MSU Marching Band

Cadet Angelina Muñoz

History of DET 380

Cadet Derek Ellis

Airman's Creed

Cadets, Service members and Veterans

Soldier's Creed

Cadets, Service members and Veterans

Keynote Speaker Remarks

**Mr. Brian Vella
President, United Image Group Board
Member, Folds of Honor – Michigan
Chapter**

Benediction

Cadet Christian Wenburg

MSU Shadows

Mrs. Judy Kabodian (Organist)

Adjourn

Cadet Jonathan Anderson

Keynote Speaker



Mr. Brian Vella

President, United Image Group

Board Member, Folds of Honor – Michigan Chapter

Mr. Brian Vella is the President of United Image Group, a full-service visual imaging and branding company headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is responsible for leading the company's strategic vision, operations, and client partnerships, overseeing a multidisciplinary team that delivers custom signage, vehicle graphics, promotional apparel, and large-format print solutions to commercial clients across Michigan and the Midwest.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Vella served honorably from 2005 to 2011 in multiple leadership roles, developing the discipline, teamwork, and mission-first mindset that continue to guide his professional success. Following his military service, he earned both a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master of Business Administration from The University of Toledo.

Before founding United Image Group, Mr. Vella held leadership roles in the private sector, including as Director of Sales for Mill Steel Company, where he managed corporate partnerships and developed growth strategies for major accounts. He assumed the position of President at United Image Group in 2019 and has since guided the company through a period of significant expansion and innovation in visual communications and brand marketing.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Vella is deeply committed to service and community engagement. He serves on the Board of Directors for Folds of Honor – Michigan Chapter, supporting educational scholarships for the families of fallen and disabled service members, and is an active member of the National Marine Corps Business Network, mentoring veterans as they transition to civilian and entrepreneurial careers.

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: *A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.*

Michigan State Army ROTC

The Department of Military Science at Michigan State University was founded during the school year of 1884 with the assignment of the first Active Duty Army Officer, Lieutenant John A. Lockwood, as the Professor of Military Science and Tactics. By 1888, Military Science became a compulsory course within the university.

With the passing of the National Defense Act in 1916, the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), the forerunner of ROTC, was established at MSU. In 1922, twenty students received commissions as reserve second lieutenants marking the beginning of the school's long history in providing officer appointments through ROTC.

By 1941, the cadet regiment was over 3,000 and one-third of the junior and senior class was enrolled in advanced ROTC. More than 6,000 MS alumni and former students entered the armed services for World War II and over 300 of those lost their lives.

In 1962, mandatory enrolment ended, which resulted in a significant drop in enrollment; however, the program would continue to produce highly qualified officers to serve in the Vietnam Conflict. Today, the Spartan Battalion, under the auspices of the United States Army ROTC Cadet Command, has grown to approximately 140 cadets and boasts a reputation for quality lieutenants throughout the Army.

The Department of Military Science has undergone many generations of change and its history reflects the political, social and economic realities of the times.

Graduates of the program form a core of distinguished and successful alumni of the university in both the civilian and military community. This includes seven general officers, including State Senator William Sederburg, class of 1973. The traditions of the department and the mission of the Michigan State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps are best expressed in the Spartan Battalion motto, "Training to Lead."

Michigan State Marching Band

The Spartan Marching Band stands strong at 300 members. What is now recognized as a powerhouse of sound and spirit was born from modest roots. In 1870, when the university was still Michigan Agricultural College, student and Civil War veteran, Ransom McDonough Brooks, started the MAC Band, a 10-member student brass band.

In the earliest days, the band played for President Theodore Roosevelt and in 1907 began performing at school events, when they were then known as the “MAC Touch-down Band.”

In 1927, the Spartan Marching Band really found its legs when Leonard Falcone, the world’s leading euphonium horn soloist at the time, was appointed director. He served as director for 40 years, growing the band to 144 members and performing for three U.S. presidents; at the New York World’s Fair; and at the 1954, 1956 and 1966 Rose Bowl games.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, the band was part of the ROTC program, donning military khaki and olive uniforms. Based in the MSC Armory Building, they performed year-round at ROTC weekly parades and drills.

Fast forward 20 years: The “Patterns in Motion” was born. The marching style, which the band still performs today, features constantly-changing kaleidoscopic patterns, based on a four-person squad system. It quickly became the definitive marching style among collegiate and high school marching bands. That’s also the time the band trademarked the “spinning of the block S,” which the band still performs during every pregame show.

The year 1972 marked a milestone for the group. With the passing of the federal civil rights law known as Title IX, women could join the band. Beth Mlynarek was the first female twirler and Lynne Charbonneau was the first female saxophonist. Now, women comprise 44% of the Spartan Marching Band. Four years later, the band started its first flag corps, a 24-member, coed team.

The following years were defined by bowl-game and first-of-their-kind performances. In 2010, the band traveled extensively, including, for the first time, to the “bowl” of bands – the Bands of America Grand National Championships.

As the band has grown in size and scope, it’s taken on more elaborate halftime shows, including those that focused on African and Chinese cultures, an initiative that’s core to MSU’s mission of combining the arts and academics.

The Spartan Marching Band has grown into one of the premier college bands in the nation and prides itself on its musical excellence, physical toughness, and military-grade precision. The band has performed for five U.S. presidents, at five Rose Bowls, at two World's Fairs, and at one World Series.

Michigan State

DET 380

Established in 1946, Detachment 380 is an AFROTC training program based out of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Det 380 also supports cadets from five nearby universities: Western Michigan University, Olivet College, and Lansing Community College. The Cadet Corps averages around one hundred and fifty cadets from these six institutions of higher education.

AFROTC (Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps) is a training program that prepares college students to become officers in the United States Air Force or United States Space Force. Students work with Det 380 to qualify for a commission while simultaneously completing their university undergraduate degree requirements.

Det 380's educational training program emphasizes student involvement and the development of leadership skills. Classes are conducted as seminars and call for active student discussion. In addition, cadets become involved in the management of their own cadet wing through a mandatory weekly two-hour "leadership laboratory." Cadets are assigned corps positions, with increasing responsibility over the four years. Students also participate in physical training, leadership projects, visits to Air Force bases, orientation flights, and normal college extracurricular activities

Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.
I am a warrior
I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
a tradition of honor,
and a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman,
Guardian of Freedom and Justice,
my nation's sword and shield,
its sentry and avenger,
I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman:
Wingman, Leader, Warrior,
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
and I will not fail.

Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

MSU Shadows

MSU, we love thy shadows
When twilight silence falls,

Flushing deep and softly paling
O'er ivy covered halls;

Beneath the pines we'll gather
To give our faith so true,

Sing our love for Alma Mater
And thy praises MSU.

When from these scenes we wander
And twilight shadows fade,

Our memory still will linger
Where light and shadows played;

In the evening oft we'll gather
And pledge our faith anew,

Sing our love for Alma Mater
And thy praises MSU.

Designed by
MSU Army ROTC

